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## GOING FOR THE GOLD

By Tanni L. Anthony



The recent Olympics were inspiring! What a thrill to watch the best athletes in the world compete. Whether it was Phelps in the pool, Nastia on the parallel bars, or Ce-judo on the wrestling mat, there was so much to be proud of from country to country, sport to sport, and event to event. It made me wonder about hosting our own Colorado Olympics with our students who are blind/visually impaired. How about an Olympic Expanded Core Curriculum where students demonstrate their talents in compensatory skills, technology, social skills, career education preparation, recreation and leisure, independent living, sensory efficiency, independent living skills, O&M, and self determination? Think of it:

Low Vision Device Medley; Braille Fluency on the Beam; Abacus Throw (okay, don't really throw your abacus, but how about tossing those beads up and down for some impressive math computations?), Long Cane Marathon, Slate and Stylus Fencing, Explain My Need for Accommodations Beach Valley Ball, Wheel-chair Sprint, Vocational Archery (hit the bulls-eye of your dream job)... you get the idea. Scoring would be based on efficiency, accuracy, and personal quality. It would not be enough to read a page of braille with solid fluency, but with full comprehension of the text. Extra points for those who show judgment about whether to use a low vision device or use braille on a reading task. Self advocacy in and out of the classroom may tip the scale from a silver to a gold medal!

Welcome back to a new school year, everyone! Let's go for the gold throughout the year to ensure our students have the team spirit and sportspersonship to build and nourish relationships, and have the competitive knowledge and skills for school success and future employment, Go Team Colorado!

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers  
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired  
August—September 2008



# Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

[BonnieLS21@Gmail.Com](mailto:BonnieLS21@Gmail.Com)

During the week of June 16 through the 20<sup>th</sup>, we had six very hardworking people involved in a class on Assistive Technology for the Visually Impaired which was held at UCCS. The attendees included Barbara Adams, Janet Anderson, Kathy Gallina, Ann Gillmeister, Megan Nehls, and Kevin O'Brien. We covered a wide variety of topics, focusing particularly on JAWS. Each day we explored a different application using JAWS with that application: MS Word, Internet Explorer, and PowerPoint. Additionally we explored a wide variety of freeware and shareware for the blind and visually impaired. We were fortunate to have presentations on the PacMate Omni given by Jenny Lineback and Linda Cain from AssistiveTechnology.Net and on the BrailleNote given by Kevin Hughes from Humanware. We all came away from that week with considerably more knowledge. I am already planning a similar class offering for next summer. If you have ideas for course content, let me know.

Recently I have been investigating ways to do web conferencing. I would like to provide some tech support for those of you who request it via the Internet. I started out with Skype, a webcam and a microphone in the hope that the combination will allow us to share information and provide support directly from where we are located rather than always having one or more of us drive to another person's location. Also the information can be shared at about any time you wish and can include just two of us, or a group of us at one time. Skype (which is a free download) is a good start, but I am also investigating Ivisit and Sightspeed (both are free downloads), which appear to offer more options. If you would like to help me, please let me know so we can test these programs out and get comfortable with them prior to having to use them for more complicated support needs.

I will still be available to come to your location, if you wish, and you can call me at (719) 322-3854 or email me at ([BonnieLS21@Gmail.com](mailto:BonnieLS21@Gmail.com)), if you have technology questions or concerns. Also if this appeals to any of you, I would be willing to set up some mini-classes on JAWS, shareware and freeware, Screen Access to Go, or other topics you might wish to request which I could hold for TVIs, their students and/or their students' parents. I'm available on weekends as well as throughout the week to present these classes.

Have a great 2008-2009 school year and I look forward to seeing you throughout the year!

***Editor's Note:** CDE is thrilled to have Bonnie back for another year of consultation opportunity specific to technology. We have Bonnie for 28 days of consultation over the course of this next school year. Consultation will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis with the plan to reserve a set amount of days for a summer tech course. In addition to Bonnie, regional TVI meeting participants are encouraged to take advantage of the many technology vendors who would be willing to come to a regional meeting to demonstrate their products and assist with their use. Please continue to use the tvi/coms listserv to discuss your technology needs and findings. Two final tech resources in our state include accessing the good training and loan bank of Colorado AT Partners (<http://www.uchsc.edu/atp/>) and utilizing Tools for Life Program that you will see highlighted in this newsletter.*

*Let's keep working to develop additional tech supports. The good work of the Tech Committee will continue to be reviewed for possible next steps. Our joint creativity will be important!*

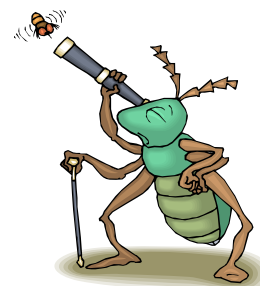
# Low Vision Evaluation Team

By Jim Olson

Thanks to CDE for their continued funding of the clinics and to CSDB for the housing of the clinic inventory, providing the travel van, preparing copies of reports, and providing other clerical supplies. We have a good team effort going! The Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) Team is excited about the prospect of a new year of clinics! We have tallied your evaluations, purchased new devices, and developed some new handouts. We want to make the preparation for your upcoming appointments as easy as possible.

The newly updated pre-clinic paperwork for the 2008-2009 school year has been sent to each LVE Clinic Coordinator and posted on the CDE blindness/low vision website at: <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-BLV.asp>>. Scroll down to “CDE Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Activities Related to Blindness/Low Vision” and you will find documents for:

- o Letter to Parents (pdf)
- o Purchase Policy for Low Vision Devices (pdf)
- o Eye Doctor Form (word)
- o Parent/Teacher Form (word)
- o Site Coordinator Checklist (pdf)



## **Who to Bring:**

The Low Vision Clinic Evaluation team would like to take this opportunity to spread the word that we would like to encourage you to prioritize appointments for those students with low vision who have been accessing large print materials to help make a data-driven decision to justify their large print usage as you plan your upcoming regional clinics.

## **What To Do Before The Clinic:**

- o Be nice to your regional clinic coordinator(s). Remember, they do this voluntarily in each region and it is a monumental job. Hint: most of them like chocolate.
- o Parents: make sure your child has a current eye exam, if possible.
- o TVIs: Have the eye doctor’s office complete the “Eye Doctor Form” and return it to your regional clinic coordinator or to Donice Fennimore, the clinic coordinator.
- o TVIs: Meet with the parents of your student in person or on the phone to complete the “2008-09 Parent & Teacher Pre-Evaluation Form” together. (available online on the CDE website or from your regional coordinator).
- o TVIs: Explain the funding process to the families of your learners with visual impairment. This is outlined in the “purchase policy” handout available on the CDE website. We encourage you to discuss any questions you may have with Donice before the clinic. She is available at (719) 578-2198.
- o TVIs: Send the eye doctor form and the Parent/Teacher form to your regional coordinator 3 weeks prior to the clinic date, allowing your coordinator one week to compile, organize and mail the information to Donice.
- o Regional Clinic Coordinators: Make sure Donice Fennimore, clinic coordinator, receives all of the completed documentation TWO WEEKS prior to the clinic date.

## **What to Bring:**

Every year we ask parents, students, and TVIs to have the students bring their prescription eyeglasses (even if they do not wear them) and any devices they are currently using, no matter where they came from or what condition they are in. Every year many students forget. They need your help and we need your help. We have

developed this handy little checklist that you can tear-out (or photocopy, so that you preserve this wonderful newsletter) and check-off as you pack the car for your exam appointment(s).

- o **Textbook(s)** the student is currently using in school this year.
- o **Worksheet(s)**, or photocopies of worksheets, the student regularly uses in class. These are one of the hardest visual tasks students are asked to complete on a daily basis and they are a wonderful addition to the evaluation process.
- o If your student is currently using large print materials, please bring the **large print materials** they are using and the **same material in its original, “regular print” size** for assessment purposes. You may have to borrow this regular print book for one day from the classroom teacher but it’s worth the extra effort. This allows the doctor to (a) explain the difference between the print sizes to the student and their family, (b) evaluate the working distance used, (c) assess accommodative fatigue, (d) evaluate the benefit of low vision devices and, most importantly, (e) prescribe the most appropriate device for your student.
- o **Prescription eyeglasses** or **prescribed reading glasses**, even if the student does not wear them on a regular basis.
- o **Any low vision devices** (magnifiers, monoculars, etc.) that the student uses.
- o **Sunglasses** or **brimmed hat** that your student wears consistently.

o **Your questions** for the clinic team. Jot them down here (or along the margin of the page) so you don’t forget:

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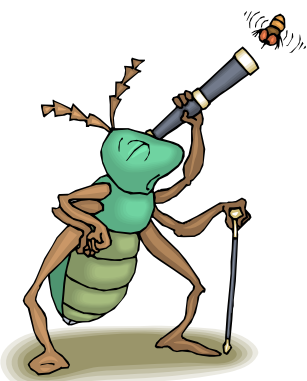
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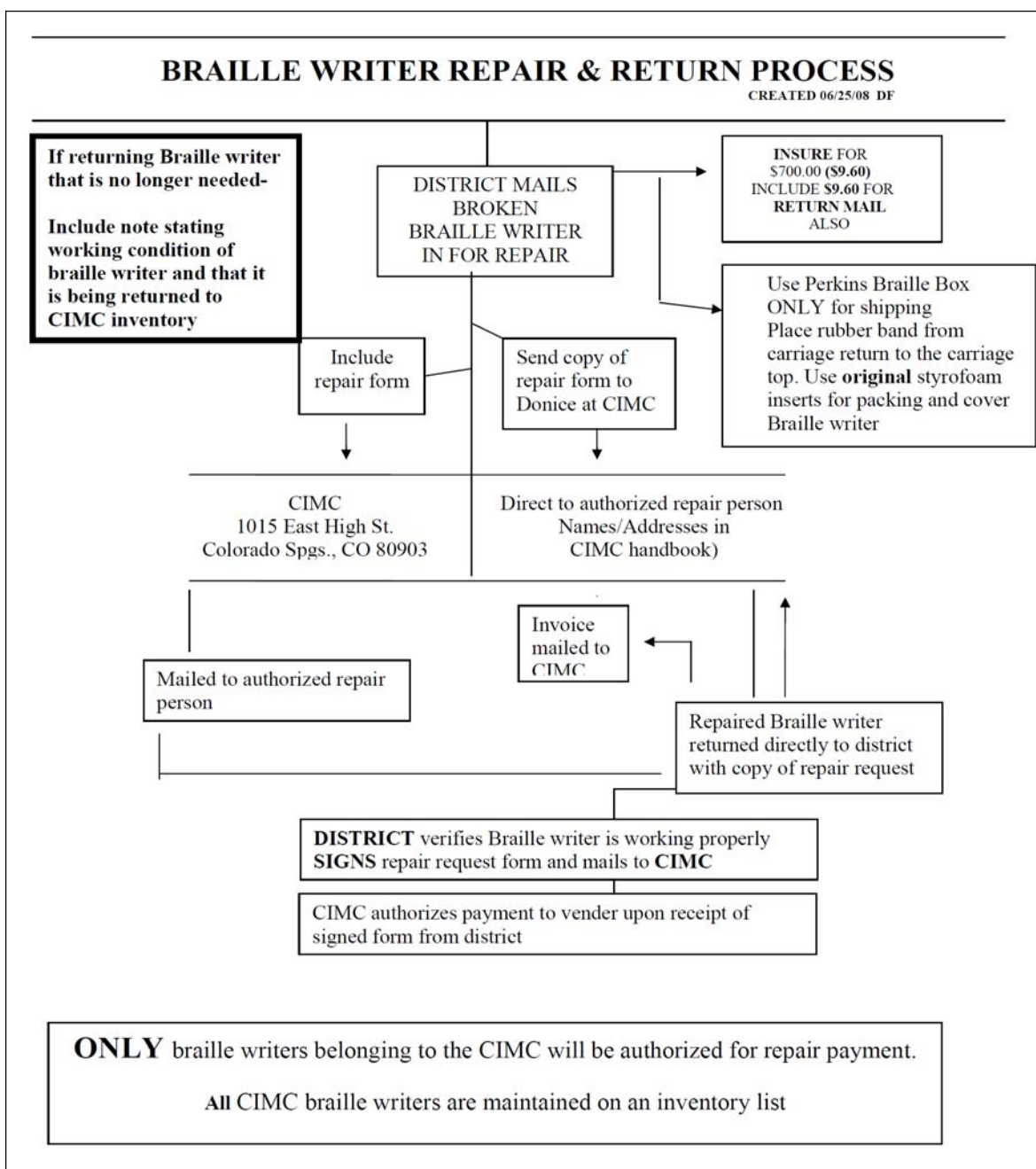
If you have any questions feel free to contact Donice Fennimore, clinic coordinator at (719) 578-2198, [dfennimore@csdb.org](mailto:dfennimore@csdb.org) or Jim Olson (719) 578-2195, [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org).



