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WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

**A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired**

February - March 2007

Communication, Collaboration and Celebration!

By Tanni Anthony

If there are 3 Rs in education, there must be at least 3 Cs for how to work with one another. Students with IEPs almost always have many team members in their lives, as do the parents of the child. Professionals have both parents and colleagues to work with on a child's program. In my position, I work with a variety of people within the Colorado Department of Education and across the state. There is simply not one thing that I do that does not involve other people in its organization and completion; whether it is a phone call with a concerned parent, setting up a training, getting this newsletter out the door, or being on a internal work group or state committee to develop policy or ensure that children with visual impairments are represented in state-level initiatives.

We all need one another. The 3 Cs of Communication, Collaboration, and Celebration can provide the roadmap for what efforts prove to be successful and beneficial for all parties. Communication involves truly listening to others and taking good care to share information in a way that can be understood and used. Collaboration means understanding our roles, tending to timelines of contributions, and building a truly joint product. Celebration gives us our chance to sit back and enjoy our accomplishments and to honor those who contributed. Perhaps a 4th C would be courtesy. We need to remember to "play nice" so that our words and actions continue to build relationships and encourage our work together.

So here is to the Cs that keep us on the path of success for our students!

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Bits From Bonnie

Bonnie Snyder

BonnieLS21@Comcast.Net

(Note the email address change)

Ok, folks, here is some information for you to think about. The Open Source Compendium consists of computer users who write software for many platforms. Most of this software is either free or very reasonably priced. For example, I use the following Open Source software on a regular basis: Firefox (a web browser), Thunderbird (an email client), Image Forge (a graphics program) and Open Office (an office suite compatible with MS Office). All of the above are free. There is a free little applet that you can download called "Java Access Bridge" which allows most screen readers to use programs written in the JAVA programming language, such as the previously mentioned programs. As a matter of fact, there are two screen readers, Thunder and Virgo that are also under the Open Source umbrella. I have both of them, and when I find the time, I plan on testing them out and will let you know what I find out about them. Below is the basic definition of Open Source:

The Open Source Definition

Introduction

Open source doesn't just mean access to the source code. The distribution terms of open-source software must comply with the following criteria:

- 1. Free Redistribution:** The license shall not restrict any party from selling or giving away the software as a component of an aggregate software distribution containing programs from several different sources. The license shall not require a royalty or other fee for such sale.
- 2. Source Code:** The program must include source code, and must allow distribution in source code as well as compiled form. Where some form of a product is not distributed with source code, there must be a well-publicized means of obtaining the source code for no more than a reasonable reproduction cost preferably, downloading via the Internet without charge. The source code must be the preferred form in which a programmer would modify the program. Deliberately obfuscated source code is not allowed. Intermediate forms such as the output of a preprocessor or translator are not allowed.
- 3. Derived Works:** The license must allow modifications and derived works, and must allow them to be distributed under the same terms as the license of the original software.
- 4. Integrity of The Author's Source Code:** The license may restrict source-code from being distributed in modified form *only* if the license allows the distribution of "patch files" with the source code for the purpose of modifying the program at build time. The license must explicitly permit distribution of software built from modified source code. The license may require derived works to carry a different name or version number from the original software.
- 5. No Discrimination Against Persons or Groups:** The license must not discriminate against any person or group of persons.
- 6. No Discrimination Against Fields of Endeavor:** The license must not restrict anyone from making use of the program in a specific field of endeavor. For example, it may not restrict the program from being used in a business, or from being used for genetic research.

7. Distribution of License: The rights attached to the program must apply to all to whom the program is re-distributed without the need for execution of an additional license by those parties.

8. License Must Not Be Specific to a Product: The rights attached to the program must not depend on the program's being part of a particular software distribution. If the program is extracted from that distribution and used or distributed within the terms of the program's license, all parties to whom the program is redistributed should have the same rights as those that are granted in conjunction with the original software distribution.

9. License Must Not Restrict Other Software: The license must not place restrictions on other software that is distributed along with the licensed software. For example, the license must not insist that all other programs distributed on the same medium must be open-source software.

***10. License Must Be Technology-Neutral:** No provision of the license may be predicated on any individual technology or style of interface.

Origins: Bruce Perens wrote the first draft of this document as "The Debian Free Software Guidelines", and refined it using the comments of the Debian developers in a month-long e-mail conference in June, 1997. He removed the Debian-specific references from the document to create the "Open Source Definition."

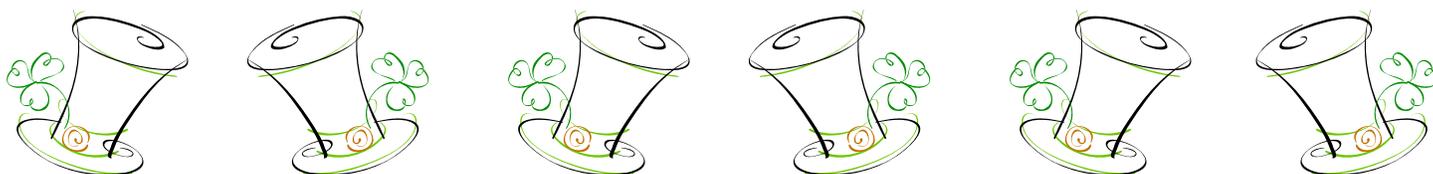
Copyright © 2007 by the [Open Source Initiative](#);

Send questions or suggestions about the website to Steve M.: webmaster@opensource.org

As I carry around all of my favorite *Open Source* programs on CDs and thumb drives, I will be more than happy to share them with you when I come to visit. There are many other really terrific Open Source programs on the Net. Just Google "Open Source software" and see what you find.

If you wish to know more about *Open Source*, or individual software programs that are Open Source, feel free to ask me either in email or up on the COTVI-COMS Listserv.

Editor's Note: PLEASE continue to book Bonnie for your technology consultations!!



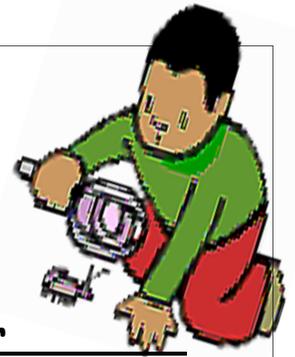
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Parents: If you are moving out of state or your child is graduating, please be in touch so we can remove you from our newsletter mailing list. Also, please be in touch with your address changes if you move to a new Colorado location.

