



RSA MID-AMERICA
REGIONAL INTERPRETER EDUCATION CENTER

MARIE Center Calendar:

January 31st - Applications for the ASL Immersion event and Deaf Mentor Training due.

[Click here to learn more about the ASL Immersion event.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the Deaf Mentor Training event.](#)

*Note: Applications are found on the above links.

February 1st - Last day to register for the Institute for Legal Interpreting conference at the Early Bird Registration price.

[Click here to learn more about the Institute for Legal Interpreting conference.](#)

*Note: The registration link is found on the above link.

February 23rd - Strategies for Exploring the Complexities of Ethical Decision Making for Students webinar presented by Paula Gajewski Mickelson.

[Click here to learn more about this webinar.](#)

*Note The registration link is found on the above link.

The MARIE Center is currently accepting applications for the following educational opportunities:

ASL Immersion; June 11-15, 2012; *application deadline is 1/31/2012*

Deaf Mentor Training; June 8-15, 2012; *application deadline is 1/31/2012*

Legal Interpreting Training Program; fall semester of 2012 (3rd course in a 4 course series); *application deadline is 4/13/2012*

The MARIE Center is currently accepting registrations for the following educational opportunities:

Strategies for Exploring the Complexities of Ethical Decision Making for Students Webinar; February 23, 2012; registration deadline is 2/22/2012

Institute for Legal Interpreting conference; April 11-14, 2012; *registration deadline is 4/1/2012*

MARIE Highlights: I-GO! Series

In July 2012 the MARIE Center will launch the Interpreting Growth Opportunities Series which is referred to as the I-GO Series!

This is a fee-based skill development program for working interpreters who have:

- completed an Interpreter Education Program,
- 2+ years of work experience,
- agree to take the NAD-RID NIC performance exam (maybe again) before the end of the program,
- desire mentorship in order to get ready to pass the test, and
- live within the MARIE region.

The I-GO Series! is an 18-month long program that include a pre and post diagnostic assessment, online learning, working one-on-one with a mentor or in small groups with other participants. Selected individuals will need to meet specific technology requirements.

This program is in the "works." More information and the application will be posted on the MARIE website within the next month. E-blasts will be sent out as well with information. STAY TUNED!

Feature Article: New Year Resolutions



We've all heard the saying "New Year, New You!" January is the time when we all think about the things we want to do over the next 365 days. New Year's resolutions are made by 47% of American and the most popular types of resolutions relate to weight, money, relationships and education (Shapiro, 2008).

We often think of resolutions as things relating to our personal life but our professional life should not be ignored. Now is the time to think about yourself professionally and if there is anything more/else you want to be doing.

As interpreters, or any professional, we often only think about goals relating to the technical skill. For interpreters that could be vocabulary, constructive dialog, processing, certification or higher levels of certification and more. However, there are other areas that we should think about setting goals in: knowledge, self-awareness and professional involvement (Stewart & Witter-Merithew, 2006, p. 169).

Maybe you want to gain specialized knowledge to work within a specific setting. Maybe you need more general knowledge about the world. Maybe you want to improve your ethical thinking or you need to develop more confidence. Maybe you want to volunteer for a Deaf or interpreting based organization. All of these things can impact and change who we are as a professional. Goals do not need to be confined to these areas. Individually, we have others that we want to add (p. 169).

The workbook entitled *Dimensions of Ethical Decision-Making: A Guided Exploration for Interpreters* by Stewart and Witter-Merithew (2006) has a chapter that focuses on lifelong learning. The reader is encouraged to reflectively think about where they are at professionally and where they want to go which accumulates in writing a professional development plan.

A professional development plan is a written document that describes what an interpreter wants to do by identifying goals. If you have never done one, you should! It provides the professional with a big picture of both short-term and long-term goals. The plan will be forever changing and should be updated periodically.

The best part of the sample plan from the Stewart and Witter-Merithew workbook is that it outlines the timeline for achieving the stated goal and how it will be accomplished. It also provides the opportunity for resources to be identified (2006, p. 170). These are aspects that will help you in accomplishing the goals you have set.

Write a professional development plan at this point may be too much for you. At least take the time to identify one goal/resolution for yourself professionally this year. Use the tips below to create an environment and mind set where you can be successful. Who knows! Maybe this time next year, you'll be ready to write out a full professional development plan...