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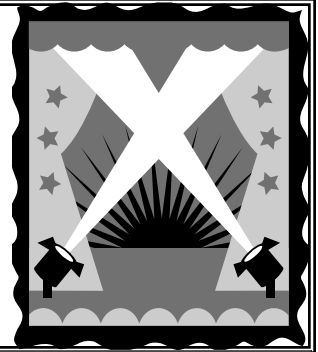
# The CDE Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Schedule for the 2008-09 Academic Year:

Region:	Dates:	Location:	Site Coordinators
Western	September 26-27, 2008	Grand Junction	Sarah Sonnier
Metro Denver	November 20-22, 2008	Stapleton (Anchor Preschool)	Nancy Knight
Southern	December 11-13, 2008	Colorado Springs	Melissa Shular
Northern	February 20-21, 2009	Fort Collins	Carol Love & Sally Eldridge





# Spotlight on



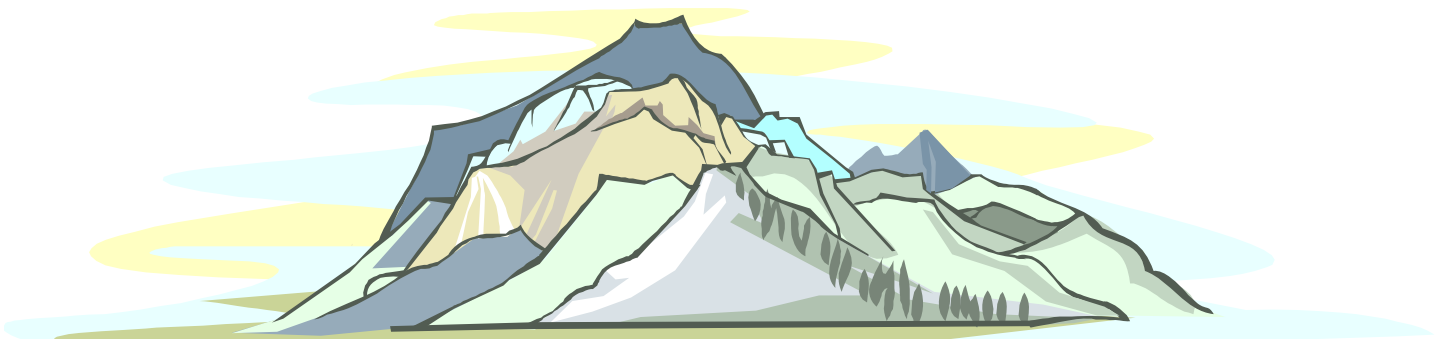
## ≧ Cortical Visual Impairment Forum ≦

Information found at FamilyConnect Eye Conditions Page:

<http://www.familyconnect.org/eyeconditions.asp?EyeConditionID=6>

Visual impairment caused by damage to the part of the brain related to vision. Although the eye is normal, the brain cannot properly process the information it receives. The degree of vision loss may be mild or severe and can vary greatly, even from day to day. Cortical visual impairment may be temporary or permanent. People with cortical visual impairment have difficulty using what their eyes see. For example, they may have trouble recognizing faces, interpreting drawings, perceiving depth, or distinguishing between background and foreground. Children with cortical visual impairment are often able to see better when told in advance what to look for in their environments. Cortical visual impairment is also known as cerebral visual impairment, neurological visual impairment, and brain-damage-related visual impairment. Cortical visual impairment can occur with other ocular visual impairments.

- ≧ **Suggested resources:** [www.aph.org/cvi](http://www.aph.org/cvi) or [www.blindbabies.org/factsheet\\_cvi.htm](http://www.blindbabies.org/factsheet_cvi.htm)
- ≧ Connect with other families whose children have Cortical Visual Impairment, and share your own experiences. The forum is hosted by Focus on Vision Impairments.
  - ≧ Focus of Visual Impairments (FOVI) is a cohort of professionals and parents dedicated to highlighting evidence-based theories and practice related to critical issues in the field.
  - ≧ FOVI is currently co-sponsoring an online CEU-credited course <http://www.emeraldevents.net/diopp/?rcode1=EMERALD> by Scottish ophthalmologist, Dr. Gordon Dutton, based upon his presentation at an all-day conference organized with Low Vision Division of the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.



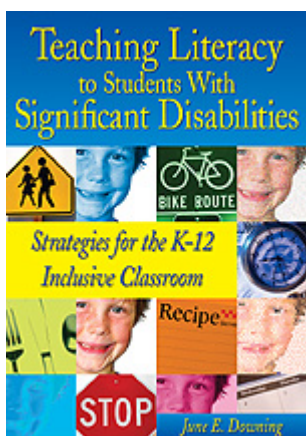
## Official Administration Dates for CSAP, CSAPA, CELApro and COACT for 2009.

<b>CSAP</b>	<b>Regular Window</b>	<b>Early Window</b>
Grade 3 Reading	2/17/09 to 2/27/09	2/2/08 to 2/13/09
Grade 3 Writing and Grades 4-10	3/9/09 to 4/10/09	3/2/09 to 4/10/09
<b>CSAPA</b>	<b>Regular Window</b>	<b>Early Window</b>
Grade 3	2/4/09 to 2/27/09	n/a
Grade 4-10	2/4/09 to 3/27/09	n/a
<b>CELApro</b>	<b>Regular Window</b>	<b>Early Window</b>
	1/2/09 to 2/3/09	12/15/08

Those districts with winter break schedules that limit the ability to administer the CELApro **OR** districts with a large number of students who take CELApro, may begin administration of the **Speaking** portion of CELApro as soon as materials arrive and Test Examiners are trained.

	<b>Regular Date</b>	<b>Make-up Date</b>
<b>Colorado ACT</b>	April 22, 2009	May 6, 2009

## Book Sent to BVI Programs Across the State



The book, *Teaching Literacy to Students with Significant Disabilities*, was mailed to a contact TVI person in administrative units over the summer months. If your BVI program has more than one TVI, please be sure to check with your colleague(s) to determine the receipt status of this book.

We are hopeful that you will put it to good use with your students who are blind/visually impaired or Deafblind with additional disabilities. The book was provided compliments of the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project. Tanni and Gina

## New and Improved NIMAC Presence on the Internet!



The re-designed NIMAC website is now available at [www.nimac.us](http://www.nimac.us)! You will find the same helpful resources as before, but with a design that allows NIMAC authorized users, publishers, accessible media producers and others to

choose the section of the NIMAC website that is just for them!

NIMAC at 8,000!! NIMAC now has over 8,000 NIMAC file sets ready for download and conversion to braille, large print or other specialized format! And there are thousands more in process! They are thrilled with the response from state and local educational agencies who are requesting that publishers deposit their NIMAS file sets with NIMAC. NIMAC is also grateful to the publishing community for responding so quickly and converting so many of their textbooks and other educational materials into NIMAS. Over half those 8,000 NIMAS files were reviewed and accepted in just 6 months! This is more than NIMAC reviewed and accepted in the entire first year of operation, and more than twice as many as were expected during our first 18!

## Adventure Camp 2008

By Julie Novak & Diane Fitzkee

Adventure Camp '08 was another success this summer. The first camp of the summer through CSDB's Summer Enrichment Program is one that the campers love and return to each summer.

This year we had ten campers from across the state: Beulah, Colorado Springs, Aurora, Adams 14, Fountain-Fort Carson, Denver, Jefferson County, and Longmont. This group was easily the most adventurous, thoughtful, courteous, and kind campers that we have ever had! Julie Novak, Paula Cochran, and Diane Fitzkee had the pleasure of working with these awesome students for the whole week.

Adventures for the week included a scavenger hunt at Red Rock Open Space with a follow-up experience book and story, the rock climbing gym, horseback riding, hiking, Skins and Skulls at Mueller State Park, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, Ghost Town, and the Starsmore Discovery Center. Campers got many sensory experiences with nature and local history and culture, and enjoyed trying and learning new things. Each day there were also relay races or other games as well as thank-you notes and journaling.

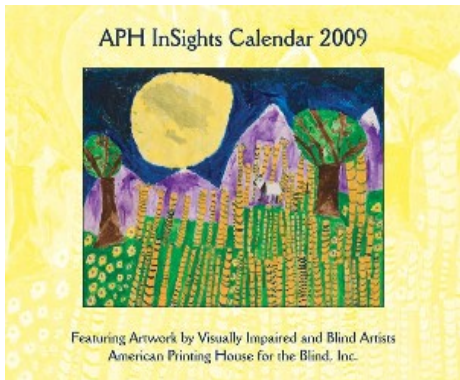
Morning exercises included a social skill of the day, stretching, and a music activity. As the week went on, our campers developed friendships and bonds that we hope will continue past the summer. For us, it is wonderful to see the students do things that they have never done before, and just as wonderful to see them interact with each other in such a positive environment.

Be sure to get the word out to your families for next summer's programs through Summer Enrichment. What a great opportunity for our students!




# Resources and Materials


## **APH InSights Large Print/Braille Art Calendar 2009**



This twelve month large print/braille calendar features the

artwork of visually impaired artists. Includes months, days, holidays, and moon phases. Use at a desk or hang on a wall. Single copy, APH InSights Calendar 2009: 5-18971-09; \$7.50. For more information, contact the American Printing House for the Blind at [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org).


 **Prevent Blindness America**  
Information about eye patching for amblyopia can be found at the following webpage:  
[www.preventblindness.org/children/patch\\_choices.html](http://www.preventblindness.org/children/patch_choices.html)


 **Learning Through Play with Homemade Toys** A 63-page pdf file that shares instructions on making toys that appeal to young children with sensory impairments can be found at the website below. Included with each toy are suggestions for concept/language development and, for children with dual sensory

impairments, touch/object cue suggestions.

[www.asdb.state.az.us/ecfe/projects.html](http://www.asdb.state.az.us/ecfe/projects.html)

 **Teaching Students with Sensory Impairments** This project is the result of an international, collaborative effort among educators in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, who work with students with vision or hearing impairments. Their mission is to provide a resource for professionals, parents, and university students involved in fully including students with sensory impairments in our educational system. Check out their webpage for an abundance of information: [www.trinity.edu/org/sensoryimpairments/index.htm](http://www.trinity.edu/org/sensoryimpairments/index.htm)

 **Answers 4 Families** This is the home page for families with children, youth and adults with special needs, including disabilities and chronic illnesses of all types. There are links to a wide variety of information and opportunities to link families with other families. [www.answers4families.org/family/special-needs](http://www.answers4families.org/family/special-needs)

 **Tip of the Month** Visit Caroline Musslewhite's website for her: "Tip of the Month" which address low technology information tips: For example, this month's tip [www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)

**WORKING TOGETHER WORKS.**

**Dr. Robert Gilbert**

## Touch Museum

By Janet Rose

The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind has a Touch Museum with over 100 animals and artifacts including, but not limited, to mammals (skunk, raccoon, beaver, polar bear), birds (owls, hawks, ducks, ostrich), reptiles (rattlesnake, python, turtles), fish, and marine life. There are also a few models of historic sites (Taj Mahal, pueblo dwelling, Statue of Liberty), skulls, pelts, nests, and samples of flora.