TVIs and O&MSs: If you have any changes in program contact information over the school year, please help us out and send Tanni these changes.

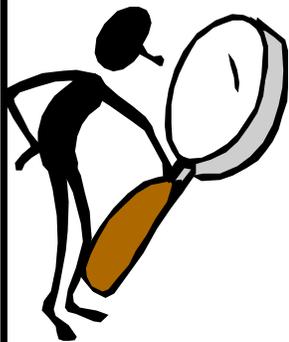
Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our mailing list up to date!!! Just send your changes to anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or to Tanni Anthony, CDE, 201 East Colfax, Denver, CO 80203.

Low Vision Clinic News



Wow - we already have some dates for next year's clinics!! Thanks in advance to the people who have agreed to be site coordinators for next school year!

Region	Date	Site Coordinator
Western	September 28-29, 2007	Sarah Sonnier
Southern	October 25-27, 2007	Melissa Shular
Metro	January 24-26, 2008	Nancy Knight
Northern	TBA	



Metro Clinic 2007 Report

By Donice Fennimore

What an awesome clinic! The Metro region Low Vision Clinic was held in Aurora on January 25-27, 2007 at the Centretech Building. During the 3-day clinic, 18 students were seen, devices totaling \$731 were dispensed, and 8 districts were represented.

The students ranged in age from preschool to a junior in high school. Of the 18 students 5 were follow-up visits and 13 were initial visits. The students were accompanied at the clinic by parents and TVIs as well as some that had O&M instructors and brailist Elaine Brown with them. The TVIs involved with bringing students to the clinic included Shelley Moats, Rut Chizum, Trina Boyd-Pratt, Ginny Coursey, Anita Wherry, MeLinda Carter, Marci Reid, Mike Plansker, JC Greeley, Cheryl Leidich, Janet Anderson, Julie Wetzstein, and Nancy Cozart. Also, involved in the clinic were two graduate students, Sara Bickford, from the University of Arizona and Roberta Wiedemeyer, from UNC. The show of support for these students was phenomenal.

Thanks to all the staff that participated and a special thanks to Amber Rundle for organizing such a great clinic. And, as a side-note, thanks Amber for not having your baby during the clinic. Although the low vision team had honed up on their child birth skills we are thankful we didn't have to use them. As you know, neither rain, nor sleet, nor child birth can stop our clinics!!!

Again, thanks to everyone in Meter region who made this a great clinic. The team is looking forward to the next clinic scheduled for Feb. 23 & 24 in Fort Collins. The word on the street is that the Northern region clinic is already scheduled to full capacity. Great job



BE IN THE KNOW OF THE LAW!

Licensure Requirements and Scope of Practice

In order to deliver O&M services in a Colorado school, an individual must have a current CDE license as a School Orientation and Mobility Specialist. This is a separate license from the professional endorsement as a teacher of students with visual impairments. If an individual is both a TVI and an O&M Specialist, he or she must have two CDE licenses. One is a professional educator license and one is a special services license. O&M is a related service and falls under a special services license.

A student in training with a university program in O&M cannot receive a temporary authorization as an O&M Specialist and, therefore, must have a limited scope of practice in the school setting. It would not be advisable to teach a student cane skills without a CDE license. An administrative unit and the professional him or herself has increased liability without a current and valid CDE license. It is mandatory to be ACVREP-certified in orientation and mobility in order to be eligible for an initial O&M license with the Colorado Department of Education.

Medicaid Billing Requirements

Most administrative units participate in Medicaid billing. A School O&M Specialist can bill for Medicaid reimbursement. There are strict guidelines, however, of who can bill for what type of services. An O&M Specialist **MUST** have a current CDE special services license as a School O&M Specialist in order to bill for targeted case management services. If an individual is still in a university program earning an O&M degree, he or she **CANNOT** bill for case management services.

In order to bill for direct O&M services, an individual must not only have a current CDE special services license as a School O&M Specialist, but **must ALSO** have a current ACVREP certificate as a certified O&M Specialist. As such, if you have not maintained your ACVREP COMS certification, your administrative unit cannot bill Medicaid for direct O&M services. **Any violation of these practices would result in fraud.** If discovered by a federal Medicaid audit, the administrative unit would need to repay these funds.

If there are questions about the CDE licensure in orientation and mobility and/or Medicaid billing requirements, please contact Tanni at (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us.



WAYS TO USE A LIGHT BOX

Author Unknown



This article was disseminated on the Early Intervention Listserv.

For eating, use the light box as a table:

- Juice in a clear cup or bottle will glow and encourage reaching.
- Scatter M&Ms on the surface.
- Scatter cheerios on the surface.
- Scatter small or large crackers on the surface.
- "Set a table" by having child match plate, cup and spoon with a transparent outline of these things on the light box.
- Set plate with slice of bread, container of light-colored jelly on light box, help child shift gaze from jelly jar to bread as he or you takes jelly to spread on bread.
- Use Jell-O in clear container—it will glow on the Lightbox.
- Help child mix colored soft drink mix into a clear glass of water and watch the color develop.

Art, using light box (covered in clear plastic) as easel or table:

- Finger paint onto parchment paper with foam paint.
- Paint with dark colored pudding.
- Paint with whipped cream on red or blue transparency.
- Use watercolors on parchment paper
- Sprinkle powdered tempera paint on parchment paper; help child spray on water and watch colored spread and swirl.
- Roll clay into strings and lay out in interesting shapes on light box.
- Use Wikki Sticks to make raised line outlines.
- Use "Smelly Markers" on tissue paper.
- Make a necklace using beads and string (including the APH transparent colored beads).

Simple reaching:

- Encourage reaching to and spinning of the APH "Spinner"
- Encourage play with a Slinky (connected to handle and hanging over lighted surface; wrap other end onto student's wrist to encourage arm movement).
- Stack up blocks so that simple arm or leg movement knocks them down.
- Leave a koosh ball on the light box.
- On a large light box, put a pressure switch attached to a vibrating pillow. Position the child so that slight pressure on the switch makes the pillow vibrate. Help the child shift gaze between the two.
- Set up the child's adaptive switch to turn on the light box.
- Have child eye point to choose 1 of 2 items lined up on light box.
- Make transparencies of circle/calendar time pictures and show on the light box.
- Make transparent digital photos of classmates and adult, show them using light box, ask child

to point to so-and-so.

