



STROUD VE SPOTLIGHT!

CEO CORNER – MARILYN STROUD, MBA

Vocational Expert and Training Consultant

So why is the opinion of Vocational Experts (VE) an important aspect of the SSA Five Step Sequential Process? It really is simple...because not everything is black and white. The vocational expert brings something unique to the table...highly specialized knowledge that is acquired through higher education of at least a master's level in the field of Vocational Rehabilitation, years of hands on experience in the subject matter, and post graduate education gained through professional organizations and certifications in the field. One's ability to apply knowledge to the critical thinking process to solve different scenarios is a quality that every VE must have to become successful in the field of vocational forensics. Some call this "thinking on your feet".



In this edition, we are spotlighting one of the very first VEs to come to join the Stroud VE team, Joyce Brumbaugh, CRC. Joyce is a great example of how one can build upon their career by utilizing knowledge and skills gained in various occupations toward a new career as a Vocational Expert. Joyce represents true professionalism as a Vocational Expert beyond knowledge. She is dependable, courteous, and steadfast with ingenuity that can only be developed through perseverance toward meeting one's career goals in life! This is the making of a reliable and quality driven Vocational Expert Witness...the ability to combine knowledge with critical thinking skills to solve hypothetical situations that are not always black and white.

Let us now take time to get to know Joyce Brumbaugh, CRC.

Stroud Academy / VELAunchpad though 5 August 2020....



286

less commute hours



\$33.15K

training savings



14

better skilled people



-4.62MgCO²

environmental impact



Joyce Brumbaugh, CRC, Vocational Expert

Joyce has a B.S. in Business Administration, paralegal certification, court reporting certification, and an M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Tennessee. She has also added a post-graduate certificate in Forensic Vocational Rehabilitation from the University of Florida as well as maintaining qualification as a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.



What made you want to become an SSA VE?

I wanted to become a Social Security Administration VE from the time I worked as a paralegal many years ago after reviewing depositions and trial transcripts of Vocational Experts working in the private industry.

What is your Area of Specialization?

My area of specialization is job counseling, job readiness training and job placement for individuals with disabilities. I began interning for a local center for independent living, performing job placement for referrals for vocational rehabilitation while in graduate school. The satisfaction that comes from assisting an individual into advocating for him/herself and obtaining employment cannot be measured.

Did your sense of fulfillment transfer across from direct assistance to people with disabilities to the courtroom?

Yes. My neutral, unbiased testimony in a Social Security hearing can change a person’s life.

How did the Stroud training program prepare you for your first testimony experience?

I was not privy to the Stroud VE Launchpad training, as it was prepared after I began testifying in court. I was extremely fortunate to have Ms. Stroud, and the entire Stroud administrative team, to mentor me in every area of the SSAVE experience. My training involved onsite, in-person training with Ms. Stroud, which was outstanding. I have also nearly completed the VE Launchpad training – I only wish that I had been able to have the opportunity for this specialized training immediately after obtaining my M.S. and CRC.

How do you find the varied experiences as an impartial witness for the SSA?

I enjoy it, as I see my “client” as a SSAVE as the “truth.” I take the vocational evidence provided by SSA and utilize my experience and training to seek a neutral, truthful opinion.

What is the one thing you would want anyone entering this career field to know?

While every day is a new learning experience, it is important to have and invest in the best tools possible, including training and software. Most importantly, be confident.

Stay tuned for September...where we’ll showcase another amazing SSA VE from the Stroud team!!!