Several service providers in the state used some of the animals last spring. Here's what they said:

*Kathy and student Sarah:* The python was quite the talk of the school! My student got an education examining it, even after she had done her "research." She measured its length, felt the double rows of teeth on the roof of its mouth, and could feel the scales. There are just some things you can't talk about and get the picture of without "seeing" or "touching."



*Ruth in Pueblo:* ALL of the kids liked the owl! My student made sure her dad came in to see the owl when he brought her to school. This week was perfect timing because the 1st Grade is doing several activities about owls. I'd like to have it next week as an itinerant owl. Thanks, this has been so exciting.

*LeiLani in Cortez:* These students have had very little exposure to this sort of thing and it would be very beneficial! This is a wonderful thing that you are doing!

We would like to make these animals available to students around the state. We can do tours at CSDB and some of the smaller, less fragile animals can be transported. Kits are also being developed around a specific theme and can be checked out by educational programs in the state. They can be used individually or with a class and include animals and activities. These can be mailed to your school for 2-3 weeks. Themes include Animals, Feathered Friends, and Predator vs. Prey. We are also developing kits that combine an animal with a braille/large print book. For example: a fox and a mouse with *Dr. DeSoto*, an owl with *Harry Potter*, and a skunk with *Sassafras*.

I plan to do several trips around the state this fall and could stop at your school. The kits are ready for shipment. Contact me via email or phone if you would like to schedule a visit or a kit. As always, we would like your input in how to make this collection accessible to you without extensive damage to the animals, and suggestions for kits.

Janet Rose

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(719) 598-1904



## TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

### Customized Employment

*Deaf-Blind Perspectives* is a free publication with articles, essays and announcements about topics related to people who are deafblind. Standard print, large print, and braille copies of the article are available at <<http://tr.wou.edu/tr/dbp/>>. There is an article in this edition about *Customized Employment: A Strategy for Developing Inclusive Employment Opportunities* by Seattle's Deaf-Blind Service Center.

### Time For Transitions!

Ten people gathered at the American Printing House for the Blind on August 25 - 26 to spend some time discussing transition for students and adults who are visually impaired. This unique group included experts in early childhood, educational services, students with multiple disabilities, adults and seniors, and their talents and expertise provided the opportunity of a lifetime - to discuss the products and skills needed for lifelong transitions. The group met for two days to discuss products for transition now available from APH and from other sources, the keys to successful transition programs, teaching to the future, providing broad spectrum transition products and more! The group finished their good work by helping APH staff develop and prioritize product ideas. In attendance were Frank Simpson (NY), B.J. LeJeune (MS), Debra Sewell (TX), Sue Dalton (IL), Diane Haynes (KY), Scott Truax (WV), Tanni Anthony (CO), Beth Caruso (MA), Patty Williams (CA), and Connie Hill (KY). Be watching for more information about the recommended new transition products.



### **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 your name 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&Ms:** 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](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or to  
Tanni Anthony, CDE, 201 East Colfax, Denver, CO 80203.

**CAER News**

Colorado was very well represented at the July 2008 International AER Conference held in Chicago, IL. In attendance were: **Tanni Anthony, Shawn Sweet Bernard, Sarah Bickford, Glenda Nash Buscarello, Paula Conroy, Nancy Cozart, Kay Ferrell, Kathy Hegeman, Lucia Hasty, Sheryl Herlevich, Pat Lewis, Martin Moonson, Zoe Morgese, Trina Boyd Pratt, Carol Puchalski, Janice Schmidt, Carol Spicer, Cathy Smyth, Silvia Correa-Torres, Lou Tutt, Linda Witte, and Randy Witte.**

**Lou Tutt** was on the AER Nominations Committee. Mr. Tutt also carried the Colorado State flag during the opening ceremony of the conference. You did us proud, Lou!

The Colorado AER Chapter hosted a Colorado reception one night of the conference.

The following presentations / poster sessions were provided at the conference by Colorado folks:

- **Tanni Anthony** - Promoting Excellence: Examples of Reading Instruction of Students with Visual Impairments and Additional Disabilities
- **Tanni Anthony** - Response to Intervention: The Role and Contribution of the TVI (poster session)
- **Sarah Bickford**: Anchored in Architecture: The New Anchor Center for Blind Children (poster session)
- **Glenda Nash-Buscarello** - Accommodations for Students with Visual Impairments in Higher Education (poster session)
- **Paula Conroy & Silvia Correa-Torres**: Perceived Needs of Educators of Students with Visual Impairments who Work with Students and Families from Culturally or Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds.
- **Kay Ferrell & Brian Gould**: Accessible Science: How to Describe STEM Images
- **Kay Ferrell & MaryAnn Siller**: Promising Solutions for Access to Multimedia Instructional Materials in the Classroom
- **Kay Ferrell & Silvia Correa-Torres**: National Educational Outcomes for Students with VI.
- **Lucia Hasty, John McConnell, Allison O'Day, Irene Miller, Aquinas Pather, & Diane Spence**: Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics
- **Trina Boyd Pratt**: O&M Club: Activities and Fund Raiser Ideas (poster session)
- **Carol Puchalski**: An Orientation to Mental Health and its Importance
- **Catherine Smyth, Carol Spicer & Zoe Morgese**: Eating Upside Down: Feeding Strategies for Visually Impaired Infants
- **Silvia Correa-Torres**: The Nature of Social Experiences of Students with Deafblindness Educated in Inclusive Settings (poster session)
- **Lou Tutt & Kathy Hegemann**: A Residential School's Transition Program: What it is and What it is Not

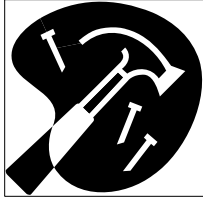
Welcome new and returning CAER members:

Michael Bastien  
Denny Bettenhausen  
Melissa Shular

Carol Berry  
Jan Megarry







## **“Tools for Life” Program**

***Applications Now Available***  
***Application Deadline: October 15, 2008***

**The Need:** The proper adaptive devices (tools) assist students who are blind/visually impaired achieve their academic and future employment goals. Many families, however, cannot always afford the technology that will benefit their child.

**The Mission:** To provide financial assistance to the families of visually impaired and blind students (pre-K – Transition) who are residents of Colorado. This assistance is to help purchase necessary and appropriate adaptive equipment which students may own and utilize in their home, school, and community. These tools will help support literacy and the pursuit of higher education.

To apply for a “Tools for Life” scholarship and to obtain more information, please go to: [www.seethefuture.org](http://www.seethefuture.org) and click on “Tools for Life” scholarships. You may also call Tom Theune, OD – Chairperson of the SEE THE FUTURE Fund at (719) 471-3200.

## **“Education for Life” Program**



***Applications Now Available***  
***Application Deadline: March 1, 2009***

**The Need:** Visually impaired and blind students throughout the state of Colorado are faced with unique challenges in life. Many students find it difficult to "see their future."

**The Mission:** To provide financial assistance to visually impaired and blind students who are residents of Colorado. This assistance is to encourage and support the pursuit of higher education (community college or university), which will enhance both career and personal success.

To apply for an “Education for Life” scholarship and to obtain more information, please go to: [www.seethefuture.org](http://www.seethefuture.org) and click on “Education for Life” scholarships. You may also call Tom Theune, OD – Chairperson of the SEE THE FUTURE Fund at (719) 471-3200.





# Perkins School for the Blind

## On Demand Webcasts

Perkins is a leader in training models for educators working with students who are visually impaired, with or without other disabilities. **Now you can learn from our experts.**

At [www.Perkins.org](http://www.Perkins.org), you will find free, on demand webcasts that are informative and allow you to benefit from our resources without ever having to leave your home or office.

### Currently Showing:



**Mealtime Skills:** Demos and strategies for teaching those who are blind or visually impaired.

**Presenter: Sue Shannon, OTR**  
<http://support.perkins.org/MealtimeSkills>



**Social Skills:** Implications of vision loss on the development of social skills in children.

**Presenter: Tom Miller, M.Ed.**  
<http://support.perkins.org/SocialSkills>



**School to Work:** Developing transition portfolios for students with significant disabilities.

**Presenter: Mary Zatta, Ph.D.**  
<http://support.perkins.org/VocationalPortfolio>

Featured experts from Perkins are available for follow up questions through a designated email box.

### Coming Soon:

#### **Adaptive Physical Education for Individuals with Significant Disabilities**

Presenter: Matt LaCortiglia, M.Ed.

#### **Literacy for Students with Visual Impairments and Additional Disabilities**

Presenter: Deirdre Leech, M.Ed.

*Webcasts made possible with support from The Gibney Family Foundation*

For further information, contact Marianne Riggio at 617-972-7264  
or [Marianne.Riggio@Perkins.org](mailto:Marianne.Riggio@Perkins.org)

# PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS

# PEP

November 6-8, 2008—Vail

February 26-28, 2009—Colorado Springs

PEP Conferences are family centered conferences designed to offer support, information, and education to parents and professionals from Colorado. PEP promotes the partnerships that are essential in supporting and including children with disabilities and their families in all aspects of the school and community.

For more information and to apply for the conference online or download an application go to: <[www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp)> or call the PEP hotline at 303-866-6846.



Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008

7 to 11 o'clock in the evening

## Tribute to Twenty

You are cordially invited to attend a gala event celebrating CCB's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Please join CCB on September 20<sup>th</sup> from 7-11 pm for a festive celebration with fabulous food, entertainment, wine tasting and auction.

CCB is also honoring 20 who have led the way for the inaugural Colorado Center for the Blind Hall of Fame

Colorado Center for the Blind  
2233 West Shepperd Ave  
Littleton, CO 80120

Call Kimberley Johnson (303) 778-1130 x 212 or [kjohnson@cocenter.org](mailto:kjohnson@cocenter.org) for ticket information

# SAVE the DATE

**TAKING THE NEXT STEP ON OUR JOURNEY TO FREEDOM!**

**November 7-9, 2008**

[THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF COLORADO](#)

**54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Scott C. LaBarre, President  
NFB of Colorado  
2233 W. Shepperd Avenue  
Littleton, CO 80120

Phone: (303) 778-1130, ext 302 or toll free 800-401-4NFB

Email: [slabarre@nfbco.org](mailto:slabarre@nfbco.org)

# **Student Generated Braille Graphs**

## **Instructional Steps**

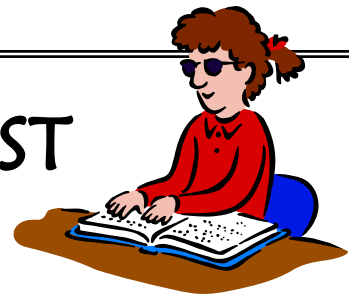
1. Braille Graph Title—Centering techniques
  - a. Count number of braille cells including the capital composition signs, punctuation marks, spacing and contractions
  - b. Divide by 2
  - c. Subtract from 20 if using 11.5 by 11 paper
  - d. Subtract from 14 if using 8.5 by 11 paper
  - e. Space from left margin this amount after subtracting
2. Double space after key, titles, subtitles and Y-axis labels
3. Braille a Key if one is used
4. Braille the subtitle to Y-axis
5. Braille Y-axis labels (numbers, etc.)
6. Create y-axis spacing 1 time after longest entry (vertical line dots 4, 5, 6)
7. Create X-axis (horizontal line dots 3, 6)
8. Braille X-axis labels (names, dated, etc.)
9. Braille and center the subtitle under X-axis
10. Use data to create Graph
  - a. Bar Graph use (dots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) starting at highest value and spacing down/back spacing, continuing down to X-axis)
  - b. Line Graph use (dots 1, 2, 4, 5) to indicate (X, Y) coordinate points and use wiki sticks, drafting tape or a screen board to connect points.