- Have child construct daily schedule on light box using pictures made into transparencies
- Count manipulatives lined up on light box
- Tracing letters onto light box (Bold marker on light weight paper taped on light box)
- "Sense of Science" overlays can encourage gaze shift, recognition, etc.
- Do sorting activities on the light box (APH makes materials, or functional objects, like forks and spoons, can be used).
- Choose rhythm instruments by the outline they make on the light box.
- Use light box to highlight dark lines that need to be cut for paste and scissors projects.

Daily Living Routines:

- Put sock and gym shoe on light box, have child eye point to item needed next.
- Put wash cloth and toothbrush on box, ask child to choose which he wants to do first. Can choose with eye pointing, finger pointing, or naming.
- Before going to doctor, store, etc, show child transparent Meyers-Johnson symbols of those activities on light box and see if they can identify the picture.

Make Believe Play:

- Put dress up items on Light box. Have child identify items and choose how they was to dress up (baseball hat vs. construction hat)
- Put play hammer next to play pan, so child can choose to play house or play construction.
- Put a lipstick and perfume bottle near each other to choose between the two.
- Trace outlines of make believe characters/action figures to make pictures of them, and then use the pictures to create a story.
- Tell stories with "pictures" by using real objects on light box to create a "Shadow Puppet" type of performance (for examples, twigs make trees and a "Barbie" type doll becomes Goldilocks).



Other Activities:

- With an adapter, look at a "Discovery Light Book" on the light box.
- Play "Break the Ice" on a large light box.
- Play hands-only "Twister" with a transparent color circle overlay on the big light box.
- Play table-top hockey (Quarter with fingers) on the large light box.
- Make a woven pot holder, putting the look and loops on a dim light box.
- Thumb wrestle with a friend on the light box.
- Fill a Ziploc bag with hair gel and other materials, like confetti, and seal the bag. The kids can squish it.
- Fill a clear plastic container with rice, popcorn kernels, or pasta.
- Have the student scoop, pour, search for items, etc.
- Make colorful transparencies of pages of a story to tell the class.

Resources and Materials

- **The January-February 2007 issue of *Dialogue: A World of Ideas for Visually Impaired People of All Ages* is here!** This issue of the magazine offers readers insights into the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act, which helps provide employment opportunities for people who are blind; provides an in-depth discussion of universal design principles, particularly as they relate to educational settings; presents an overview of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind services; informs readers about the latest software upgrades available from Freedom Scientific and GW Micro; and explains the steps dog guide handlers need to take in order to travel to the United Kingdom without facing quarantine. To see the complete Table of Contents and read sample articles from the January-February 2007 issue, log on to www.blindskills.com/current_past.html.
- **The Adversity Advantage: Turn Your Everyday Struggles into Everyday Greatness**—According to the publisher, Erik Weihenmayer has teamed up with businessman Dr. Paul Stoltz to take its readers on an interesting life climb. They share that the message of *The Adversity Advantage* is essentially Erik's: *"Inside each of us is something I can only describe as a light, which has the capacity to feed on adversity, to consume it like fuel. By tapping into that light, every frustration, every setback, every obstacle becomes a source to power our lives forward. The greater the challenge, the brighter the light burns. Through it, we become more focused, more creative, more driven, and can even learn to transcend our own perceived limitations to bring our lives more purpose and power."* To find links to on-line bookstores, go to www.adversityadvantage.com.
- **National Library Service**—The National Library Service has updated their web site to include the September 2006 document, "Current Strategic Business Plan for the Implementation of Digital Systems". The address for it is: www.loc.gov/nls/businessplan/businessplan2006.html. This document details the NLS plan for digital talking book (DTB) and digital talking book machine (DTBM) technology to ultimately replace recorded cassette (RC) technology just as RC technology replaced its predecessor, the rigid disc (RD) technology. NLS has determined that the digital system will be based on flash memory technology, specifically Universal Serial Bus (USB) flash drive technology. The transition to this digital technology is expected to begin for patrons in fiscal year (FY) 2008 and should require approximately four years to complete. The implementation plan is presented in this document.
- **Woodbine House**—The newly revised and expanded edition of *Children with Visual Impairments A Parent's Guide*, edited by M. Cay Holbrook, Ph.D., is an essential resource for parents of children who are blind, legally blind, or have low vision. Written by an expert team of professionals and parents, it is filled with jargon-free, compassionate information and advice on raising children with visual impairments from birth to age seven, making it the most comprehensive resource of its kind. The second edition introduces the new educational concept of "expanded core curriculum," comprised of nine key areas of learning that will prepare children with visual impairments to become independent and productive adults. Other additions include an overview of the latest equipment for learning and daily living; the best toilet-training methods; and recent changes to special education under IDEA 2004. Publish date: Sept. 2006. For more information contact Fran Marinaccio: fmarinaccio@woobbinehouse.com or 800-843-7323





Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Presents:

SUMMER ENRICHMENT 2007



Please put these dates on your calendar! Parents, this is a perfect opportunity for your child to meet friends from across Colorado and to learn new skills.

June 3 rd - June 8 th , 2007	Colorado Adventures
June 3 rd – June 15 th , 2007	Independent Living 2 Week Camp
June 10 th -June 15 th , 2007	Compensatory/Tech Camp, Evening O&M
June 17 th -June 22 nd , 2007	SPORTS EDUCATION CAMP (SEC)
June 24 th - June 29 th , 2007	Independent Living 1 Week Camp
June 24 th - June 29 th , 2007	Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

***Sports Education Camp:** SEC empowers blind and visually impaired youth by teaching them basic sports skills and activities. The "Junior" camp, for 10-12 year old athletes, and the "Senior" camp, for 13-16 year old athletes.

