

# The Sign Post

Newsletter for  
The Central California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf



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## Mentoring Relationship Mutually Beneficial

*Christy West, NAD IV, CI & CT*

The terms “mentor” and “mentee” mean different things to different people. When asked, some interpreters thought of a mentor as a wise sage who dispenses pearls of wisdom, “someone that has something skill-wise that I like,” and “someone who can teach me how to become like them.” A “mentee” was thought of as a “rookie,” a “novice” and “an apprentice.” For me, the concept of mentoring took on a new meaning over the last few months.

I had the opportunity to provide this guidance as a mentor to a Fresno State intern this past semester. I undertook the role as a mentor with California State University, Fresno Intern Jana Clutter because without the encouragement and guidance from a mentor of my own during my formative years I would not be a certified interpreter at this time. Some of the benefits I received while working as a mentor were: an acute awareness of my work and the work of those around me and an increased depth of self-analysis.

As the Mentor, I had a significant impact on Jana’s work and professional identity this semester. There were several times when we would talk for quite a while in order to work out a problem that she had. I allowed her to externally process, while slipping in a question occasionally leading her to discover her own “a-ha” moment. She would look at me and say, “but you hardly said anything. I did all the talking!” BINGO! As we discussed conceptually accurate signs and analyzed her work, Jana gained a greater understanding and appreciation of the impact interpreters have in any given situation. Repeatedly we found this process to be more revealing than if I had just provided her with a solution.

With January being National Mentoring Month I urge seasoned interpreters to take up the challenge of mentoring. You may be surprised to discover how rewarding mentoring can be and the impact that it will make on yourself as an interpreter and the profession at large.

*Jana Clutter, Interpreting Intern*

I spent the past semester as an intern at the California State University, Fresno. During my internship, I was given the opportunity of a lifetime to work with a mentor, Christy West. It is difficult to find words that will suffice in expressing what a tremendous influence she has been on my life in such a short period of time. My mentoring relationship was an unforgettable and irreplaceable experience.



This experience revealed that not only was Christy mentoring me, but she was giving back to the Deaf community. She did this by sharing her knowledge, advice and techniques, so that I may use them and grow as aspiring interpreter. Not one day went by that I did not receive the encouragement and support every mentee should receive. Christy knew what I was capable of and readily helped me to harvest my talents, to realize my abilities, as well as the areas that needed improvement. This mentoring experience gave me confidence in who I am as an interpreting intern and what I want to achieve as an interpreter.

One of the best things about working with a mentor was being pushed outside my comfort zone. This may not sound like a pleasant thing to be subjected to, but it helped me realize that I was capable of so much more than I allowed myself to believe. Through this mentorship, I was encouraged to maintain an open mind. Christy urged me to try new things, to not be timid, to see what I have to offer people and to see what people have to offer me in the field of interpreting.

Christy was dedicated to the mentoring process over the entire course of the semester. I will be forever grateful for the time and effort she committed to being a mentor. I have the utmost respect for her. This mentorship allowed me the opportunity of a lifetime. I would like to encourage interpreters of all skill levels to seek out a mentor that fits their personality so that they may continue to develop and grow in the profession.

**Honoring Tradition  
Embracing Change  
Celebrating Growth**

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[www.ccrld.org](http://www.ccrld.org)

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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 four times a year in January, March, June, and September. Please send ideas, items or information for announcements to newsletter editor Shannon M. Simonelli at [simoshanny@gmail.com](mailto:simoshanny@gmail.com) one month prior to publication date.

# 30 Rich Years of CCRID History and Tradition

*Nicole Wolfe, CCRID President  
MA, NAD IV, CI & CT*



This year Central California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf has adopted the theme “Honoring Tradition, Embracing Change, Celebrating Growth.” With each issue I will be exploring these concepts more, starting with the idea of Honoring Tradition.

CCRID has had a rich history in its last 30 years...much of which was celebrated this past fall at our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Tradition is defined by the Random House Unabridged Dictionary as something that is handed

down or a continuing pattern of culture beliefs or practices. CCRID strives to continue the traditions set forth by RID and the founders of CCRID.

As RID began with a code of ethics and a board of directors committed to growth and quality, CCRID began with deaf individuals and interpreters also committed to growth and quality. Just as RID began focusing on developing the membership so that it could be a membership-driven organization, CCRID was kept alive by a small number of passionate deaf people and interpreters. CCRID has mirrored RID’s growth in membership by increasing from a founding group of less than 20 to more than 100! Without the dedication of our members both past and present we would not have been able to grow to be such a strong and active chapter.

Written in the history of RID, “...we cannot work in a vacuum but must network with numerous national and international organizations and agencies.” CCRID strongly believes that we must work together...interpreters working in various settings including freelance, educational, and video relay, to mention a few, have come together to make our organization stronger. It is this kind of collaboration and unity across all facets of interpreting that the interpreting profession has been founded on.

We have seen changes in the last 30 years in our profession as well as within CCRID, and we will continue to evolve and grow in order to honor our founders and to honor our profession. Also written in the history of RID, “as the interpreting profession changes, so must RID” and I would add...so must CCRID.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Dianna Clayton, EIPA
- Kerri Edwards, EIPA
- Elizabeth Gonzalez, EIPA
- Becky Hirsch Korn, EIPA
- Diana Lee, EIPA
- Shannon Simonelli, EIPA
- Sheila Wolfe, EIPA



**CCRID members who have had life-changing events:**

- Katie Benson and Jim Sayles were married on December 27, 2008.
- Elizabeth Lilley and Brian E. Souza Jr. are engaged to be married in October 2009.
- Maya Angelina Morales, 7 lbs, 6 oz, was born to Michelle and Rafael Morales October 15, 2008.

*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 for two Deaf women at a business seminar. The man running the seminar is obviously talking down to the Deaf women and treating them like children. One of the Deaf women signs, ‘I have had enough of this bulls\_ t. Let’s get out of here.’ You’re not sure if she’s talking to him for you to voice or to the other Deaf woman.
- Every week for months, you have interpreted a long-standing counseling appointment on Thursdays. This Thursday you can’t make it, and the Deaf client knows you’ll be finding a substitute. You arrange for another nationally certified interpreter to cover for you, and she wants to know the nature of the counseling session before she commits in case there’s a conflict of interest. You’re a little nervous about telling her too many details but think her reasoning makes sense. Soon, her questions and interest have gone beyond deciding whether she’s comfortable with the job, now she’s just plain being nosy.



## EVENTS

### January

**31, 9am—5pm, EIPA Test**

*Preparation with Cindy Farnham, CSU Fresno.*

**11, 2pm—4pm, Leadership Meeting;**

*Suzanne Conway’s residence, Fresno email [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) for directions*

### February

**8, 2pm—4pm, Leadership Meeting;**

*Suzanne Conway’s residence, Fresno email [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) for directions*

**28, 9am—11am, Professional Development; Voicing: vocabulary register flexibility, from children to seniors, DHHSC Interpreting Dept, Fresno**

### March

**1, 2pm—4pm, Leadership Meeting;**

*Suzanne Conway’s residence, Fresno email [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) for directions*

**27, 630pm—830pm, Hey ya’ll, let’s Slang! Everything you wanted to know about slang DHHSC Community Room, Fresno**

### April

**5, 2pm—4pm, Leadership Meeting;**

*Suzanne Conway’s residence, Fresno email [ccrid@ccrid.org](mailto:ccrid@ccrid.org) for directions*

**25, 9am—11am, Professional Development; Voicing: how to voice signed slang & idioms, DHHSC Interpreting Dept, Fresno**

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