### **Important Points**

- A. Use Nemeth code if working on math curriculum
- B. Line space down 2 times between name, title, subtitle, and Y-axis labels. This is considered a spatial arrangement.
- C. Leave one space between the longest Y-axis label and the Y-axis.
- D. Space X-axis labels and bars evenly

**Provided by:**  
**Sandy Serventi**  
**Florida School for the Deaf and Blind**  
[serventis@fsdb.k12.fl.us](mailto:serventis@fsdb.k12.fl.us)

# DOTS OF INTEREST



- \* The following articles *Sign Up for Dots Newsletter*, *Braille without Borders*, *Robobrasaille*, and the *Article of Interest* were reprinted, with permission, from DOTS for Braille Literacy (Development of Teacher Support), Volume 13, Number 3, Summer 2008



- \* **Sign Up for the Dots Newsletter** One of the goals of DOTS is to provide readers with information about workshops and events of particular interest to teachers of students who are blind or visually impaired. Since DOTS is published only a few times each year, some events slip through the cracks. AFB eNews and Connections, both of which you can register to receive for free at <[www.afb.org/myafbnewsletter2.asp](http://www.afb.org/myafbnewsletter2.asp)>

- \* **Braille Without Borders** The international organization Braille Without Borders (BWB) has initiated the International Institute for Social Entrepreneurs. BWB wants to give people who are blind or visually impaired a chance to receive training in management, public speech, fundraising, and other skills so they can set up social projects in their own regions or countries. BWB will be accepting applications until September, 2008 for participants interested in the 11-month course of study. Preference is given to candidates who are blind or visually impaired. Visit <[www.braillewithoutborders.org](http://www.braillewithoutborders.org)> for more information.

- \* **RoboBraille** RoboBraille is a European e-mail based service capable of translating electronic documents to and from contracted braille and into synthetic speech. The service began in Denmark and has received several awards for technical innovation and accessibility. Funded by the European Union, RoboBraille's consortium of founding agencies include the United Kingdom's Royal National College of the Blind, as well as organizations from Ireland, Italy, Portugal, and Cyprus. RoboBraille currently handles documents in plain text, rich text, HTML, and Microsoft Word format, but the development team led by Lars Balieu Christensen is about to add PDF documents as well. Visit <[www.robobrasaille.org](http://www.robobrasaille.org)> to learn more.

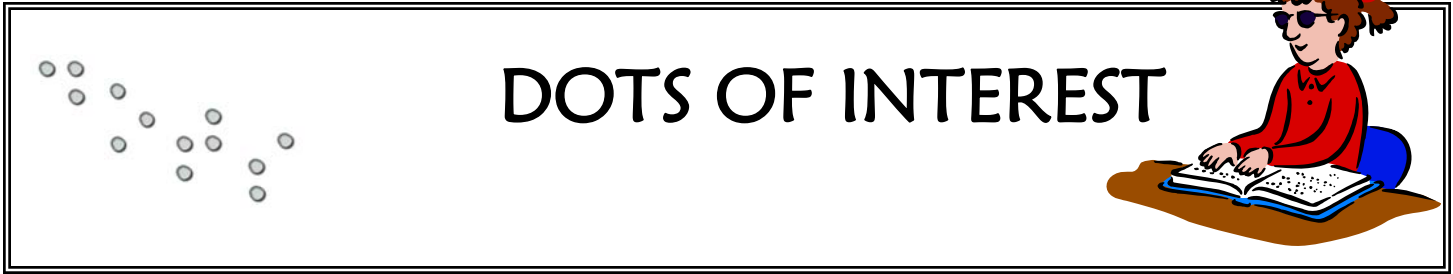
- \* **New CareerConnect Article of Interest** Recently posted to AFB's CareerConnect is an article under the *Just for Fun* section of the site authored by Judy Dixon. The article, [Bumpity, Bump, Bump](http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=7&TopicID=267&SubTopicID=89&DocumentID=4128), describes Judy's hobby: collecting braille slates and styluses. The article can be found at: <<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=7&TopicID=267&SubTopicID=89&DocumentID=4128>>



- \* **Read Music in Braille** An online article provides instructions on how to read music in braille. Richard Taesch, a music specialist for the California Transcribers and Educators for the Visually Handicapped (CTEVH), presented the article entitled "Seven Little Steps to Read Music in Braille," in the Spring 2008 issue (volume I, Number1, pp 33-37) of CTEVH Journal.

Described as a "mini-course" in how to read music braille, the article includes instructional strategies for introducing music braille code to children who are learning literary braille. The article is available for free download in Word or PDF format from the following web site: <[www.ctevh.org](http://www.ctevh.org)> and click on Journal.





✱ **Boyd's Braille Designs** Our very own Trina Boyd Pratt has made the following books to order:

Print

- ☆ Braille ABC Drawing Book with directions
- ☆ Braille Holiday & Special drawing Book with directions

Braille

- ☆ ABC Drawing Book with directions
- ☆ Holiday & Special Events Drawing Book with directions
- ☆ ABC Drawings only
- ☆ Holiday & Special Events Drawings Only

CD

- ☆ Braille ABC Drawings and Holiday & Special Events Drawings Only on CD (Duxbury 10.6)

For price information, contact Trina at PO Box 344, Arvada, CO 80001-0344 or go to:  
[www.brailledrawing.com](http://www.brailledrawing.com)

✱ **Children's Braille Book Club** The Children's Braille Book Club features a new print/Braille children's picture book every month, for Preschool through third grade. Books contain the regular print book and pictures, with the corresponding braille on transparent pages. Book selections are priced between \$4.95 and \$15.95. There are two ways to join: Option #1: Enroll in the Club free of charge simply by sending your name and address. With free membership, you'll receive monthly flyers that describe each month's book and price. You are not obligated to buy; you only order the books you want. Option #2: Purchase an annual yearly subscription to the Club for \$100. You will receive twelve print/braille books—one each month. For more info, go to: [http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/publications/mailling\\_signup\\_new.html](http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/publications/mailling_signup_new.html)> Or call to have your address added: 800-548-7323 or 617-266-6160 ext. 20

✱ **ReadBooks!** Any family with a blind child from birth to age 7 is entitled to receive a free braille literacy book bag, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. The program is called *ReadBooks! Because Braille Matters*. *ReadBooks!* is a national braille literacy program to encourage families with blind children to read print/ braille books together. Working with another fine organization, Seedlings Braille Books for Children, as well as educators and early intervention professionals, they have distributed bags to over 7,000 families across the country! Each bag contains:

- ✱ An age-appropriate print/Braille book for three age groups: birth-3, 4-5, and 6-7 (in English or Spanish)
- ✱ A braille primer for sighted parents entitle Just Enough to Know Better
- ✱ A colorful print/Braille placemat
- ✱ Print/Braille bookmarks
- ✱ *Because Books Matter*, a guide for parents on how and why to read books with their young blind child
- ✱ *Because Pictures Matter*, a guide to tactile graphics
- ✱ Print/Braille magnetic letters
- ✱ A gift coupon redeemable for another print/Braille book or set of large print/Braille playing cards

To find out more, go to [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org) and click on "ReadBooks." You may also call Amy Ruell at (888) 965-8965, ext. 34 or email [aruell@nbp.org](mailto:aruell@nbp.org)



Dear Parents and Colleagues,

The Exceptional Children Education Act (ECEA) Rules were amended officially on December 2007. The full body of the ECEA Rules can be found at <[http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/ECEARules\\_Effective12-30-07.pdf](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/ECEARules_Effective12-30-07.pdf)>.

There were changes specifically affecting Colorado children who are blind/visually impaired. Two primary changes were made to section 4.03 (6) (b) (see the posted rule section following this commentary). First, Literacy Media Plans are required for all Colorado children and youth, ages three to 21 years, who are blind/visually impaired. This is not a new requirement, but the name of the plan has been changed from Literacy Modality Plan to Learning Media Plan. The plan should be based on comprehensive assessment of a student's learning and literacy modes. The full Individual Education Program team should contribute to the assessment of a student's learning and literacy needs. Parent input is essential. A TVI will be the lead person in coordinating the assessment and plan.

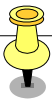
The second change to section 4.03 (6) (b) is the requirement for all of Colorado teachers certified in visual impairment to demonstrate braille competency according to established CDE guidelines. This is not a totally new requirement as braille competency has been required since 1994 for those teachers providing braille instruction to students. The revised regulation now includes all TVIs regardless if braille instruction is occurring within a district. All TVIs working with Colorado public school children must demonstrate braille competency within their first year of employment. The Braille Competency Procedures have recently been revised and will be posted on CDE webpage on blindness/low vision <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-BLV.asp>> by mid October 2008.

If there are questions about ECEA requirements, please be in touch with Tanni at (303) 866-6681 or <[anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)>.



**Rules for the Exceptional Children's Education Act (1 CCR 301-8) Effective December 30, 2007**

- 4.03 (6) (b) The written IEP for each child with a vision disability shall include a Learning Media Plan as developed by the IEP team based on comprehensive assessment of the student's learning and literacy modalities by a licensed teacher endorsed in the area of visual impairment. Braille shall be the literacy medium selected unless the IEP team determines, based on the comprehensive literacy learning media assessment, that instruction in Braille is not appropriate. The plan shall include the following:
- 4.03 (6) (b) (i) a statement of how the selected learning and literacy mode or modes will be Implemented as the student's primary or secondary mode for achieving literacy and why such mode or modes have been selected.
- 4.03 (6) (b) (ii) a statement of how the student's instruction in the selected learning and literacy mode or modes will be integrated into educational activities.
- 4.03 (6) (b) (iii) the date on which the student's instruction in the selected mode or modes shall commence, the amount of instructional time to be dedicated to each learning and literacy mode, and the service provider responsible for each area of instruction, and
- 4.03 (6) (b) (iv) a statement of the level of competency in each selected learning and literacy mode or modes which the student should achieve by the end of the period covered by the IEP.
- Colorado teachers licensed and endorsed in the area of Visual Impairment must have demonstrated competency in reading and writing literary Braille per the guidelines developed by the Colorado Department of Education

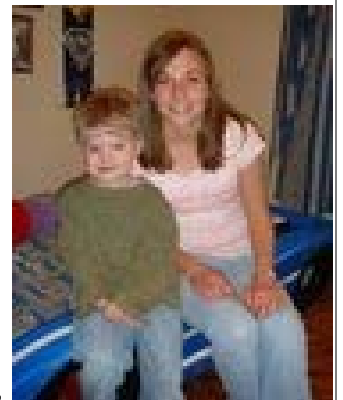


## A WONDERFUL RECRUITMENT STORY FROM ACADEMY 20!

My name is Traci Olson and I just graduated from Air Academy High School. When I was young, my mom volunteered as a guide for visually impaired and blind skiers. I was introduced to several visually impaired individuals, and I loved to accompany them on hikes, picnics, and other events. One of our close family friends, Robin, who was a college student at the time, would babysit me on various occasions. She has been completely blind since birth and she was such an inspiration to me. I was very interested in her tools that she used to complete everyday tasks, and her technology. Robin was also responsible for introducing me to Braille, and soon after, I bought a slate and stylus so that I could practice. By sixth grade, I decided that I wanted to become a teacher for the visually impaired and since then I have not deviated from this goal.