For more information, contact Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org

2008 AER International Conference

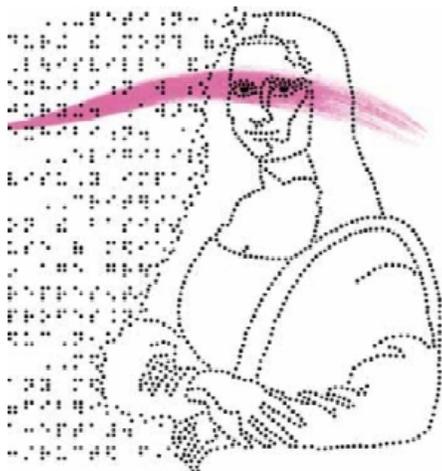


July 22-27, 2008
Marriott Chicago Downtown
Chicago, Illinois

The premiere conference for the professionals who provide services to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Association for Educations and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired
1703 N. Beauregard Street, Suite 440—Alexandria, VA 22311
877-492-2708 or 703-671-4500
aer@aerbvi.org

Call for Entries: APH InSights Art Competition and Exhibition 2007



APH invites visually impaired and blind artists of all ages to submit artwork for its sixteenth annual international art competition, APH InSights 2007.

There are two deadlines this year: April 1, 2007 is the deadline for entries from students in preschool through high school; April 15, 2007 is the deadline for entries from adult artists. To enter, artists must meet this definition of blindness: corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, or a visual field limited to 20 degrees or less

Last year, 490 entries were received. From these, jurors selected eighty-two pieces for the exhibition, which was shown in Louisville in October 2006 at the Annual Meeting.

Artists may send one entry for the General Competition. New this year is a special Art Card Competition. Those who wish to send a second entry whose subject is specifically targeted for an art card, may do so. The subject of this entry should be appropriate for use as a birthday card or for one of the December holidays. If the subject of a General Competition entry is appropriate, it will also be considered for the Art Card Competition.

To receive complete rules and entry forms, send an email to rwilliams@aph.org, or call 800/223-1839, ext. 357. Let us know if you want a print or a braille copy. Rules and entry forms will also be on the APH website (www.aph.org)



Colorado Annual O&M Conference

The annual O&M Conference is still in the planning stages due to some unexpected program problems. However, do not fear—the planning committee is hard at work and will soon be emailing a registration form to all Colorado Orientation and Mobility Specialists. Our goal is to build a program that is exciting and informative.

The dates may change—so be watching for more information soon to come and thanks for your patience!

Family Conference

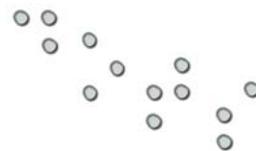
Families Connecting with Families in the Heartland of America will take place July 13-15, 2007 in Omaha, Nebraska.

This is a national family conference for families with children who are blind or have low vision of all ages. The American Foundation for the Blind, the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments and Seeing Eye will be the lead sponsors for the 2007 program. The conference will be held at the Hilton Omaha. For more information, check out the following web sites: www.napvi.org; www.afb.org; or www.seeingeye.org.





DOTS OF INTEREST BRAILLE UPDATE



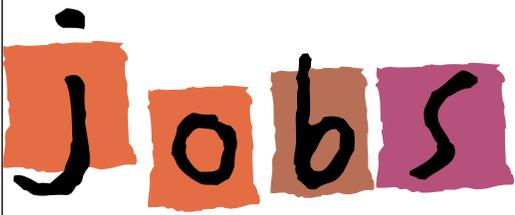
Please plan to attend the **National Braille Association (NBA) Spring Professional Development Conference** at the Antlers Hilton Hotel. Colorado Springs, April 26-28, 2007. You will be able to participate in 26 workshop sessions covering all aspects of braille production, including NIMAS files, Computer-Assisted Transcription, Computer-Assisted Tactile Graphics Production, Math and Science, Music, Textbook, Literary, Foreign Language, Proofreading, and Exchange of ideas with other transcribers and educators.

Who should attend? Transcribers, educators, and alternate media producers. Review the registration booklet to choose your workshops. Register now to reserve your space in the workshops and other events at www.nationalbraille.org. This is a great opportunity for our Colorado folks!



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

- ✘ **Success Stories!** The Beach Center on Disability is creating a Community of Practice involving "pioneer families" whose children have successfully transitioned from high school to inclusive community living. They will use the success stories of these families to build a Web site for other parents and youth who are beginning the transition process. For the full announcement and more complete information, visit the website at: <http://www.taalliance.org/new/turnbullpti.htm>
- ✘ **College Bound: A guide for Students with Visual Impairments** by Ellen Trief and Raquel Feeney is a new book in the Colorado Services for Children with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss lending library. To order, please go to the project's website to download a library loan form to send into Gina Quintana. The web link is: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-BLV.asp>



IMPORTANT!

We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for the next school year. It is never too early to advertise an expected opening. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings.

Check out pages 26-27 of this newsletter to meet new TVIs/O&M Specialists in Colorado!! We have four new folks from out of state and a new in-training UNC TVI! This is so exciting!! We need to keep our recruitment efforts up high and encourage new folks in districts to enter our field through the UNC distance education program. Please continue to be active with recruitment efforts!

Jobs for School Year 2007-08

Metro Region:

- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Specialist** (1 FTE). Contact Susie Sutherland at (303) 982-7202 or Larry O'Connor at (303) 982-6672 in Jeff Co School District.
- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Specialist** (part time / contract work). Contact Barbara McKenzie at bamckenz@acsd14.k12.co.us in Adams 14 (north Denver area).

Southern Region

- ✓ **TVI with focus on vocational education / daily living skills** (1 FTE) at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (School for the Blind) located in Colorado Springs. Contact Chelle Lutz at CSDB at (719) 578-2114 or clutz@csdb.org
- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Specialist** (.5 to 1 FTE). Contact Wendy Matuszewski at matuswl@d11.org in El Paso 11 district in Colorado Springs for more information.

The Colorado Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age, in access to, employment in, or provision of any of CDE's programs, benefits, or activities.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding this policy. Please contact either:

*Patrick Chapman
Colorado Department of Education
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303-866-6780
E-mail: chapman_p@cde.state.co.us*

*Wendi Kispert
Colorado Department of Education
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-6815
E-mail: Kispert_w@cde.state.co.us*



