

# The Sign Post

Newsletter for the Central California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf



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## Growth Continues Beyond Training Program

Erin Uribe, EIPA

A year and a half ago when I graduated from Fresno State's interpreting program I was unaware of everything that interpreting actually entailed and would have never guessed that I would be professionally where I am today, a community and post secondary interpreter on the track for national certification. After graduation when I started working as an interpreter it took some time to adapt to the unfamiliar settings to which I was being exposed. Now I am starting to find my place within the interpreting community.

A professor at Fresno State once told me "don't put all your eggs in one basket." This has been something that has stuck with me both professionally and personally. On the professional level I have tried to be open to interpreting in a variety of settings. I believe that it is important to try new things, while at the same time learning your limits. My advice to those people who may think they will not prefer a specific kind of assignment is "don't knock it till you've tried it." You might be surprised to find out that you excel in an unexpected area. And each new assignment brings along its own set of challenges.

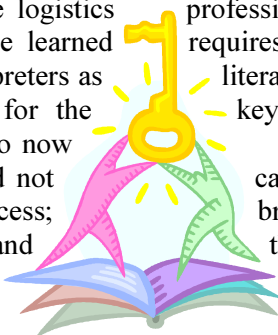
One of the greatest changes I have made since being a student is that I now consider the logistics that are involved with each setting. I have learned these things from working with other interpreters as well as assessing what works the best for the particular assignment and for myself. I also now realize that it was okay to admit that I did not know. This is all part of the learning process; asking for help, clarification, opinions, and also being willing to accept constructive criticism and feedback.

Another part of the learning process has been to "expect the unexpected." There are many things that happen on a daily basis which are unpredictable. The Demand Control Schema has been very useful in this regard. Using the DCS framework to predict possible outcomes reduces the amount of "surprises" that may come up. I am still learning how to utilize this in each assignment because I know as interpreters we are not always sure what each day will bring.

I have found it to be very valuable to have a trustworthy confidant and mentor. This is the person with whom we are able to discuss our work with on a professional level. It does not matter if it has been the best day or the worst day, it is great to have someone with whom to talk about the work we do. This is also the time to gain insight; sharing experiences and perspectives can really be an eye opener.

I feel that I have gained so much since starting the internship over two years ago and at the same time I know I still have so much to learn. I try to stay involved with the Deaf and interpreting communities as much as my schedule allows; finding a good balance has been one of the hardest things. Interpreting is a practice profession and a continual learning experience which requires us to attend workshops and keep up on current literature. Continuing to be realistic yet optimistic is key, after all "Rome wasn't built in a day."

Thankfully I have no regrets with the career choice I have made. Everyday interpreting brings new and interesting experiences and over the past few years I have been fortunate to have a strong support system of family, friends, colleagues, mentors, and professors.



*Honoring Tradition  
Embracing Change  
Celebrating Growth*

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Leadership Meetings are open to all CCRID members. See the calendar at our website for date, time and place.

Contact [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) with any questions regarding meetings.

The Sign Post is prepared quarterly. Please send ideas, items or information for announcements to newsletter editor Shannon M. Simonelli at [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) one month prior to publication date.

# Early Bird Special for SLC Reg V Conference

Suzanne Conway, CCRID President,  
MA, CI & CT, SC:L, NAD V, EIPA

Salt Lake City, Utah – home of Temple Square, The Great Salt Lake, and the Region V conference in June! Running June 16 to June 20, the Region V conference offers many workshops, wonderful entertainment, and opportunities to catch up with friends.

The conference will be held at the Marriott, which is located downtown – and there is a lot to see and do if you

venture away from the workshops! This many workshops provided during the conference afford wonderful CEU earning opportunities. This is also a great way to learn more about RID on a broader level, meet and network with other interpreters, and learn new things.

With Early Bird registration extended until February 28 you still have time to sign up for the conference at the best rate possible.

Please consider taking



advantage of the Region V conference this summer, and if you are a student, apply now to be a Student Rep! Check out the website for the conference, and I hope to see you there!

<http://www.utrid.org/regionv/>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Stepping Up

CCRID Members who have passed an interpreting assessment or certification test:

- Bobbi Rumsey, EIPA
- Lauren Lara, EIPA
- Lori Botelho, EIPA
- Sarah McQuillan, EIPA

### Cherished Tidings

CCRID members who have had life-changing events:

- Shannon and Guy Simonelli welcomed daughter Skylar Sheree on December 3, 2009
- Jeff and Launa Grunau welcomed daughter Autumn Joy.
- Sabrina Strickland welcomed a daughter.



Those interested in participating in an NIC study group in the Tulare/Modesto/Merced area are encouraged to email North Valley CCRID Outreach Rep Kaye Osborne at [chaos\\_born@att.net](mailto:chaos_born@att.net).

A DVD of the Discourse Mapping workshop is now available. If you are interested in viewing it as an individual or a group email [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) for details.

All names included with expressed permission.

## CHALLENGE

### What would you do in each of the situations below?

Discuss the conflicts, decisions you would make, and the possible long and short term outcomes. Scenarios are from "Encounters with Reality" by Brenda E. Cartwright.

- You're interpreting a study group for a Deaf college student who notices a girl sitting near him squeezed into her chair. He signs to you (which you don't voice) "Look at that girl. She's so fat she can't fit in that chair." Between pointing at the girl, making the very visual sign for fat, and the fact that he's looking right at her, the girl figures out what he's saying, and you see her turn away very hurt.
- You have recently interpreted a 3-day business convention. When you get your paycheck, you see that you have been paid considerably less than what was agreed upon beforehand.



- You have worked for a year and a half without any breaks and you really need to get away for a while. You're actually looking forward to the long plane trip to catch up on your reading. As the final passengers board the plane, you see a woman singing to the stewardess. They're both obviously upset and frustrated about something. The stewardess starts waving the Deaf woman along, but she won't budge. You're close enough to assist them.

## EVENTS

### February

20, 9am—11am, Terp Time,  
Professional Development: *Practice with Discourse Mapping*  
DHHSC-Fresno

### March

7, 2pm—4pm, Leadership Meeting  
Suzanne Conway's residence, Fresno  
email [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) for directions  
20, 9am—4:30pm *The Eyes Have It!*  
*The Role of Eye Gaze & Blinks in ASL*, CSU Fresno

### April

TBA, Leadership Meeting  
Suzanne Conway's residence, Fresno  
email [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) for directions

10, 9am—11am, Terp Time,  
Professional Development: *Practice with Eye Gaze & Blinks*  
DHHSC-Fresno

For details and event fliers go to the calendar listed at [www.ccrd.org](http://www.ccrd.org)