



CEO CORNER – MARILYNSTROUD, MBA

Vocational Expert and Training Consultant



Our vision at Stroud Vocational Expert Services, LLC (Stroud) is to “build a strong internal and external customer service team that will better serve our customers by diversification into new areas of Vocational Forensic Science”. We realize at Stroud that education and training are the key to personal and organizational success. Over the last few years, we have invested in customer service training and team building exercises to strengthen internal customer service skills and technological knowledge for staff and for VEs who are contracted under the Stroud BPA.

As we have brought on new members to the Stroud VE team, each are provided the highest level of professional training that is currently available on the market for the qualified SSA Vocational Expert, The VELAUNCHPAD. Of course, all Stroud VEs have met the high levels of education, experience, and certifications required by SSA/OHO to provide testimonial services. However, new SSAVEs must then take the next step toward expanding their expertise through knowledge. And, of course, that means new training. The Stroud Academy VELAUNCHPAD, a CCRC Preferred Provider, provides this specialized training and ensures ABVE or CRC continuing education credits while learning the specialized field of SSA VE testimonial services.

We released the VELAUNCHPAD in 2020 commercially as a service to the field of Vocational Forensics. It is amazing to see the impact in cost savings, environmental impact, less commute hours, and better skilled people that can be accomplished by providing certified distance learning programs! Please contact us for more information or refer us to new VEs as a resource available. (<https://stroudve.talentlms.com/about-us>)

Stroud Academy / VELAUNCHPAD through 1 December 2020....

POTENTIAL SAVINGS



499

less commute hours



\$57.93K

training savings



29

better skilled people



-8.06MgCO²

environmental impact

STROUD VE SPOTLIGHT!



Introducing Christopher Briggman, BA, MRC, CRC Stroud Vocational Expert Services, LLC Vocational Expert

Christopher Briggman is a is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) located in Charleston, South Carolina. Christopher holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. Christopher is near the end of his doctoral journey and anticipates completion of his PHD with an emphasis in industrial organizational psychology in November of 2021. Christopher has provided us some insight into why he decided to invest this time and expertise toward developing the specialized skills required to become a SSAVE.

What made you want to become an SSA VE? *I became a VE to explore my interest in the US Job Economy and to extend my working knowledge of SSA law. With this experience and knowledge, I hope to assist better those who struggle with disabilities. I also wanted to educate myself and other professionals about human behavior and how it affects business. When you study and know about human behavior and how it affects business, you can be an effective leader and business advisor.*

What is your Area of Specialization? *I am a Forensic Vocational Expert & Evaluator, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Experienced Human Resources Manager, and a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor. I provide expert vocational evaluation, forensic legal testimony, vocational counseling, and mental health therapy for individuals and agencies. Throughout my entire career, education, and experience, I have curated an approach that has groomed me into a forward-thinking professional that possesses several years of building teams with highly transferable skills. With professional behavior analysis techniques, vocational exploration, workforce consulting/evaluation techniques, and mental health services, I have supported various company and agency goals. I am also an experienced case manager with 11 years of federal expertise and enjoy the opportunity to be challenged and consider myself a lifelong learner. By being naturally driven and motivated, I have achieved maximum impacts – regardless of obstacles.*

Did your sense of fulfillment transfer across from direct assistance to people with disabilities to the courtroom? *My sense of fulfillment in assisting those with disabilities has created a desire to advocate for people on a more legal level. By understanding the methodology behind SSA law I am able to better assist individuals that I counsel and evaluate.*

How did the Stroud training program prepare you for your first testimony experience? *Stroud was an amazing first step in the right direction. The training over prepared me for my first case. I am grateful for the patient and efficiency that Stroud provide during my training. The Stroud team made the information easy to interpret and encouraged questions regarding my comprehension of the VE process and federal law.*

How do you find the varied experiences as an impartial witness for the SSA? *I always go to the facts. I try to tell the judge the facts and don't put words in their mouths. I don't tell them what they want to hear but what the law and my professional experience dictates. I provide professional justification for my answers when necessary.*

What is the one thing you would want anyone entering this career field to know? *I see myself as a resource for federally proven information and never let my emotion play a part in my testimony. For me, data found in governmental regulation is king. By studying the law and presenting it when asked, I have experienced that judges are very pleased with my testimony. I am not perfect and have learned to ask for clarification from judges and feedback from my colleagues to continue progressing as a vocational expert.*

Stay tuned for January 2021...where we'll showcase another amazing SSA VE from the Stroud team!!!

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