Calendar of Events

2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007

March 13	CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting—CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Susan Pfaffenhauser—719-578-2102
March 21 - April 13	CSAP Test Administration Period - All remaining grades/content
April 2-27	11th Grade "Online" Alternate Administration Window
April 10	CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting — CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Susan Pfaffenhauser—719-578-2102
April 12	Vision Coalition - Highline B Conference Room <u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony - Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
April 12-14 (tentative)	Annual O&M Workshop—CO Center for the Blind <u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony—anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
April 18	Southern TVI Meeting—CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Chloann Woolley—ccwool5@yahoo.com
April 18-21	CEC Annual Convention & Expo—Louisville, KY <u>Contact:</u> CEC—conteduc@cec.sped.org
April 20	Western TVI Regional Meeting - Grand Junction <u>Contact:</u> Kevin O'Brien - kobrien@mcsd.k12.co.us
April 22-27	CSDB Short Term Placement—Technology JAWS & Braille Note with GPS <u>Contact:</u> Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org
April 25	CO ACT Initial Test Date
April 26-28	NBA Professional Development Conference—Colorado Springs, CO <u>Contact:</u> www.nationalbraille.org
May 4	Northern TVI Regional Meetings - Longmont <u>Contact:</u> Carol Love - love_carol@stvrain.k12.co.us
May 9	CO ACT Make-up Test Date

More Calendar of Events

2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007
May 10,11,12										CSDB Short Term Placement—O&M and Public Transportation <u>Contact:</u> Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org
May 16										Southern TVI Meeting—CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Chloann Woolley—ccwool5@yahoo.com
June 1-3										Family Learning Retreat - CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Diane Covington - dcovington@csdb.org
June 3-8										Summer Enrichment—Colorado Adventures—CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org
June 3-15										Summer Enrichment—Independent Living (2 weeks)—CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org
June 10-15										Summer Enrichment—Compensatory / Tech Camp -CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org
June 12										CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting — CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Susan Pfaffenhauser—719-578-2102
June 17—22										Sports Education Camp—CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org
June 21-23										CO Assistive Technology Conference - Denver <u>Contact:</u> www.AssistiveTechnologyPartners.org .
June 24-29										Summer Enrichment—Independent Living (1 week) —CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org
June 24—29										Summer Enrichment—Cheyenne Mountain Zoo—CSDB <u>Contact:</u> Donna Keale—dkeale@csdb.org
June 30—July 7										ACB Convention 2007—Minneapolis <u>Contact:</u> www.acb.org
July 2-6										Lions Club International Annual Convention—Chicago, IL <u>Contact:</u> 630-571-5466 or www.lionsclub.org
July 13-15										Families Connecting with Families—Omaha, NE <u>Contact:</u> www.napvi.org

More Calendar of Events

2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007 2007

- July 15-17** **Early Childhood Summer Institute - Breckenridge**
Contact: TBA
- July 23-25** **3rd Annual PBS Symposium—Denver**
Contact: www.cde.state.co.us/pbs
- September 25-30** **Deafblind 14th International World Conference - Perth, Australia**
Contact: www.dblink.org
- October 18-20** **Colorado Fall Conference on Visual Impairment—Denver**
Contact: Tanni Anthony— anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- November 9-11** **Canadian Vision Teachers' Conference—Montreal, Canada**
Contact: www.canada.aerbvi.org
- November 29-Dec 2** **Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference—St. Pete Beach, FL**
Contact: www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org

2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008

- April 2-5, 2008** **CEC Annual Convention & Expo—Boston, MA**
Contact: CEC—conteduc@cec.sped.org
- July 7-10** **9th International Conference on Low Vision—Montreal, Canada**
Contact: www.opto.umontreal.ca/vision2008
- July 22-27** **AER International Conference—Chicago, IL**
Contact: www.aerbvi.org

CSAP and CSAPA Test Data Collection

In mid February, Tanni emailed all the TVIs an item review form for the CSAP and the CSAPA with a request that any TVI administering these tests, please take the time to record any item-specific concerns. If the test(s) worked well for your students with visual impairments, please take time to send in this information too. If you need a form, please contact Tanni and she will email it out faster than the speed of lightning! Our goal is to have a continual dialogue with the test developers on what is working or not working for children with visual impairments.

Thank you for your input!



CAER Board Nominations

Please READ!!

Submitted by Samantha Hoffman

It's almost spring, and time to think about filling our 4 CAER Board positions for the coming year. We would like to have our ballots ready before the CAER Annual Meeting & Banquet, which will be held Friday, April 13, but we need your help. You may nominate yourself or an esteemed colleague. Meetings take place in the Denver area quarterly or on as needed basis. Both education and rehabilitation members are vital to this professional organization so that all members are represented. You must be an AER member or nominate an AER member for these positions. It is a wonderful way to support our students and clients in Colorado. Simply submit a paragraph or two of information related to the person being nominated (who you are, where you work, work experience, why you want to be a board member, etc.).

CAER Annual Awards

Three awards are given annually to professionals working with those people who are blind or visually impaired. Each of you gives above and beyond what is required, and you all deserve recognition. Usually, the rewards are personal and come from watching a student master the Braille Code, or learn to use an abacus, or plan and execute a route efficiently.

Here are the awards and the criteria to be considered:

President's Award: This award recognizes outstanding leadership in service to people with visual disabilities. True to its name, our president, Julie, will select and present this award.

Gary Schmidt Award: This award honors an AER member who works directly with students/clients. Nomination criteria include; ethical standards, sense of humor, degree of excellence in job performance, and professionalism. The CAER Board and Janice Schmidt review the nominations.

Connections Award: This award recognizes cooperative efforts that cross organizational lines, perhaps even groups working collaboratively to benefit our field. The CAER Board considers the nominations.

Lifetime Achievement Award: This award is presented to professionals who have given of themselves to students/clients throughout their career and are preparing for retirement.

Please take a few minutes to read the criteria for the awards, and nominate someone who is providing dedicated service to our profession. A brief narrative describing this person's achievements, as well as letters of support may be mailed or emailed to:

Elaine Karns
1303 Armsley Ct.
Fort Collins, CO 80525

ELKinCO@aol.com
Home: 970-225-6720

National Agenda Survey

The *National Agenda for the Education of Children and Youths with Visual Impairments, Including Those with Multiple Disabilities* is a grassroots effort to change the way visually impaired and blind children are being educated. It is the philosophy of the National Agenda that students with visual impairments need to be educated in the Core Academic Curriculum (English language arts, other languages, mathematics, health, science, physical education, social studies, history, economics, business education, fine arts, and vocational education) as well as the Expanded Core Curriculum skill areas (compensatory academic skills, orientation and mobility, social interaction skills, independent living skills, recreation and leisure skills, career education, use of assistive technology, visual efficiency skills, and self determination).