During my senior year, I was enrolled in the Teacher Cadet Program. For the 2nd semester of this course, I was able to complete my student teaching with a teacher in the subject of my choice. I was already shadowing a TVI, Diane Fitzkee on my own time, but I needed to find teachers within the district. I soon was connected with Judy Mumford. Every other day, I had the opportunity to accompany Judy Mumford, Kristen Lavergne, Melissa Shular, or Chris Maynard (the VI program para). They each demonstrated their own personal style of teaching which gave me the opportunity to learn effective teaching methods. As I worked with these teachers I was given a taste of what is involved with being a TVI which included, orientation and mobility, Braille, adapting materials, evaluations, meetings at the deaf and blind school, presenting lesson plans, using adaptive technology, and working with students with multiple disabilities.

Personally, what I enjoyed most were the opportunities that involved student interaction. I worked with students ranging from preschool all the way through high school. This experience was truly unique because I also worked with students of various ability and they each contributed to my learning. Some students I met with demonstrated how they use their adaptive technology in order to complete their class work. I observed other students as one of the teachers presented lessons to them. On a couple of occasions, I even had the opportunity to accompany students with their orientation and mobility lessons, which included a day trip to Denver to use the Light Rail. During the semester,



I even had the opportunity to teach two lesson plans to two different students (a kindergartener and a third grader). I am familiar with some basic Braille, so I was able to create some Braille activities for these students. It was encouraging to have successful experiences that allowed me to play the role of a teacher. With the limited Braille that I know, I was even able to adapt some tests, materials, and even some Braille music. After completing my semester with these TVIs, I have no doubt that this is exactly what I am destined to do. *(Editor's Note: Thanks so much to Traci for her story and the great staff of Academy 20 for assisting Traci in this venture!)*

## New Staff to Colorado

- ♥ **Mary Labeck** is a new TVI in Aurora School District. Mary has just moved to the beautiful state of Colorado from New York. While in New York she studied at Hunter College and received her Masters in Education for Blind and Visual Impairment. Mary enjoys photography, hiking, and the mountains!
- ♥ **Leslie Kelly-Watrobka** has been teaching in the field of vision and orientation and mobility for 8 years. She completed her undergraduate education at Illinois State University and a graduate program at Northern Illinois University. She began providing vision services and orientation and mobility services in the state of Oregon and also taught in the western suburbs of Chicago. Recently, she relocated to Golden, CO from the Chicagoland area in Illinois. Leslie and her husband enjoy rock climbing, cycling, traveling, and spending time with their 2 dogs. They both agree that "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all!"-Helen Keller.
- ♥ The new Middle School and High School English and Social Studies teacher at the Colorado School for the Blind, **Nicolas Alvarado** graduated summa cum laude from Portland State University and received a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. His writing has been widely published in journals, magazines, and newspapers, and he has been an Oregon Literary Fellow, a Teaching-Writing Fellow at the University of Iowa, and a resident at the Caldera Arts Center.
- ♥ **Amanda Johnson** grew up in a small town in WY and then attended the University of WY where she obtained her undergraduate degree in elementary education. She moved to the Colorado Springs area to teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts. Working in a school is definitely where she wants to be, but decided to change from the classroom to the library! She began her master's degree in Library Science in January 2008 and is very excited to begin her career at CSDB as their librarian.
- ♥ **Peg Collins** is a new TVI on board with DPS! After high school she attended Northern State College for four years and received a BS with a double major in elementary and special education in 1986. Her first teaching assignment lasted for three years at the South Dakota School for the Visually Handicapped. She has taught in CA and two CO school districts. In August of 2008 she started attending UNC's program for Teachers of the Visually Impaired. She plans to begin the O&M endorsement program that UNC offers. Her hobbies and interests include: gardening, scrap booking, reading, and volunteering. Her family, who loves the outdoors, will often be found outside hiking or walking
- ♥ This is **Melinda Holtz'** first year of teaching. She currently working in DPS as a part-time TVI and part-time para in the vision department. She started her teaching career last January as a para for vision while also starting her graduate career at UNC. She loves it! Melinda made the career swap last January after living in California for 5 years working as a radio DJ in San Diego. She was born and raised in Colorado and have always wanted to pursue a career in teaching. Her personal interests include surfing (when in Cali), snowboarding, fashion and music production. She love roller coasters and hates pickles!

# Jobs

## IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for the next school year. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings.

### Jobs for School Year 2008-2009

#### Metro Region:

- ✓ Paraeducator (1.0 FTE ) and Paraeducation (.5 FTE ) positions open in Denver Public Schools. For more information, contact - Cheryl Leidich 303-324-9591

#### Southern Region

- ✓ **Teacher of Children with Visual Impairments / O&M Specialist** (.5 to 1 FTE). Contact Kim Lovelace at <[lovelkm@dli.org](mailto:lovelkm@dli.org)> in El Paso 11 District in Colorado Springs for more information.



## ENGLAND



### 4th International Tactile Graphics Conference and Exhibition

Hosted by RNIB Centre for Accessible Information (incorporating the former National Centre for Tactile Diagrams).

The fourth international conference and exhibition on tactile diagrams, maps and pictures is a special event which brings together the world of design, production, procurement, use and support of tactile graphics (images which are touched rather than looked at). This exciting event, also offering pre-conference workshops and excellent networking opportunities, covers all aspects of tactile graphics for blind and partially sighted children and adults in education, work and daily life.

Presentation topics will include challenges and solutions, applications and good practice, technologies for producing and accessing tactile graphics, training, and tactile graphic literacy.

Visit the Tactile Graphics 2008 Conference website for more information:  
<[www.nctd.org.uk/conference/Conf2008/index.asp](http://www.nctd.org.uk/conference/Conf2008/index.asp)>

Tactile Graphics 2008, December 3-5, 2008. Jurys Inn, Birmingham, England

Email: [TactileGraphics2008@rnib.org.uk](mailto:TactileGraphics2008@rnib.org.uk)

Phone: +44 (0)121 665 4240 or +44 (0)121 665 4208





# Calendar of Events

2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008

- September 16**                      **Vision Coalition— CIMC**  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony at [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- September 18-20**                      **The Colorado Center for the Blind Celebrates 20 Years!**  
 Contact: Kimberley Johnson at 303-778-1130, ext. 212
- September 26-27**                      **Western LVE Clinic - Grand Junction**  
 Contact: Sarah Sonnier at [ssonnier@mesa.k12.co.us](mailto:ssonnier@mesa.k12.co.us)
- October 2-4**                              **Annual APH Meeting - Louisville, Ky**  
 Visit: [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)
- October 15**                              "Tools for Life" Application deadline for scholarship  
 Visit: [www.seethefuture.org](http://www.seethefuture.org)
- October 16-18**                              **Literacy Course for TVIs - Denver**  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or 303-866-6681
- October 16-18**                              **Research Summit for National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities**  
 Visit: <http://www.unco.edu/ncssd/>
- October 29-November 1**                      **National Braille Association Professional Development —Lexington, KY**  
 Visit: <http://www.nationalbraille.org/conferences/NBAFallPDC2008.html>
- November 6-8**                              **Parents Encouraging Parents Conference— Vail**  
 Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp)
- November 6-9**                              **NFB State Convention - Colorado Springs**  
 Contact: [www.nfbco.org](http://www.nfbco.org)
- November 20-22**                              **Metro LVE Clinic**  
 Contact: Nancy Knight at [nknight@lps.k12.co.us](mailto:nknight@lps.k12.co.us)
- December 3-5**                              **Tactile Graphics Conference and Exhibition—Birmingham, England**  
 Visit: [www.nctd.org.uk/conference/Conf2008/index.asp](http://www.nctd.org.uk/conference/Conf2008/index.asp)
- December 11-13**                              **Southern LVE Clinic - CSDB in Colorado Springs**  
 Contact: Melissa Shular at [melissa.shular@asd20.org](mailto:melissa.shular@asd20.org)



## *More Calendar of Events*

2009    2009    2009    2009    2009    2009    2009    2009    2009    2009    2009

<b>January 2-February 3</b>	<b>CELApro Administration</b>
<b>January 5-8</b>	<b>Braille 1809-2009 International Conference—Paris, France</b> Visit: <a href="http://www.avh.asso.fr/rubriques/infos_braille/colloque_louis_braille.php">www.avh.asso.fr/rubriques/infos_braille/colloque_louis_braille.php</a>
<b>January 22-24</b>	<b>Technology, Reading &amp; Learning Diversity 2009 SF, California.</b> Contact: <a href="http://www.trld.com">www.trld.com</a>
<b>January 29-31</b>	<b>Snowshoe Weekend - YMCA of the Rockies</b> Contact: Elaine Karns at <a href="mailto:elk@psdschools.org">elk@psdschools.org</a>
<b>February 4-27</b>	<b>CSAPA Grade 3 Reading, Writing, and Mathematics Administration</b>
<b>February 4-March 27</b>	<b>CSAPA 4-10 Administration</b>
<b>February 6</b>	<b>Braille Challenge — CSDB in Colorado Springs, CO</b> Contact: Randy Witte at <a href="mailto:rwitte@csdb.org">rwitte@csdb.org</a>
<b>February 17-27</b>	<b>CSAP Grade 3 Reading and Lectura</b>
<b>February 20-21</b>	<b>Northern LVE Clinic (Fort Collins)</b> Contact: Carol Love at <a href="mailto:love_carol@stvrain.k12.co.us">love_carol@stvrain.k12.co.us</a> or Sally Eldridge at <a href="mailto:eldridge_sara@stvrain.k12.co.us">eldridge_sara@stvrain.k12.co.us</a>
<b>February 26-28</b>	<b>Second Session of Literacy Course for TVIs - Denver</b> Contact: Tanni Anthony— <a href="mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us">anthony_t@cde.state.co.us</a>
<b>November 6-8</b>	<b>Parents Encouraging Parents Conference— Colorado Springs</b> Visit: <a href="http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp">www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp</a>
<b>March 1</b>	<b>"Education for Life" Application deadline for scholarship</b> Visit: <a href="http://www.seethefuture.org">www.seethefuture.org</a>
<b>March 5-8</b>	<b>Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute—Washington, DC</b> Contact: Caitlin McFeely at <a href="mailto:cmcfeely@afb.net">cmcfeely@afb.net</a>
<b>March 9-April 10</b>	<b>CSAP Grades 3-10 Administration</b>
<b>March 12-15</b>	<b>CA Transcribers and Educators of the VI —Burlingame, CA</b> Visit: <a href="http://www.ctevh.org/conference.htm">www.ctevh.org/conference.htm</a>
<b>April 1-4</b>	<b>CEC Annual Convention and Exposition— Seattle, WA</b> Visit: <a href="http://www.cec.sped.org">www.cec.sped.org</a>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>COACT State Test Date</b>

## More Calendar of Events

2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009

- April 23-25      **Western Region Early Intervention Conference**—Colorado Springs  
Contact: Tanni Anthony at [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- May 6              **COACT Makeup Test Date**
- June 5-7          **Annual Family Learning Retreat**— CSDB in Colorado Springs  
Contact: TBA
- July 14-17        **13th International Mobility Conference**—Marburg, Germany  
Visit: [www.imc.blista.de](http://www.imc.blista.de)

2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

- July 17-19        **Families Connecting with Families Conference**, Costa Mesa, CA  
Visit: [www.napvi.org](http://www.napvi.org)
- July 20-25        **AER International Conference** - Little Rock, AR  
Visit: [www.aer.bvi.org](http://www.aer.bvi.org)

### **A Special Tribute to Mike Witter**



The vision world has lost a dedicated and long-serving member of the community. Michael Witter, who had worked at CSDB for almost 30 years, died last week from lung cancer. Many of us remember the days in the 1970's when the "rubella kids" who had deafblindness were in our schools. Michael began his career in supporting students with deafblindness as part of the team working in the deafblind regional program that was housed at CSDB in the mid to late '70's. He then worked for many years supporting students who had vision losses and became an orientation and mobility assistant. In recent years, Michael worked as a 1 to 1 paraprofessional with a student who had significant cognitive challenges, vision and hearing losses to support that student in learning life skills. During the summer months, Michael has coordinated summer programs at CSDB and worked many years with the Family Learning Retreat program. He was one of those rare individuals who felt comfortable providing support to any student who needed his help. He decided to officially retire in June, 2008, but continued to support summer programs throughout the month. Services to celebrate Michael's life were held on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colorado Springs. He will be remembered as a person who worked to make the world a better place for kids with vision and hearing disabilities.

