TO: PRAC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM: KRISTIN ACREDOLE, COURT REPORTING DEPT.

RE: WAVE COMPUTERIZED STENO_WRITERS

LENOVO THINKPAD COMPUTERS

The court reporting department was very pleased to receive funding in Fall of 2013 for the purchase of two additional Wave computerized stenowriters and three laptop computers to interface with the three Wave writers the program now owns. The laptops are also compatible with our five Protégé shorthand machines that we received funding for in the past. The Waves and Protégés are essential learning tools. To understand the difference between these machines and the machines that many of our students started out with, think about trying to teach keyboarding to 21st century students with old manual typewriters! Access to these writers is a huge advantage for, especially, our newer students and those with limited financial resources.

We have installed CaseCATalyst realtime translation software onto the laptop computers, which, when connected to a Wave or another computerized writer, allows students to practice writing machine shorthand in real time: an instantaneous translation of their notes into English is displayed on the computer screen. This ability to write in real time is increasingly an industry expectation, and our philosophy in the program is to introduce the practice of this skill to students as early in their education as possible. It is also important for students to become comfortable with the technology: setup, operation and troubleshooting. They will be using a very similar, if not identical, setup in the workplace. Students may check this equipment out to use in class or for on-campus practice, and while students logged over 100 hours of use in Spring 2014, we expect to be using this equipment much more heavily in Fall 2014. Realtime practice will be a required weekly activity in COUR 110, Theory of Machine Shorthand, in Fall 2014. The machines and computers will also be an essential
component of our planned Communication Access Realtime Translation internship program.

Many of our students eventually purchase their own equipment while in school, but these items are very expensive, and it is difficult for economically disadvantaged students to gain the realtime and technological experience they need prior to entering the marketplace. Also, we don’t encourage beginning students to make a big investment in equipment until they are sure that they are going to continue on in the program. The fact that the program can provide economically disadvantaged students, in addition to beginning students, access to state-of-the-art equipment without any expense to them ensures a level playing field for all our students.

In summary, the writers and laptops were used in Spring 2014 in all COUR skillbuilding classes, as well as COUR 169A, a court reporting technology class. In Fall 2014, the writers and laptops will be used in COUR 110, the beginning class; all skillbuilding classes; COUR 169B and C, technology classes; and during Communication Access Realtime Translation internships or practice sessions.

The program is very grateful to PRAC for funding the purchase of this equipment.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Acredolo, Court Reporting Dept. Coordinator