Goal 8 of the National Agenda states: *Educational and developmental goals, including instruction, will reflect the assessed needs of each student in all areas of academic and disability-specific curricula.* Dr. Phil Hatlen, Superintendent of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and Debbie Willis, Director of the Accessible Tests Department at the American Printing House for the Blind, serve at the National Co-leaders Goal 8.

Until now, no comprehensive survey has been conducted to determine the status of the Expanded Core Curriculum throughout the country. Your valuable assistance is needed to document the current status of the Expanded Core Curriculum in the United States. Please help by completing a survey now being offered to professionals and families. Your responses will be compiled to paint a national picture and to determine "next steps."

Your voice can be heard by requesting a questionnaire, completing it, and returning it. To request a survey, or if you have additional questions or would like more information, please contact:

Dr. Phil Hatlen, Superintendent
Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
1100 West 45th Street
Austin, Texas 78756
Email: philhatlen@tsbvi.edu

The Adult Blind and VI Role Model Team

By Roger Harwell

The Role Model Team's purpose is to provide children who are blind or visually impaired, their parents, teachers, and other professionals the opportunity to meet accomplished and motivated blind and visually impaired adult role models and to openly and frankly discuss, from personal experience topics related to low vision, vision loss and blindness. The team has been busy and we wanted to share examples of the types of role model team activities that have been provided this school year.

On December 1st The Role Model Team hosted a blind student from Pamona High School and his father at the Common Sight, Common Vision breakfast co-hosted by the United States Association of Blind Athletes and CSDB at the Cheyenne Mountain Conference Center in Colorado Springs. Keynote Speaker: Erik Weihenmayer, the first blind athlete to summit Mt. Everest and the "Seven Summits." The RMT was contacted for some ideas to assist this student.

On February 6th three Role Model Team members traveled to Brighton to meet with an 11th grader and his VI teacher for a frank talk about what happens after graduation and an impromptu piano recital. Over lunch hour we munched on Wendy's sandwiches and discussed graduation and/or Transition Programs. From our newest RMT member, a recent VI collage graduate, some timely information was given on the increased responsibilities and preparation a blind student can expect entering collage. During our second hour and what should have been Chemistry, no hesitation missing that, we discussed adaptive technologies, socialize, hobbies and with next to no prompting enjoyed listening to this student's piano styling.

For further information or to arrange a visit by The Role Model Team you may contact Roger Harwell, Project Facilitator r.harwell@juno.com Cell: 719-648-6844 CSDB: 719-578-2201



2007 SNOWSHOE WEEKEND REVIEW

By Elaine Karns

It will be remembered for the fact that we had to reschedule the event...so glad we did! It was only 14 degrees and a snowfall predicted in January, so we gave February a chance! It was a perfect weekend to be outdoors. We had 33 participants: 8 staff and 25 students, 8 first-timers, and 4 who have attended all 5 years.

6 F's, food, fun, fresh snow, frolic, fast sledding, and friendship would be an accurate description of the weekend. Our snowshoes continue to provide safe, secure travel, and we survived with only a slight injury to a wrist.

The best parts of the weekend have been described as:

Roller skating	Skit Night
Staying up until 10:00!	Sledding
Good exercise	Snowshoeing
Swimming	New BEST friend

Things to try or that would make it better:

- Ice skating
- Snowmen
- Bowling
- Tie-dying
- Nothing...it was perfect!
- Snow mobiling - Not possible on the eastern slope, at least not in the Rocky Mountain National Park

Not much we haven't tried, but will regroup for the next 5 years! We have discovered one pair of black tennis shoes, and one pair of ski gloves hoping to locate their owners!

Special thanks to our dedicated staff who made this weekend possible! If you know them, please thank them! YOU'RE the BEST!

Lou Tutt	Dan Spigorelli
Elaine Karns	Cheryl Leidich
Teresa Barone	Trina Boyd-Pratt
Lori Hall	Nancy Knight
Tyronne Threats	Janet Anderson



The Braille Testing Scoop: A Must Read for TVIs

By Tanni Anthony

Braille is the literacy medium of many of our Colorado learners who are blind/visually impaired. It is the required literacy medium for all school-age students who are blind/visually impaired per IDEA 1997, IDEA 2004, and Colorado statute unless the IEP team determines otherwise. The TVI is responsible for completing a Learning Media Assessment on all students with visual impairment in Colorado. This professional should have the needed braille skills to assess whether a student should receive instruction in braille regardless of whether braille is ultimately the selected media. Braille competency is inherent to the role of being a certified teacher of students with visual impairments.

The CDE webpage on blindness/ low vision has two posted documents that detail the requirements of braille competency. These documents can be downloaded at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-BLV.asp>. The two documents are entitled:

- *Braille Competency Requirements for TVIs Who Provide Braille instruction to Colorado Students who are Blind or Have Low Vision*
- *Braille Certificate Renewal with Braille Modules*

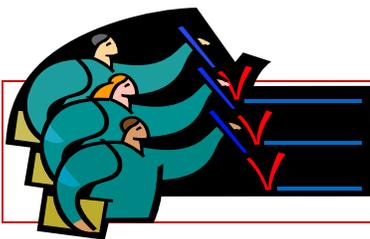
A quick summary of requirements are as follows:

- Braille competency is required at a very cursory level with the Colorado PLACE Test in Severe Needs: Vision. This test is tied to teacher licensure as a TVI.
- A TVI providing braille instruction to a student MUST demonstrate braille competency per CDE guidelines. This is a separate process from the PLACE test. It requires passing the Colorado Braille Mastery Test. It is recommended that EVERY TVI demonstrate braille competency during their first year of employment.
- The CDE Braille Competency Test is a free test that allows the use of resources. It must be taken in an approved proctored session to protect the confidentiality of the test and to protect its administration procedure requirements.
- Once a TVI has earned a CDE Certificate of Braille Competency by passing the braille test, there is a one time renewal process. Within five years of demonstrated initial competency, a renewal certificate may be earned by passing 15 clock hours of approved CDE modules. This is the only way to obtain the one-time renewal. The clock hours can also be used for relicensure purposes.
- The CDE modules include 10 literary braille units and one each specific to Spanish, German, French, chemistry, algebra, and geometry. The CDE Braille Committee included the five others as a means to expand a TVI's demonstration of braille competency skills. The instructional units that come with each module highlights exactly what is needed to complete the modules. The modules can be scheduled with the four approved CDE proctors (Lucia Hasty, Sarah Sonnier, Brenda Shepard, and Julie Wetzstein) and can be generally offered throughout the state with some expectation of drive-time. There is no charge to take a module.