# Where Do I Start? Who Do I Call?

## Resources for Parents of Children and Adults with Disabilities or Special Health Care Needs



Between the alphabet soup of disability labels, laws and regulations--CP, DS, IEP, ADA, IDEA, 504--and all the different agencies that serve families with sons and daughters with disabilities--P2P, PEAK, PEP, CDE, ARC, CCB--well, it can get a little confusing! Here is a quick guide to some major resources and what they provide.

### **P2P: Parent to Parent of Colorado**

- One to one parent matching
- Up-to-date information and referral
- Listserv linking parents throughout the state
- Quarterly newsletter
- Resource packed website including support groups throughout the state and Parent Wisdom files



1-877-472-7201  
[p2p-co.org](http://p2p-co.org)

### **The Advocacy Coalition: EMPOWER Colorado**

- Support, education and advocacy for families of children and youth with mental health issues
- Support groups throughout the state; statewide listserv connecting families
- Educational classes for families and professionals

#### **Family Voices**

- Advocacy for children with special health care needs
- Assists families in navigating health systems including Medicaid, Medicaid waivers and private insurance
- Training, information, referral, policy, parent friendly website resources

#### **Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health**

- Promotes mental health for all children, youth and families

1-800-881-8272  
[empowercolorado.com](http://empowercolorado.com)

[familyvoicesco.org](http://familyvoicesco.org)

[coloradofederation.org](http://coloradofederation.org)

### **The Arcs in Colorado**

- If you are looking for an advocate, start with your local Arc
- The Arc of Colorado has a list of statewide Arcs on their website

1-800-333-7690  
[thearcofco.org](http://thearcofco.org)

### **Assistive Technology Project**

- Assistive technology device exchange program
- Database of potential funding resources for AT devices, equipment, programs
- Make and Take directions on various low-cost AT adaptations and devices
- Community based demonstrations
- Annual Collaborative Assistive Technology Conference of the Rockies

1-800-255-3477  
[uchsc.edu/atp](http://uchsc.edu/atp)

### **CCDC: Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition**

- Information and assistance on disability rights issues for youth and adults
- Advances legislation and public policy impacting the disability community

303-839-1775  
[ccdconline.org](http://ccdconline.org)

### **CDE - ESLU: Colorado Department of Education - Exceptional Student Leadership Unit**

- Website resources on special education law, school/district programs, etc.
- FAST FACTS on a variety of topics
- Information on educational specialists, parent-professional partnerships

303-866-6694  
[cde.state.co.us/cdesped/index.asp](http://cde.state.co.us/cdesped/index.asp)



<p><b>DDD: Division for Developmental Disabilities and CCBs: Community Centered Boards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides various services to individuals with developmental disabilities</li> <li>• Administers children and family programs, adult programs</li> <li>• Information on CCBs (designated as the single entry point into long-term service and support for persons with developmental disabilities)</li> </ul>	<p>303-866-7450  <a href="http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/ddd">www.cdhs.state.co.us/ddd</a></p>
<p><b>ECC: Early Childhood Connections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have a child under three needing services, this number will connect you with your local ECC</li> </ul>	<p>1-888-777-4041  <a href="http://earlychildhoodconnections.org">earlychildhoodconnections.org</a></p>
<p><b>El Grupo VIDA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information, referrals and support groups for Spanish speaking parents</li> <li>• Free annual fall conference in Denver</li> </ul>	<p>303-904-6073  <a href="http://elgrupovida.org">elgrupovida.org</a></p>
<p><b>HCP: Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and referral to services and supports including Medical Home, screening, clinics, financial assistance</li> <li>• Regional offices throughout Colorado</li> </ul>	<p>303-692-2370  <a href="http://hccolorado.org">hccolorado.org</a></p>
<p><b>PEAK: Colorado's Parent Training and Information Center</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent advisors who provide information about special education process and parent's rights</li> <li>• Trainings on a variety of topics including Understanding IEP's</li> <li>• Inclusion resources and annual conference for parents and school personnel</li> <li>• Online calendar of events throughout the state; SPEAKout newsletter</li> </ul>	<p>1-800-284-0251  <a href="http://peakparent.org">peakparent.org</a></p>
<p><b>PEP: Parents Encouraging Parents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free conference, lodging and meals included, held twice per year at various statewide locations (apply early as waiting lists occur frequently)</li> <li>• Brings together parents and professionals for education on supporting your child in school and community</li> </ul>	<p>303-866-6846  <a href="http://cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp">cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp</a></p>
<p><b>The Legal Center for People with Disabilities &amp; Older People</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice on the legal rights of people with disabilities</li> <li>• Publishes <u>Everyday Guide to Special Education Law</u></li> </ul>	<p>1-800-288-1376  <a href="http://thelegalcenter.org">thelegalcenter.org</a></p>
<p><b>WrightsLaw</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information for parents about special education process and law, advocacy</li> <li>• P2P recommends their book, <u>From Emotions to Advocacy: The Special Education Survival Guide</u></li> </ul>	<p><a href="http://wrightslaw.com">wrightslaw.com</a></p>

Included here are a sampling of several disability specific organizations. Call or visit our website for additional resources.

**Autism Society of Colorado:** 720-214-0794 (Denver) or 1-866-733-0794, [autismcolorado.org](http://autismcolorado.org)

**Brain Injury Association:** 303-355-9969, [biacolorado.org](http://biacolorado.org)

**Hands and Voices:** 303-492-6283, [handsandvoices.org/chapters/colo.htm](http://handsandvoices.org/chapters/colo.htm)

**Infantile Scoliosis Outreach Program (ISOP):** 1-866-417-4873, [infantilescoliosis.org](http://infantilescoliosis.org)

**International Dyslexia Association/Rocky Mountain Branch:** 303-721-9425

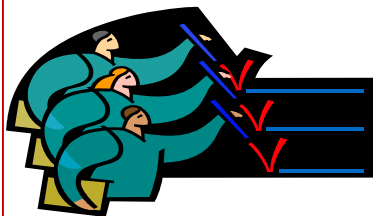
**Mile High Down Syndrome Association:** 303-797-1699, [mhdsa.org](http://mhdsa.org)

### So where do you start, who do you call?

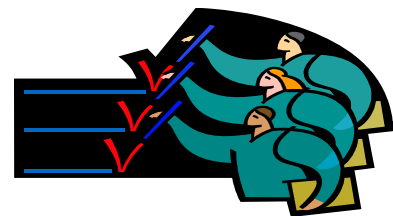
Still confused? First of all, don't give up. Let us help you get pointed in the right direction. Give us a call. We are all in this together.



Brought to you by  
**Parent to Parent of Colorado**  
 1-877-472-7201  
[p2p-co.org](http://p2p-co.org)  
 08/07



## CHECK IT OUT!



- ✓ **Collaborating With Families of Children With Disabilities** The IRIS Center and the PACER Center have created an online module to help educators think about and improve family involvement, particularly involvement among families of children with disabilities. The interactive module provides participants with a scenario, information, and a self-evaluation tool. It also includes commentary from parents and an expert in the field of family involvement. Visit: <http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/fam/chalcycle.htm>
- ✓ **FamilyConnect™ Online Community for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments** In May, AFB and the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) launched Family-Connect™, a new online community. The site is full of information for parents and caretakers of children of all ages who are blind or visually impaired. It gives them a place to connect with other families and find support and resources. The site includes a video profiles video profiles section, where you can find personal stories from parents, siblings, and children who are blind or visually impaired. There are numerous message boards where parents and family members can communicate easily with one another and a blog written by Susan LaVenture, featuring topics of interest.

Visit [www.FamilyConnect.org](http://www.FamilyConnect.org) to learn more about topics such as:

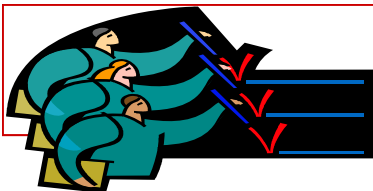
- Know Your Rights
- Your Child's Educational Team
- Assessment
- Braille
- Keeping Track of Paperwork

- ✓ **Challenge Recreation Foresights Ski Guides**  
Foresight Ski Guides' mission is to promote fitness, athletic skills, personal achievement, and self-esteem for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. They provide challenge recreation opportunities by making snow sports easily accessible and affordable. Foresight's guides complete an intensive training course that concentrates on safety, camaraderie and the simple pleasures of skiing with a friend. A skiing experience with Foresight Ski guides is only \$100 and includes: up to five ski days, including specially designed services for our VIPs, transportation, lodging assistance, lift tickets, equipment, and trained guides. If needed, access to deeply discounted lodging rates are available and fees can be waived for those with the greatest need. Most importantly, Foresight's guides are trained in incorporating challenge recreation therapy into the ski day, letting VIPs challenge themselves in a safe and supervised setting. For more information contact Foresights Ski Guide at 303-860-0972 or toll free at 866-860-0972 or visit [www.foresightskiguides.org](http://www.foresightskiguides.org)

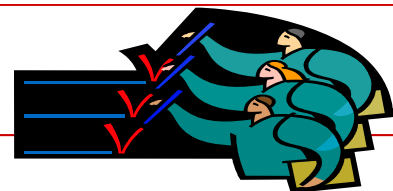


- ✓ **The Scoop** The Scoop is a weekly email publication from the Colorado Department of Education. It features key information for school administrators and other interested parties. There is a specific section for Exceptional Children. To sign up to receive The Scoop, please send a blank e-mail (nothing in subject line or message area) to [subscribe-thescoop@web.cde.state.co.us](mailto:subscribe-thescoop@web.cde.state.co.us)





# CHECK IT OUT!



✓ **Field Test Opportunity: Early Braille Trade Books** The American Printing House for the Blind has a field test opportunity for teachers working with braille math students grades K-3. **MathBuilders - Fractions, Mixed Numbers, and Decimals** is the fourth in the series of MathBuilders Units. The kit provides math lesson plans, manipulatives to teach/demonstrate concepts, and worksheets with tactile graphics to reinforce the student's understanding. If you are interested in participating as a field evaluator, please contact Jeanette Wicker at [jwicker@aph.org](mailto:jwicker@aph.org) or by phone at 800-223-1839, ext 246 by September 5th.

Evaluators will be asked to use the prototype with as many students who are braille users as possible as well as complete an evaluation regarding the product's design, function, and usefulness. Evaluators will be selected based upon type of setting, available number of students in grades K-3, and geographical location. The evaluation period will be from September 2008 through January 2009.

✓ **Field Test Opportunity: MathBuilders** The American Printing House for the Blind has a field test opportunity for teachers working with braille math students grades K-3. **MathBuilders - Fractions, Mixed Numbers, and Decimals** is the fourth in the series of MathBuilders Units. The kit provides math lesson plans, manipulatives to teach/demonstrate concepts, and worksheets with tactile graphics to reinforce the student's understanding. If you are interested in participating as a field evaluator, please contact Jeanette Wicker, APH Core Curriculum Project Leader, at [jwicker@aph.org](mailto:jwicker@aph.org) or by phone at 800-223-1839, ext 246 by September 5th.

