

For Release: Feb. 16, 2010

New Educational Opportunity for Recent Interpreting Education Program Graduates

Salt Lake City (Feb. 16, 2010)—The VRS Interpreting Institute (VRSII) (www.vrsii.com) today announced its new School-to-Work Program. This innovative sign language interpreter training program aims to close the gap between the time when interpreting students graduate and when they actually have the skills and experience necessary to obtain national certification and readiness for work. The VRSII is now accepting applications from highly-qualified IEP program graduates for the new program.

The VRSII School-to-Work Program, the first of its kind in the United States, is a full-time residency program. Students will be immersed in training for 14 weeks, from June 21 through September 24, 2010. The training classes, which will be offered on-site at the VRSII, will assist recent graduates of Interpreter Education Programs (IEPs) in obtaining additional supervised experiences to gain the practical skills necessary to pass the National Interpreter Certification (NIC) Interview and Performance test and become employable as a sign language interpreter.

Applicants chosen to participate in the VRSII School-to-Work Program will receive the following:

- One-time transportation costs to and from Salt Lake City
- On-site housing in Salt Lake City for the duration of the program
- The National Association of the Deaf (NAD)-Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) NIC Interview and Performance testing fee will be paid by the VRSII

The VRSII is seeking highly-qualified applicants who have already graduated, or who will graduate, from an interpreting program between November 2008 and June 2010. To be eligible to participate in the VRSII School-to-Work Program, applicants must have already passed the written portion of the NIC Exam and be a current supporting member of RID .

“The School-to-Work Program is a boot camp specifically designed to address the school-to-work and school-to-certification gaps,” notes Dr. Carolyn Ball, VRSII

Executive Director. “This program will provide in-depth opportunities for interpreters to really learn the profession. By empowering interpreters through this new program, the need for highly qualified interpreters in the deaf communities and VRS settings can be met.”

For more information on the VRSII School-to-Work Program or to request application materials, please send an email to vsii@sorenson.com or call 801-287-9802.

Applications for the program must be postmarked by March 20, 2010. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by April 15, 2010.

About the VRSII

The Video Relay Service Interpreting Institute (VRSII) is a world-class training facility dedicated to lifelong interpreter training and mentoring of all entry-level, qualified, and professional interpreters. The mission of the VRSII is to provide innovative educational experiences that empower interpreter educators to achieve professional excellence. The VRSII was established by Sorenson Communications in March 2009 and is located in Salt Lake City.

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