If there are any questions about braille competency requirements in Colorado, please be in touch with Tanni at (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us



- ◆ **AFB Comments on IDEA Part D National Activities Comprehensive Plan:** On January 11, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) submitted comments to the Department of Education regarding the IDEA Part D National Activities Comprehensive Plan. In general, AFB endorses the Part D Comprehensive Plan proposed by the Department and offered recommendations to assure that infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents with vision loss and their families are not left behind when these significant activities are implemented. To read AFB's comments, go to <http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=3&TopicID=138&DocumentID=3184>
- ◆ **AFB Blind Posts Three New Documents on Their Website:** The first document is a brief summary, entitled "The Social and Economic Status of Working-Age Adults (21-64) with Sensory Disabilities" based on Cornell University's 2005 Disability Status Reports. This document focuses on individuals with sensory impairments. Visit <http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=43&DocumentID=3173> for more information. In the second document, titled "Transition of Youth with Visual Impairments, Multiple Impairments, or Deaf-Blindness: National Longitudinal Transition Study 2" has condensed information from the June 2005 report on how youth with visual impairments or deaf-blindness/multiple impairments experienced transition. The document narrative contains links to statistical tables. <http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=43&DocumentID=3178>. The third document is a wrap-up of the 109th Congress <http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=3&DocumentID=3172>
- ◆ **New Tool Kit for Parents on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities** is available for downloading. The Parent Tool Kit compiles materials identified to augment the previously released CD, Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities, and offers a collection of resources on the same substantive areas addressed, including assessment, instructional practices, behavior and accommodations. These new documents were written specifically for parents and include information they need as they work with schools to ensure that their children are receiving a quality education. Materials included in the new Parent Tool Kit provide information that will help them become active and informed participants in IEP discussions and other decision-making meetings that support students with disabilities and their families. To download these materials, go to: Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities—<http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/toolkit/index.asp>; Tool Kit on Teaching and Assessing Students with Disabilities: Parents' Material—<http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/parentkit/index.asp>
- ◆ **The U.S. Department of Education** announces the newly remodeled and updated Federal Resources for Education Excellence (FREE) website. It provides rich, expansive resources to teachers and students alike. There are over 1500 resources to take advantage of at FREE, ranging from primary historical documents, lesson plans, science visualizations, math simulations and online challenges, paintings, photos, mapping tools, and more. This easily accessible information is provided by federal organizations and agencies such as the Library of Congress, National Archives, NEH, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian, NSF, and NASA. For more information, go to: <http://www.free.ed.gov/sitemap.cfm>
- ◆ **Entering Last Full Month of the Nomination Process for the Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field**—If you are interested in learning more about the process and/or submitting a qualified nominee for the Hall of Fame, please visit the following link on the APH web site: www.aph.org/hall_fame/nom_letter.html or email bbrasher@aph.org
- ◆ **The Achilles Track Club is coming to Denver!** - Achilles is a running club which enables people who are visually impaired or have other physical disabilities to participate in recreational and/or competitive running. We are planning to meet once or twice a week in the Denver metro area. Each participant can run or walk as much or as little as he/she wants and will be matched with a volunteer to guide him/her.

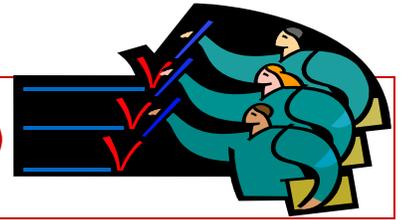


CHECK IT OUT CONTINUED

Participants can come for a quick jog outside or can begin training for 5 or 10K races or even marathons. Please visit <http://achillestrackclub.org> or contact Susan Wolff at achillesclubdenver@gmail.com or 303-552-5408 to learn more. Susan was active in the New York City chapter of Achilles and is excited about bringing this organization to Denver!

- ◆ **The CVI presentation** by Dr. Gordon Dutton at AER2006 in Snowbird, Utah, sponsored by Divisions 7, 8, and 10 of AER, is now available as an online course. CEUs are available. This course is a recreation of a workshop on CVI conducted by Dr. Gordon Dutton, a pediatric ophthalmologist from Glasgow, Scotland, at the 2006 AER International Conference. The workshop entitled, ***CVI –Damage to the Brain—A Common Cause of Visual Impairment in Children***, is an online course broken into nine sections. The course provides students an overview of the visual system and how it works, disorders of vision due to damage to the brain, and approaches to helping students with vision problems due to damage to the brain. Dr. Dutton provides participants theory and practical application from his expertise as a clinician working with children and their families having been diagnosed with CVI. The course is broken into eight learning modules. The ninth and last section is a question and answer forum for those who attended the Salt Lake City workshop. The intended audience for this course is any care provider working with a child diagnosed or suspected of having cortical (cerebral) visual impairment. Student successfully completing this course will be able to describe how the visual system works, understand what can go wrong with the visual system due to damage to the brain, provide solutions and interventions for children having or suspected of having CVI, share their knowledge and learning experiences on CVI with other course participants by using the discussion board on the course platform. For more information and to register for the course, which costs \$75, please go to: <http://www.emeraldevents.net/diopp/>
- ◆ **MacFarland Diabetes Education Seminar soon to be available online.** If you were unable to attend the 2006 MacFarland Medical Update Seminar "Everybody Wins: Diabetes Educators and Vision Professionals Team Up," you will soon have an opportunity to listen to this interactive educational program on-line, in the convenience of your office or home. The seminar features topics from the original sessions and is designed to give participants a well rounded overview on how, by working together, diabetes educators and vision professionals can provide clients with complete care. Keynote speaker, Ian Herskowitz, MD, a medical endocrinologist at Georgia University Hospital and Director of Camp Julie, presents An Overview of Diabetes in 2006: The Cobblestone Steps to Good Patient Care. In addition, experts in the field of diabetes and visual impairments provide valuable information during the program including Diabetes Challenges Mobility: Guidelines for Nonvisual Foot Care and Diabetes 101: A Consumer's View; Perspective of a Spouse; and Team Up with a Diabetes Educator, both presented by Ann Williams, PhD, RN, CDE; Heigh Ho, Heigh Ho, It's Off to Work We Go! With Diabetes and Visual Impairment by Margaret Cleary, RN, CVRT; Life Can Still Be Livable Even with Diabetes featuring Nina Glasner, MSW, MA, CLVT; and, Physical Activity and Wise Precautions led by Karen L. Kemmis, PT, DPT, CDE. The program is pending continuing credit hours from ACVREP. Announcements will be posted on AER's web site and on AER listservs once the program is ready to receive registrations.
- ◆ **AER Supports Financial Incentives for Rehabilitation Teachers who are Certified.** Does being ACVREP certified mean additional compensation for you? Does your employer support your continuing education needs or requirements by paying for courses? Support AER Resolution Number 2006-6 Recruitment and Equitable Reimbursement of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists by helping us gather valuable data. Take the 3-Second Survey at www.aerbvi.org. Survey results will be published in a future issue of *AER Report*.
- ◆ The Commission on No Child Left Behind, a bipartisan, independent commission formed to develop recommendations for the upcoming reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act, released its report on