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✓ **Standards Review Subcommittees Need You!** Educators, parents, business leaders, community members and all members of the public are invited to join an important conversation about the future of education in Colorado. The Colorado State Board of Education and the Colorado Department of Education are preparing for the comprehensive revision of the state's Model Content Standards. Beginning today, applications are being accepted for membership on subcommittees that will recommend revised standards for arts, mathematics, physical education, reading, writing, science, social studies and world languages.

Applications are online at <<https://forms.cde.state.co.us/cgibin/ezs.cgi?DATABASE=modelcontent>>. The deadline to submit applications is September 15, 2008.

# Families Connecting with Families Conference

July 17-19, 2009

An International conference covering all aspects of raising a child with a visual impairment, the 2009 Families Connecting with Families Conference will include:

- \* Interactive sessions and panel discussions to address parents' most pressing interests
- \* Networking with other families and professionals
- \* Free daycare program for children, and special activities designed especially for teens
- \* Exhibits open throughout the weekend from a wide variety of vendors, agencies, and organizations
- \* Fun for the whole family with special receptions and events

Co-Hosted by NAPVI, Braille Institute, and Junior Blind of America, the 2009 Conference will be held in fun-filled Orange County, California, just minutes from Disneyland, beautiful beaches, and much more at the:

Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa  
3050 Briston Street  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Keep an eye on the following web sites for more information:

- [www.napvi.org](http://www.napvi.org)
- [www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org)
- [www.juniorblind.org](http://www.juniorblind.org)



## Age Groups

- Infants & Toddlers
- Preschoolers
- Grade Schoolers
- Teenagers
- All ages (birth to 26)
- Parents of children with visual impairments

## Interest Categories

- Assistive technology/helpful products
- Counseling/support groups
- Education
- Multiple disabilities
- Parenting
- Workshop/presentation

## Location: Costa Mesa, CA

Phone Number: 617-972-7441

E-Mail: [napvi@perkins.org](mailto:napvi@perkins.org)

URL: <http://www.napvi.org>



## *Free Professional Development Opportunity Providing Six Graduate Level CEU's*

Registration Deadline: September 10, 2008

First Class Session – October 10-11, 2008 in Colorado Springs

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) is working with Edinboro University of Pennsylvania to develop a new instructional framework to help science teachers improve the science knowledge and inquiry skills of students who are visually impaired. The *Visualizing Science with Adapted Curriculum Enhancements* program (ACE) offers you an opportunity to be an integral part of the formulation, modification, and perfection of this unique framework. This study also offers a chance for you to contribute to research that will help all students achieve success in science.

### **Eligibility/Requirements:**

- Science teachers in grades 7-12 who have access to at least one visually impaired student
- Willingness to meet with developers for three sessions over the three year study period (Year One: 4 Days, Year Two: 3 Days, Year Three: 2 Days) in Colorado Springs, Colorado

### **Incentives:**

- Stipends (\$200 per day) and travel costs (transportation, lodging, and meals) to support teachers' attendance of annual project meetings.
- Contribution to a project with high visibility and the potential for providing educators nationwide with a valuable instructional framework

### **Facilitators:**

**Ben Wentworth III, MA/SpEd-Vision:** Retired Science Teacher of the Visually Impaired, 1997 Southwest Section Outstanding Earth Science Teacher, 1999 Toyota TAPESTRY Grant Recipient, 2001 Disney Outstanding Teacher of the Year, 2002 CAST High School Science Teaching Award Recipient

**David Hurd, Ph.D.:** Planetarium Director/Professor, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

**For more information and application materials visit:**

<http://www.ace-education.org/getinvolved/recruit.asp>

or

Contact Susie Bachler, Recruitment Coordinator at [sbachler@mcrel.org](mailto:sbachler@mcrel.org), or (303) 632-5633

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHAT'S FUNDED

## School Year 2008-09

Compiled By Tanni Anthony

We have a busy year ahead of us with many training and support activities! Thanks to the folks who submitted information to be included in this article. If we missed something, please be in touch with Tanni so we can continue to advertise all the services and activities for student with visual impairments, their families, and their educational personnel.

### Legend for Acronyms:

**CDE** = Colorado Department of Education

**CIMC** = Colorado Instructional Materials Center

**CSAP** = Colorado Student Assessment Program (our statewide tests)

**CSDB** = Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

**TVI** = teacher certified in visual impairment

The funding for each project is listed after its title. CDE Set Aside Funds = federal discretionary funds approved in Tanni's CDE budget.

**Adult Role Model Team:** (CDE Set Aside Funds flowed through CSDB) Article by Gabe Gates, a former student at CSDB who now attends the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs: The Adult Blind and Visually Impaired Role Model Team's purpose is to provide students who are blind or visually impaired, their parents and teachers the opportunity to meet successful blind and visually impaired adult role models. To openly and frankly discuss, from personal experience topics related to low vision, vision loss and blindness. Team members share their experiences, triumphant and otherwise, on topics ranging from low vision aids and high-tech devices to overcoming denial and when and how to seek support. Discussion topics have included careers, social interaction, drivers' license, organizations, resources, orientation/mobility, daily living skills and all sorts of other frenzied topics that can and do come up. Many questions can be answered, "Been there done that," let me tell you what worked and didn't work for me. For over a decade this diverse group of individuals have volunteered to mentor Colorado's blind and V/I elementary, high school and transition students. If you think a Role Model Team member might make a positive difference for your student(s), contact Gabe Gates, Project Coordinator, Adult Blind and Visually Impaired Role Model Team - Email Gabe in care of Donna Keale at <[Dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:Dkeale@csdb.org)>.

**Braille Competency:** (CDE Set Aside Funds): Funds have been reserved for four braille proctors (Lucia Hasty, Brenda Shepard, Sarah Sonnier, and Julie Wetzstein) to provide opportunities to TVIs / Braillists to take the Colorado Braille Mastery Test and/or the 15+ clock-hours of CDE established renewal modules. Care must be taken to spread out the completion of the modules over the five year renewal period so that competency can truly be demonstrated across a period of five years. For information about braille competency testing and renewal requirements, please go to <<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-BLV.asp>>

**Braille-Format Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) Test Review:** (CDE Set Aside Funds): TVIs had the opportunity to meet with the CDE Assessment Unit and the CSAP publisher to review the large print and braille CSAP tests each year since June 2004. Thanks to the feedback of many of you, we had helpful data to draft "theme recommendations" for improvement to future CSAP tests. Thanks to Nancy Cozart and Janet Anderson for their latest review of the annual item analysis for the 2007-08 braille-format CSAP.

Funds have been reserved to review the 2008-09 braille tests BEFORE they are sent to Colorado. Sarah Sonnier, Nancy Cozart, and Tanni Anthony will return to Boston's National Braille Press in November or December for a fourth year of onsite test review. They will meet with the tactile graphics experts and the test publisher over a two day period. TVIs are once again encouraged to send in their comments on the 2008-09 CSAP, CSAPA, and CELA tests. Together, we are making a difference with our state tests.



**Braille Transcriber Mentor Project:** (CDE Set Aside Funds flowed through CSDB) The Braille Transcribers Mentor Project is for experienced Library of Congress certified braillists to mentor new braillists who are working on their LOC certification. Arrangements will also be made to pay the mentor for his or her time. For more information, contact Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or <[jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)>.

**Close Up:** Close up involves a 7 day learning adventure in Washington, D.C. for high school students and educators. The program develops students' knowledge of basic concepts of government and citizenship. It is the hope of CSDB to send one student from the state of Colorado as an Outreach student and one student from CSDB. Students interested in going need to apply to Donna Keale, CSDB Outreach Coordinator for the Blind at <[dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org)> or Louis Tutt, Principal, CSDB School for the Blind at <[ltutt@csdb.org](mailto:ltutt@csdb.org)>.

**Colorado Center for the Blind Summer Activities:** Each summer, the CCB offers programs to students who are blind/visually impaired. During summer 2007, they offered programs for elementary, middle, and secondary- aged students. For more information, please contact Julie Deden at <[jjeden@cocenter.org](mailto:jjeden@cocenter.org)>.

**Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC):** (Set Aside Funds flowed through CSDB, administrative-unit assessment fees of \$250 per identified child with visual impairment, CSDB in-kind contributions): Housed on the campus of CSDB, the role of the CIMC is to provide braille textbooks and serve as a repository for APH instructional materials for all students who are visually impaired in Colorado. For CIMC questions or assistance, contact Jim Olson at <[jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)> or (719) 579-2195.

**CIMC Brailist Scholarships:** (Sponsored by the CIMC) The CIMC is offering three \$200 scholarships to help certified Library of Congress braillists from Colorado attend the fall 2008 National Braille Association Professional Development Conference to be held October 29-November 1, 2008 in Lexington, KY. Scholarship recipients are asked to share the conference information with other Colorado braillists. Conference information is posted at <[www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org)>. For more information, contact Jim Olson at <[jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)> or (719) 578-2195.

**CSDB Internship Placements:** (CSDB Sponsored). CSDB offers an educational setting with a diverse student population for university students completing their graduate training in vision to obtain internship or student teaching credits. Contact: Diane Covington, CSDB School Community Liaison, (719) 578-2225.

**CSDB Lending Library:** (Sponsored by CSDB): The library provides materials and information in a variety of formats for students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing and/or blind/visually impaired, as well as their parents and those who work with them. Most items may be borrowed by anyone with a CO Library Card (available at public and academic libraries throughout CO) or through interlibrary loan from any library.

The libraries are open Monday—Friday during the school year from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please call before coming in person to either library. For more information, please contact Amanda Johnson at [AJohnson@csdb.org](mailto:AJohnson@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2206 or the CSDB website at <[www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org)>.

**CSDB Short Courses:** (Sponsored by CSDB): CSDB will offer short term placements to focus on the Expanded Core Curriculum during this school year. The three-day placements that will begin on a Thursday afternoon and run through Saturday afternoon. Check out dates and a description of short-term placements for the 2008-09 school year in future editions of *WHOT*. If you have questions, contact Donna Keale at [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2251

**CSDB Summer Enrichment Program:** (Sponsored by CSDB): Each summer a series of programs are offered to students who are blind/visually impaired across the state. The programs focus on braille/O&M/social skills, social relationships, and lots of recreational fun. The dates and themes for the 2009 Summer Enrichment Program will be shared in future editions of *WHOT*. For more information, contact Donna Keale at [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2251.



**CSDB Touch Museum:** (Sponsored by CSDB): The CSDB Touch Museum reopened with the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. Some specimens are available for loan within the state of Colorado. Please check out the article in this newsletter about the Touch Museum and some of its fun travels during the last school year. Janet Rose at [jrose\\_80909@yahoo.com](mailto:jrose_80909@yahoo.com) or (719) 598-1904 is the contact person.

**Colorado O&M Workshop:** (CDE Set Aside Funds): This training is co-sponsored by CDE, CAER, CSDB, and Insights Inc. A planning committee is currently working to determine the theme, presenters, dates, and location. Be watching future newsletters for more details on the dates. This training is reserved for Orientation and Mobility Specialists. Contact person: Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or <[Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)>.



**Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project:** (Funded by the federal office of Special Education Projects, housed at CDE): The project is starting the first year of a new five-year grant cycle. There are currently 138 children and youth, age birth through 21 years, who have combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness) in Colorado. Free technical assistance is provided the families and service providers of children and youth with combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness).

The project hosts an annual Summer Institute, which focuses key assessment of and intervention strategies for children and youth who are deafblind and/or who have significant support needs. The project has a newsletter, *Vibrations*, which is disseminated three times over the course of a school year. The project website has over 70 fact sheets (in English and Spanish) on information specific to deafblindness. The library is open to parents and professionals and is stocked with great resources, including about 50 items specific to visual impairment. The library's inventory is listed on the website, where there also is a downloaded book-loan order form. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or Gina Quintana at (303) 866-6605 or [Quintana\\_g@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Quintana_g@cde.state.co.us) and/or go the project webpage: <[www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Deafblind.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Deafblind.asp)>.

