

June 2013 Issue



Dr. Carolyn Ball
VRSII Executive Director

Director's Message

What Does it Mean to Be a "Peer?"

Another successful School-to-Work (STW) session has been completed. We want to congratulate the recent graduates and wish them a very successful beginning to their interpreting careers.

It is the time of year when many students are graduating from Interpreter Training Programs (IEPs) and entering the work place as professional

interpreters. As graduates enter the work place, some of them would say they are now "peers" with those with whom they will be working. Or, perhaps, now they feel they are peers with their former college teachers and mentors. What does it mean to be a peer? Can someone who is newly entering the field be considered a peer to a veteran interpreter?

By definition, the term peer means a person who is of the same age, status or ability as another specified person. Based on this definition alone, a new interpreter cannot be considered a peer to a veteran interpreter or educator as a new interpreter does not have the same status or ability as the person who has been interpreting or teaching for 20 or more years.

If new and veteran interpreters are not peers, how do we refer to new interpreters? Recent nursing school graduates are referred to as "New Graduate Nurses" and recent graduates of physical therapy school are referred to as "Therapists in the First Five Years." Perhaps this is something we as members of the interpreting profession should discuss and consider.

In the interim, it is important for new IEP graduates to learn from the people with whom they work. They must be humble, ask questions and most importantly, make a goal to one day be a peer. This will take patience and practice, but it is time for our profession to rethink the use of the term peer so we are consistent with other professions.

Congratulations March 2013 School-to-Work Program Graduates!



School-to-Work Program, March 2013 Graduating Class

Inform Your IEP Graduates

Do you have exceptional students who will graduate this spring or have graduated in the past two years? Give them an advantage in their early careers by encouraging them to apply for the next session of the VRSII's School-to-Work Program (STW), scheduled Jan. 10 through April 4, 2014. The VRSII is accepting applications through Sept. 9, 2013.

The STW Program provides ongoing training, mentoring and professional internships in the deaf community to assist recent IEP graduates to bridge the gap from IEP graduation to work readiness.



Cindy Volk, Ph.D., CI, CT, SC:L, Associate Professor of Practice from the University of Arizona says, "Several of our students have participated in the STW Program at the VRSII after graduating from our IEP. Each of them came back describing it as a once-in-a-lifetime experience with incredible instructors, facilities, curriculum and mentors. I encourage all of our students to apply!" Interested graduates should visit www.vrsii.com/training to learn more.

Apply Now for the VRSII Interpreter Educators Symposium

The VRSII is now accepting applications for the next of its highly-acclaimed Interpreter Educators symposiums. The fall 2013 symposium, "Improved Practicum Design for Improved Student Outcomes," will be held Sept. 27 through 29, in downtown Salt Lake City.



The symposium will address approaches to effective practicum design in interpreter education. Participants will work toward the creation of a common understanding of, and approach to, identifying content and sequence of measurable learning outcomes of

the practicum experience with the ultimate goal of enhancing IEP graduates' job readiness.

Taught by Sharon Neumann Solow and Dr. Marty Taylor, the VRSII symposium will provide a rare opportunity for interpreter educators to collaborate and network with contemporaries from across the nation. Participants will leave the symposium with materials to incorporate into their respective curriculums.

Don't wait – apply now. Seating is limited and the symposiums fill quickly. Learn more about this opportunity by visiting www.vrsii.com/symposium.

Visit Us at the August RID Conference

Are you planning to attend the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) conference Aug. 9 through 14? Be sure to visit the VRSII booth to win prizes, learn about upcoming educational opportunities, help with an exciting video project to support interpreter education, learn more about the School-to-Work Program and take a trip back in time with historic RID photos.

You can also attend a signing of Dr. Carolyn Ball's new book, "Legacies and Legends: History of Interpreter Education from 1800 to the 21st Century" and meet VRSII faculty members. We look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome Michelle Draper

Michelle Draper is the newest full-time member of the VRSII faculty. With extensive experience in interpreter



Michelle Draper

mentoring STW students.

teaching and mentoring as well as experience in the deaf community, Draper is a perfect fit as a faculty member at the VRSII. Draper states that she "fell into" interpreter education as a natural progression after IEP graduation, combining her passion for teaching and interpreting. For more than a year, Draper has worked as an adjunct faculty member at the VRSII, teaching advanced interpreting in the School-to-Work Program (STW) and

Draper became aware of the VRSII while working for the past 10 years as a video interpreter for Sorenson Communications. She also worked as a staff interpreter at the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf. While in this position, she was approached by the VRSII to be part of a community team to help STW students fulfill internships in the deaf community. From 2006 through 2011, Draper also worked as the director for a grant program called Fast Track at Salt Lake Community College.

Draper says the VRSII impacts the world of interpreting by advancing IEP graduates to the next level of learning. Its programs help graduates successfully enter the field of professional interpreting by fostering, offering intensive training and building on the foundation built by colleges and other training programs. "The VRSII is raising the standard for interpreting education," says Draper. "Programs such as those offered by the VRSII are going to become even more important as degree requirements increase in the interpreting field. We are already seeing it happen."

Draper is currently completing her master's degree in interpreting pedagogy. A Utah native, she enjoys being outdoors and spending time with her husband and three children. Welcome Michelle!