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Past Posts is a  
compilation of  
the most  
frequently  
discussed topics  
on the PEPNet  
listserv.*

*The PEPNet Listserv*

# Past Posts

## SERVICE PROVIDER PARKING/MILEAGE COMPENSATION

One of the most posts in February, 2005 on the PEPNet listserv was in regards to service provider compensation for parking and/or mileage. This issue was applied for both staff and community-based/part-time service providers (non-staff position) in postsecondary institutions.

The answers to this topic varied based on the size of the school, whether the campus has staff positions or hire independent contractors, the availability of parking, and other factors taken into consideration. Some service agencies required parking and/or mileage compensation as part of the contract, while some schools did not provide any type of compensation. Some schools did not pay travel to and from campus, but would pay for mileage if the class is offered off campus.

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We pay for mileage; however, we do not pay for their parking.

*Northwestern Michigan College  
February 2005*

I'm a free lancer here in Indiana... I don't receive mileage for driving to colleges if the work is actually offered by a dept at the college, however, if the work is through an agency for a college we receive mileage and travel time (depending on distance)...regardless if I am working for an agency or for the college itself, the schools DO pay for our parking... we each receive a parking permit at the beginning of the semester...and they're not commuter permits that put you on the back 40 and make you walk a mile... they are usually the same permits that professors receive, which allows us to park fairly close to our classes...I currently have two swinging from the mirror...smile

*Certified Freelance Interpreter from Indiana  
February 2005*

We pay travel time for any interpreter that travels 30+ miles one way. We also pay for parking (approx. \$80/year).

*Southwest Missouri State University  
February 2005*

We pay travel and additional expenses such as parking fees.

*Waukesha County Technical College, Wisconsin  
February 2005*

We have the same issue here at the University of Tennessee. We do not pay for parking or mileage and this is a problem since the community agency does. However, with our current market as competitive as it is and with Sorenson establishing a call center in Knoxville, we will be making some changes soon. We have been working on the parking issue for at least a year; I foresee us paying for parking real soon.

*University of Tennessee  
February 2005*

We provide parking permits to each interpreter in the staff parking lots closest to the Interpreting assignment.

We pay mileage or reimburse at a rate comparable to the time (portal to portal) if the interpreter travels more than 30 miles to the college. We also pay mileage or time if the interpreter must travel between distant college sites during the day.

*Rock Valley College, Rockford, Illinois  
February 2005*

Our university policies will not allow us to pay travel. We also do not pay for parking. Interpreters need to purchase parking permits just like anyone else who works at the university. So far I've got enough interpreters to meet our needs, with staff interpreters as well as with freelance interpreters who I hire to cover the abundance of night classes we've had for a few semesters now.

*Northern Illinois University  
February 2005*

That is a big problem here. It is \$1/hour (if you can find a parking space) or \$289/term. The other problem is that even staff (full-time, part-time, president of the University) all pay for parking. I pay \$78/month. It is hard to convince the powers that be to give free parking when they don't even get it for free. We DO pay a 2 hr minimum if the interpreter is only here for that one job, to help defray the cost of parking and travel time.

*Portland State University  
February 2005*

The interpreters at City College are given parking permits. Parking is difficult enough to find even with permits. Finding qualified interpreters is difficult enough without parking fees being yet another obstacle.

*City College of San Francisco  
October 2007*

We pay travel and additional expenses such as parking fees.

*Waukesha County Technical College, Wisconsin  
February 2005*

In this area, interpreters pay for their own parking at colleges and universities; it is the rare campus that provides free parking for interpreters (there is one which does, but they rarely have a student who is deaf). The fees range from \$8 - \$220 per term/semester around here; some have daily rates, as well (ranging \$3/day and up), which may be cheaper for some colleges if you're only there once per week. As Bentley said, it's a cost of doing business. The instructors pay their own parking, as well. Bicycles and mass transit are also options, as is parking off campus, but within walking distance.

*Portland, Oregon  
October 2007*

Our staff interpreters must purchase a parking pass. Our contract interpreters are given a free pass that is only valid in student parking areas and the carpool lot. We had to argue that the interpreters are often coming from other assignments and do not have time to search for parking and arrive to their classes on time.