Tips:

- **Identify all the steps and set mini deadlines for yourself.**
 - Breaking a goal down into it's parts will help you be successful. Accomplishing each step will only encourage you to continue on. Deadlines gives you something to shoot for. If needed, move the deadline to give yourself more time. Sometimes things take longer than we expect or other things demand our attention.
- **Identify resources to help you in your goal.**
 - Sometimes we don't know what's out there or where to being. Identifying resources will provide you with tools to accomplish the goals you have set.
- **Schedule time to work on your goal.**
 - Life is busy and if we wait for the free time to show up it will be another new year looking us in the face. If professional development is on our calendars along with work, school, kids, hobbies and so on - we are more likely to do it because the time has been set aside. It will also help with...
- **Be realistic about what you can accomplish, how and when.**
 - Waking up at 4:00 am to watch videotapes to improve one's receptive skills will last all of about one day for most of us. Watching the same tape for 20 minutes while Susie is at dance class on Wednesday nights is more likely to happen and happen long term. Finding those small pockets of time to work on something is more realistic than scheduling several hours. However, it's important to know yourself and what works best for you. If you need those longer more focused time, you need to make it happen.
- **Tell your goal to someone else or find someone else with the same goal and work together.**
 - Accountability is a strong motivator. If you know that Bob is going to ask you about the book the two of you agreed to read and then discussion, you will have the book read or be in the process of reading so that you won't be seen as the "slacker."

[Have an idea for a Feature Article? Click here to suggest your idea!](#)

Reference List:

Shapiro, S. (2008). Interesting New Year's Resolution Statistics. Retired January 20, 2011, from <http://www.steveshapiro.com/2008/12/11/interesting-new-years-resolution-statistics/>

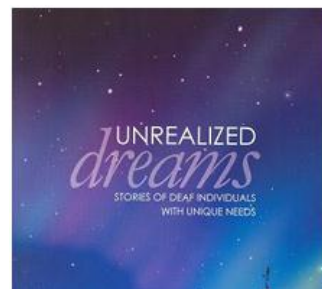
Stewart, K.M., & Witter-Merithew, A. (2006). The dimensions of ethical decision-making: A guided exploration for interpreters. Maryland: Sign Media, Inc.

Resource Corner

Unrealized Dreams - Stories of Deaf Individuals with Unique Needs

DVD produced by PEPNet and Region 4 Educated Solutions.

This DVD looks at the lives of Deaf individuals who have additional disabilities and how systems support them to reach for their employment dreams.



- Hope in Colorado working at Goodwill Industries
- Jenny in Montana working in a Real Estate Office
- Kelly in Montana working at the University of Montana

This DVD can be purchased from the [materials page of the PEPNet website](#). Or it can be borrowed from the [MARIE's Lending Library](#).

NCIEC Events

National Standards and ASL Webinar hosted by the NIEC Center; online learning February 6, 2012 @ 3:30-4:30 pm Eastern; [Click here for more information](#); For questions email niec@neu.edu.

Body Language: Cardio Workout hosted by the CATIE Center; online learning February 8 - March 21, 2012; [Click here for more information](#).

Earn a Masters Degree in Interpreting Webinar hosted by the NIEC Center; online learning February 27, 2012 @ 3:30-4:30 pm Eastern; More information coming!

Body Language: It's All In the Lungs hosted by the CATIE Center; online learning April 2 - May 14, 2012; More information coming!

Undergraduate Research in Interpreter Education hosted by the NIEC Center; online learning April 16, 2012 @ 3:30-4:30 pm Eastern; More information coming!

Training & Engagement in Vocational Rehabilitation Interpreting hosted by the NIEC Center; online learning May 21, 2012 @ 3:30-4:30 pm Eastern; More information coming!

Body Language: No More Digestive Distress hosted by the CATIE Center; online learning June 4 - July 16, 2012; More information coming!

Second National Symposium on Healthcare Interpreting hosted by the CATIE Center; July 22-25, 2012 in St. Paul, MN; [Click here for more information](#).

Trivia:

A new year brings many things. One of which is football games both for college and pro teams. This month's trivia looks at Kenny Walker who was a Deaf football player.

Walker was an All-American player at the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers, played for the Denver Broncos and even played in the Canadian Football League. After retiring from football he coached at the Iowa School for the Deaf.

Walker has a football cards from 1991 and 1992.

Book - Roar of Silence: Trial and Triumph through Deafness by Bob Schaller with Kenny Walker (1998)

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