CHECK IT OUT CONTINUED



February 13, 2007. NCLD has produced a summary of the Commission's recommendations that are specific to or will have significant impact on those students. Check out <http://www.nclld.org/content/view/1176/322/> for more information.

Getting In Touch With Literacy

November 29 to December 2, 2007

TradeWinds Island Resort

5500 Gulf Blvd

St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

To download the **Call for Papers** for the *2007 Getting In Touch With Literacy Conference* go to: <http://www.fimcvi.org/articlepdfs/Call%20for%20Papers%20GITWL%202007.doc>. (You sometimes have to click on "refresh the page" to open the paper.) All proposals should be submitted by March 15, 2007.

The Getting In Touch With Literacy conference features sessions, vendors and activities related to meeting the literacy needs of ALL people with visual impairments. We want to know what you or others in your organization are doing to expand literacy opportunities for your students and/or clients. The conference will be held November 29 - December 2, 2007, at the *TradeWinds Island Resort* on St. Pete Beach (near Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida). Yes...the Hotel and Conference Center at the *TradeWinds Island Grand* are on the beach! (www.tradewindsresort.com) All of us in Florida are gearing up for a fabulous conference and we eagerly await your proposal.

Presenter Guidelines and Requirements:

1. Sessions will be scheduled throughout the conference. Presenters are expected to be available at their scheduled time. Breakout sessions will be one hour and 15 minutes in length.
2. Please note that **all presenters are required to register for the conference.**
3. The proposal contact, listed first on the proposal, will be notified by electronic mail of proposal acceptance by April 15, 2007.
4. If your proposal is accepted, you will be required to electronically submit all handouts and presentation files to Suzanne Dalton at suzanne.dalton@sdhc.k12.fl.us by October 15, 2007. Presenters will be required to bring their presentation (i.e. PowerPoint) in electronic format. All presentations will be made available to participants on a conference CD as well as in requested formats in a conference notebook.
5. We reserve the right to suggest modifications to proposals and presentations.

The planning committee had hoped to have the Getting In Touch With Literacy website re-activated by now, but problems have arisen in transferring the files to the new web-master. In the interim they are posting information about the conference on the host committee website at: http://www.fimcvi.org/index_files.cfm?category=31.

Project Funding Opportunity

Request for Proposals will be available February 5, 2007 on the CSDB website

www.csdb.org/about/grant.html

The **KENNEDY TRUST FUND** at the **Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB)** is accepting applications to fund *new or existing* projects serving **Colorado** children birth to 21 years of age who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and/or Blind/Low Vision on February 5, 2007. The intent is to provide support when other sources of funding have been exhausted, are limited or unavailable. Awards will range from \$500 to \$5000. **Deadline for submission of applications is March 16, 2007, 4:00 pm.**

Three funding strands are available:

- ▲ Non-profit organizations use the *Request for Proposals from Non-Profit Organizations*
- ▲ Public school personnel use the *Request for Colorado School Districts*
- ▲ Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind personnel use the *Request for Proposals for Internal Projects Application*

Contact Christine Vidal at 719.578.2244 or via email at cvidal@csdb.org with specific questions.

News from the Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

By Ann Hicks

We have some great news to share with you. KLAS is the name of the data system that we use to keep track of all the books that we currently have in the CIMC, Version 7 of this system, which we will be installing in the next 3 months, will have the capability for TVIs around the state to log onto the CSDB website and look up a book to see if the CIMC has a copy available to them. The "shopping cart" system is now being field tested in Indiana and should be installed on our new system by fall, 2007. Hopefully, this will help you all out in your planning for future classes for your students.

The following is information that I thought you might be interested in concerning our orders for books and materials for the current school year.

Books	
Books Shipped Complete	95%
Books Shipped Partial	2%
Books Purchased	2%
Being Sourced	1%
APH	0%
Brailling	0%
Waiting for Inks	0%
Total Books: 1,103	100%

The total cost for books so far this year is \$201,649.05. We have also spent \$24,700.08 of our APH Quota funds on books.

Instructional Aids

We are in the process of compiling all of our orders for Instructional Aides. So far we have put 1,157 orders in the data base. The total cost for these orders is \$82,186.80 out of our APH Quota funds.

As of this writing, we have not even received half of the districts' VI Registrations. Thank you to the people who have sent their information into the CIMC! If you have not sent this information in, please do so as soon as possible. It is critical that we receive a VI Registration Form for every student, including learners with additional disabilities, that is being seen by a TVI. This information is due to the American Printing House for the Blind by March 15, 2007 at the very latest. If you are unsure if your student is registered, please fill out a form. If it is a duplicate, we will catch it. I cannot stress the importance of these forms enough. The funding for all of your books and materials is based on you filling out these forms and returning them to us. The APH Quota funding as well as the District Assessment Fees are both based on the figures from the VI Registration.

We recently added [Welcoming Students with Visual Impairments to Your School](#) edited by Marianne Riggio and published by Perkins School for the Blind so you may be interested in checking that out for our Professional Library.

We welcome Debbie Haberkorn as our new Administrative Assistant I at the CIMC. Her principal duties are to answer phones, label, bar code, pack and unpack books, produce large print, and shelve and unshelve books. She is a hard worker and is learning our systems quickly here at the CIMC. I hope you will all have a chance to meet her personally or over the phone. We are very happy to have her as a staff member of the CIMC.

State of Colorado Department of Education

Colorado State Board of Education

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6th Congressional District

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