*Santa Rosa Junior College, CA  
October 2007*

Both campuses where I work and coordinate pay for parking for interpreters. One pays for parking for professors and staff, and one does not.

Parking is such a HUGE deal in SF, and it would be a deal-breaker for a lot of interpreters, I think. Parking concerns are one of the things that come up when I am looking to fill a job, even before details about student or content. Team questions run a quick second.

*Interpreter in San Francisco, CA  
October 2007*

This was a VERY big issue on our campus several semesters ago - the interpreter paying \$3.00 each day s/he came on campus. When I "lost" 2 interpreters who would not come to campus because of the fee, we talked to our division vice president and parking services and now our DRC pays a reduced daily fee (\$2.00) for the terps. They were thrilled and I have not lost any more interpreters because of the parking fee. (Yes, the others came back!)

We also have a "Guest" parking lot where the interpreters can park and NOT have to drive all around looking for a place to park on campus.

These little perks have kept all the free lance interpreters very happy.

*University of North Florida  
October 2007*

We cannot buy permits, but our office validates interpreter status for staff parking permits which they purchase for themselves each year. (We also have pro-rated/weekly rates.) Then our office applies for 'service vehicle' permits for the interpreters. These are used when they slip onto campus with no time to spare and must get quickly to class. The service vehicle spots are close to individual buildings and come in very handy for contract people who are on/off campus a couple of times a day at busy times. We have an agreement with the parking office that if time permits, interpreters will park in regular staff lots and leave the service spots open, but if they need it, they have a guaranteed spot and it is always right by the building they need to go to. Our interpreters have really appreciated this arrangement.

*University of North Dakota, Grand Forks  
October, 2007*

Question:

Our University historically has paid for parking permits to our campus because parking is a 'HUGE' issue on this campus, that charges \$10 a day to park in campus garages. I'm still on the waiting list as a staff member and have to park several blocks away...so with recruiting interpreters and captioners; we've given them parking permits so they can get to their jobs and around campus on time. We only have hourly (less than 20 hour) appointed non-benefit service providers, apparently there are IRS rules that has our auditors saying we cannot provide these permits due to them being taxable.

Does anyone have this issue - and if so, how have you worked around this?

*The University of Texas at Austin  
August, 2008*

Responses:

We have the guest passes and we used them in the past. The problem was that even w/ paid parking passes, the garages got full. Now, our scheduler calls Parking and Transportation each month to actually reserve a space in the garage. The cost is \$400.00 - \$500.00 per month!

*Arizona  
September, 2008*

Parking is a big problem here too. We order guest parking passes for our interpreters each time they work for our office. The cost is \$2.00 per day per interpreter/guest.

I too have heard about the IRS rules. So why not just have the 1099 forms reflect this "added income" or would that be a nightmare for payroll??

The cost of parking is not the real issue - WHERE to park and how to find a spot in a timely manner to get to the assignment on time is the bigger issue.

Any insight into this parking matter would be helpful as we are researching what to do too. Don't want interpreters to quit because of parking!

*University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL  
September, 2008*

We, part-time interpreters, pay for our parking permits at UTSA (University of Texas San Antonio). I just wrote a check for \$125 dollars today.

*University of Texas, San Antonio  
August, 2008*

Would you be able to block off a few parking spots near the areas these folks are working this semester, dedicating them for interpreters/captioners, trying to calculate how many would be on campus at any given time, so you would have enough? If the same folks are coming for the semester, I would think they would be willing to give you their license plate numbers. Any other license numbers would receive parking tickets. If the captioners need to transport equipment with them, they may not be so eager to work for your college if they have to carry it a long way.

Any idea what time these folks normally arrive at your campus area? Is there is an off campus parking area they could have reserved spots at, with a designated person shuttling them back and forth?

I am not sure how captioners are paid, but if your college is paying for the interpreters time to find a parking place and walk to the class, and back again, providing them with a closer parking spot may actually save the college money.

*Northcentral Technical College, Wisconsin  
August, 2008*