

# The Sign Post

Newsletter for the Central California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf



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## Ed: K-12, One Avenue to RID Certification

*Becky Hirschhorn, RID Certified Ed:K-12*

When CCRID asked me to write about achieving my Ed: K-12 RID Certification I willingly took this opportunity to share my thoughts about finishing what I had started. After graduating from the Interpreting Program at CSU Fresno, my objective has always been to become a certified interpreter in order to attain the status of a “professional” interpreter. I wanted to take advantage of all the professional interpreting testing opportunities that we have been given. Knowing that both the written and performance portions of the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) test and the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) were currently available, I decided to take my written tests initially, while preparing for my performance tests.

Having taken both the NIC and EIPA performance tests, I now know the NIC results are given as a rating while the EIPA results have the rating alongside an expanded form of feedback. This EIPA feedback is extremely beneficial and can truly be a tool for the interpreter to recognize their strengths and weaknesses as they continue improving their skills. I found the feedback from the EIPA to be very useful in compiling my course of study and areas of focus. The most helpful part was the format of the results. Within the results I was shown feedback which identified my assets, as well as my limitations. In doing so I found it possible to focus my efforts on my identified areas for growth, such as: discourse mapping, demonstrating decalage (lag time), etc. to insure a positive outcome for future tests. With this focused study, I had success and passed above a 4.0,

which is both the California and National RID accepted level of competency.

Having seen other interpreting assessments and certifications fall out of use, I wanted to ensure that my credentials would endure the test of time. For this reason, it was not sufficient to only pass the EIPA at the state and national accepted level. Therefore, I decided to take the additional step and apply for the Ed: K-12 certification status through RID. Along with being able to call myself a certified educational interpreter I have also committed myself to maintaining my credentials through the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP).

While not intending to get on my “soap box,” I believe it is extremely important to have qualified interpreters at the K-12 level. There are many times educational interpreters are the sole language models for Deaf children.

In 2006, with the vision of educational interpreters being seen as equal practitioners alongside community interpreters, EIPA-RID implemented new goals within the interpreting profession. This was accomplished by acknowledging the EIPA’s testing standards, therefore validating the interpreter’s access into the CMP and the Ethical Practices System. These changes also recognize the interpreter’s commitment to life-long learning and the protection of consumer’s rights.

Certified Membership in the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. has given me the professional credentials I did not have prior to grandfathering into and being accepted as a Certified Member of RID.

***Honoring Tradition  
Embracing Change***

PO Box 588  
Clovis, CA 93613-0588

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

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### CCRID Executive Board

President: Suzanne Conway, MA, CI & CT, SC:L, CI & CT, EIPA  
Vice President: Pamela Warkentin, CSC, SC:L, NAD V  
Secretary: Renee Bisnett, EIPA  
Treasurer: Nicole Wolfe, MA, CI & CT, NAD IV

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, in January, April, July, and October. 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.

# New Adventures Discovered Through Growth

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



This year Central California Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf has adopted the theme “Honoring Tradition, Embracing Change, Celebrating

Growth.” With each issue I have been exploring these concepts in more depth and I will round out the series by celebrating our growth.

It would be impossible to Honor Tradition and Embrace Change without also Celebrating Growth. To know the path we have taken is to better understand where we are currently and to

recognize the strides we have made. What began as an organization born from a vision of very few courageous founding members has now become a dynamic, energetic, and growing CCRID.

With growth, we are in constant flux. We are changing every day...new topics, new ethical decisions, new requirements, new challenges, and new adventures. Growth is a process and CCRID has (along with the profession) seen its own process of change. Proudly, we are continuing to raise the bar in skill and quality of service provisions. The development and implementation of the National Interpreter Certification and the Code of Professional Conduct has awarded us the opportunity of affecting change and yielding great achievements within our field.

In celebrating, we are honoring and commemorating – in part – our history.

We are not overlooking or forgetting the amazing traditions and changes that have taken place. Retrospectively, we see how far we have come. And with that we appreciate the commitment, the sacrifice, and the hard work necessary to achieve the success we have experienced. As an entity, and especially as individual members, we have committed, sacrificed, and worked hard. Thank you, everyone, for raising the bar and continuing to grow.

And now, with a few adjustments in the Leadership Team, CCRID will continue to thrive. As I move to the Treasurer’s position, Suzanne Conway will take over my role as the current President of CCRID. Thank you interpreters, community members, and friends for supporting CCRID. We could not do it without you!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Stepping Up

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

- Kendra Cronk, NIC
- Heather Cruz, NIC
- Dylan Geil, EIPA
- Kristy Gonzales, NIC Advanced



### Cherished Tidings

CCRID members who have had life-changing events:

- Mila Hope Grunau was adopted by Launa and Jeff Grunau April 8, 2009. They are also expecting their third child in late October.

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.

- Your Deaf neighbor comes running over to your house asking if you would go with her to the vet to interpret because her cat is vomiting up blood. She tells you where her vet is and you realize it’s the same one that mistreated your dog, who later died. You found out later that he’s under investigation for malpractice. You now go to a great vet who’s even closer to where you both live.
- You’re admittedly overweight, and one day you have to struggle to remain in your role as you interpret a meeting between a Deaf woman and her nutritionist. The 5’1,” 100-pound Deaf woman is obsessed with losing 5 more pounds so she can wear a thong on the beach in Jamaica. You see the nutritionist critically looking you up and down like she thinks it’s you worried about getting into a thong bathing suit.
- You’re interpreting at church, and the preacher is talking about how Mary was ashamed to tell Joseph she was pregnant. However, much to your chagrin, you realize too late that you have just signed Mary was a “whore.”



## EVENTS

### July

CCRID will be on hiatus.

### August

**16th, 2pm—4pm,** Leadership Meeting; Suzanne Conway’s residence, Fresno  
*email ccrid@ccrid.org for directions*  
**29th, 9am—11am,** Terp Time, Professional Development:  
*Everything you wanted to know in Kindergarten but didn’t learn until High School: Sex & Swearing*  
DHHSC - Fresno

### September

**4th, 5:30pm,** Kick Off Dinner & Dessert Auction, DHHSC—Fresno  
**4th, 7:30pm—9pm,** *Name that Sign!* Mini Workshop DHHSC—Fresno  
**13th, 2pm—4pm,** Leadership Meeting; Suzanne Conway’s residence, Fresno  
*email ccrid@ccrid.org for directions*

### October

**3rd, 9am—4pm,** *Conceptual Accuracy* Workshop, DHHSC—

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