**Family Learning Retreat 2009:** (CDE Set Aside Funds flowed through CSDB and CSDB funds): The Family Learning Retreat will take place at CSDB on **June 5-7, 2008**. The weekend retreat is for any family who has a child who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deafblind. This retreat allows families to come together and learn ways of coping with the hardships of raising a child with a disability. This is a great opportunity for families to meet other families and share their stories, have fun, make friends, and learn something new. Stefanie Morgan, a parent, and a TVI from the School for the Blind will represent the blindness/visual impairment on the retreat planning committee. Gina Quintana and Shannon Cannizzaro will represent deafblindness. More information about the Family Learning Retreat will be posted in future *WHOT* newsletters.

**Family Literacy Packs:** (CSDB supported, housed in the School for the Blind library): Each Family Literacy Pack contains several books (braille and print) along with a Video or DVD of all the stories and several Activity Kits placed in a colorful child's back pack. Students keep the items they make and return the extra materials to the pack. These activities may be a game, a song or an activity. These are well thought out and well put together activities and stories that the whole family can enjoy together. The packs are available for TVIs to check out by contacting School for the Blind media specialist Amanda Johnson at <[ajohnson@csdb.org](mailto:ajohnson@csdb.org)> or (719) 578-2205.

**Low Vision Evaluation Clinics:** (CDE Set Aside and CSDB in-kind): The Low Vision Evaluation Team was once again funded for four regional clinics. The clinic team consists of Dr. Tom Theune (optometrist), Jim Olson (certified low vision therapist and TVI) and Donice Fennimore (clinic coordinator). Donice will continue to be responsible for clinic paperwork, including getting the reports out the door, and will be the contact person for setting up each clinic. Donice's low vision clinic duties have been built into her job as an Administrative Assistant with the CIMC. The dates of the 2008-09 clinics are posted within this newsletter, as are the local site coordinators for each clinic.



**National Braille Challenge:** (Sponsored by CSDB) The Colorado regional contest will again be held at CSDB on Friday, **February 1st, 2008**. Students may also compete individually in their home school with their TVI administering the tests. Students compete in various categories such as spelling, reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs. The top 12 students from each age group are then invited to the final rounds in Los Angeles, CA around the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June, 2008, where they can win prizes including a Braille notetaker valued at over \$5000. In 2007, two students from Colorado have qualified for the final rounds! Contact Randy Witte at CSDB for more information: <[rwitte@csdb.org](mailto:rwitte@csdb.org)> or (719) 578-2204. Visit <[www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org)> and then find pages on the National Braille Challenge for more info.

**TVI Mentor Project:** (CDE Set Aside Funds): This will be the fifth year of the mentor project! The goal is to provide mentoring assistance to students enrolled in the UNC Visual Impairment Program, as well as new teachers in Colorado school districts. Each participant will be paired with a mentor teacher currently working in Colorado. Mentors will receive a \$500 annual stipend for their time and commitment. If you would like to be a mentor or would like to have a mentor, please contact Tanni Anthony at <[anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)>.

**Psychological Assessments and Consultation:** (CSDB staff) Psychological assessments (cognitive and social-emotional) provided to school districts by Ellen Trapp, Ed. S., school psychologist to assist school districts in developing appropriate educational services and supports for students with vision losses. Contact: Ellen Trapp (719) 578-2234.

**Snow Shoe Weekend:** (sponsored by hardworking teachers and CSDB staff!): The 7th Annual Snowshoe Weekend is tentatively booked for January 29-31, 2009, at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. Teachers who graciously volunteer their time, and CSDB staff work together, which has made this event so successful over the years. Our many thanks

to Rocky Mountain National Park for providing educational programs and volunteers during sledding activities and the YMCA of the Rockies for providing housing and food! Very special thanks to Lou Tutt for recognizing the value of this adventure and always securing the necessary funding!! Anyone interested in this exciting outdoor opportunity should contact Elaine Karns at (970) 225-6720 or (970) 231-1854 or <[elk@psdschools.org](mailto:elk@psdschools.org)>.

**Specialized Assessments:** (staffed by CSDB personnel): Members of the Statewide Multidisciplinary Assessment Resource Team (SMART) at CSDB are available to consult with your districts' OT, PT, SLP, & School Psychologist staff in the area of blindness. Complete an Indirect Outreach Request Form found on the CSDB website and email to <[Ldouglas@csdb.org](mailto:Ldouglas@csdb.org)> or contact Laura for more information.

**State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment:** The key professional development activity for TVIs during this school year will be the *Reading Instruction for Students who are Blind/Visually Impairment*. The course will be taught primarily by Dr. Cay Holbrook. There will be two onsite sessions with a distance education component. The course is specifically for Colorado TVIs working with school age students who are blind/visually impaired. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or <[Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)>.

**Technology Consultation:** (CDE Set Aside Funds): Bonnie Snyder has been hired to provide 28 days of consultation across the state. Bonnie can meet with TVIs on an individual or a small group basis. She is also available for phone or email consultation. Be watching for a June 2009 mini course on technology. Contact: Bonnie at (719) 322-3854 or <[BonnieLS21@gmail.com](mailto:BonnieLS21@gmail.com)>.

**Western Region Early Intervention Conference:** Colorado will be the host state of the WREIC with CSDB taking the lead in the planning and hosting efforts. Other Colorado hosts include the following agencies: Anchor Center for Blind Children, Colorado Department of Education, and Hands and Voices. Other states involved in the planning process include Arizona, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, and Wyoming. The conference will be held on April 23-25, 2008 in Colorado Springs. The conference will have stands specific to blindness/visual impairment, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and deaf-blindness in the early years. Be watching for more conference details.

### CIMC Shipping and Receiving

By Debbie Haberkorn

Thank you to everyone who took the time to use the new CIMC box labels. It made the task of processing incoming books much more efficient. Unfortunately there are still many books in both large print and Braille that have not been returned to the CIMC. I would ask all of you to please return any books that you are not using for the 08/09 school year to the CIMC. Returning complete books as soon as your student is finished with them makes it less likely that a volume will be lost and it also enables the CIMC to fill orders for other districts' without incurring the cost of a new book.

The number of books returned with missing volumes was considerably lower this year. Remember that your district is responsible for the replacement value of any missing volumes. I would like to use Rita Albright as a good example of dealing with missing volumes. Rita contacted the CIMC to notify us that one of her students had lost one volume to a book. When Rita shipped the book to the CIMC there was a very clear notation on the box label that told what volume was missing and that the CIMC had already been contacted about it. A few days after receiving the book the CIMC received a call from Rita's student requesting the replacement cost of the volume. I understand that not every situation can be resolved this smoothly, but if students' understand the value of their textbooks and are held accountable maybe missing/damaged volumes will become fewer.

Here are a few tips when preparing books for return to CIMC. Make sure that the book is complete. If you know that the book is missing volumes when you return it please contact the CIMC and make a notation on the box label. Please accurately fill out and attach the box label to the side of the box. It is okay to ship more than one book in a box as long as a box label is filled out for each book. Use a sturdy box and an adequate amount of tape. The CIMC received two boxes this summer that were completely empty because the boxes had blown apart during the shipping process. It is possible that the CIMC will never recover those missing volumes. Our local post office explained to me that most box mail is processed using automated machinery. If boxes are flimsy or not taped properly there is a very good chance they will be damaged in shipment. Keeping a log of when books are shipped and in how many boxes is also a good idea. This makes it easier to track down boxes that become lost in the mail system.

I hope that you have found the new procedure of CIMC notifying the district contact person when an order ships helpful. It has been a good experience for me getting to know the district contacts. Thank you for all that you do and have a great year!

## Who Ya Gonna Call?



**Barbara Adams** at (970) 963-3243 x 206 or [badams@mtnbooces.k12.co.us](mailto:badams@mtnbooces.k12.co.us)

- Representative of Western Slope TVIs/COMSs at Vision Coalition meetings

**Tanni Anthony** at (303) 866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)

- Braille Competency Testing / Braille Certification Renewal
- CDE web pages on Blindness/ Low Vision, Deafblindness, and Orientation and Mobility
- CO Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project
- CSAP, CSAPA, and CELA testing of students with visual impairment / deafblindness
- Eligibility of learners with a visual disabilities or deafblindness
- Job Clearinghouse – TVI and O&M Specialist positions within Colorado
- Learning Media Assessments / LMA Plans for Learners with Visual Impairments
- NIMAS and NIMAC procedures within Colorado
- Response to Intervention (RtI) for students with visual impairments or deafblindness
- State Conference on Visual Impairment / Annual O&M Conference
- TVI and O&M Specialist Licensure Questions
- CDE TVI and COMS listserv
- *What's Happening Out There* newsletter
- Vision Coalition

**Betsy Boudreau** at 303-692-9213 or [betsyrfbd@qwest.net](mailto:betsyrfbd@qwest.net)

- Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D)

**Deb Carlisle** at 720-423-4300 or [deborah\\_carlisle@dpsk12.org](mailto:deborah_carlisle@dpsk12.org)

- Co-representative of CAER at Vision Coalition meetings

**Paula Conroy** at (970) 351-1651 or [paula.conroy@unco.edu](mailto:paula.conroy@unco.edu)

- UNC's Teacher Training Program on Visual Impairment
- UNC representative at Vision Coalition meetings

**Nancy Cozart** at (303) 734-3090 or [NCozart@lps.k12.co.us](mailto:NCozart@lps.k12.co.us)

- Representative of Metro TVIs/COMSs at Vision Coalition meetings
- Metro Region TVI Meetings
- State Reviewer of CSAP Braille Format

**Julie Deden** at (303) 778-1130 or [jdeden@cocenter.org](mailto:jdeden@cocenter.org)

- Colorado Center for the Blind

**David Dawson** at (303) 786-7777 x 101, [ainc@aincolorao.org](mailto:ainc@aincolorao.org) [rrsr@rrsr.org](mailto:rrsr@rrsr.org)

- Audio Information Network of Colorado

**Laura Douglas** at (719) 578-2110 or [ldouglas@csdb.org](mailto:ldouglas@csdb.org)

- CSDB Outreach Services (D/HH and B/VI)

**Sally Eldridge** at (720) 652-8215 or [eldridge\\_sara@stvrain.k12.co.us](mailto:eldridge_sara@stvrain.k12.co.us)

- Co-Coordinator of the Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

**Loretta Finegan-Nelson** at (719) 578-2173 or [lnelson@csdb.org](mailto:lnelson@csdb.org)

- Lead teacher of the Bridges to Life (transition program)

**Donice Fennimore** at (719) 578-2198 or [dfennimore@csdb.org](mailto:dfennimore@csdb.org)

- Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Coordinator

**Kay Ferrell** at (970) 302-1995 or [kay.ferrell@unco.edu](mailto:kay.ferrell@unco.edu)

- National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities (housed at UNC)

**Louise Gettman** at (719) 578-2189 or [lgettman@csdb.org](mailto:lgettman@csdb.org)

- Early Years Family program for children birth to 5 with visual impairment (southern region)

**Jennie Germano** at (719) 578-2116 or [jgermano@csdb.org](mailto:jgermano@csdb.org)

- CSDB Early Education

**J.C. Greeley** at (303) 337-9732 or [jandkgb@aol.com](mailto:jandkgb@aol.com)

Anchor Center for Blind Children

**Lucia Hasty** at (719) 577-4710 or [lhasty2@earthlink.net](mailto:lhasty2@earthlink.net)

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

**Samantha Hoffman** at (303) 216-6251 or [shoffman@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:shoffman@jeffco.k12.co.us)

- President of CAER Chapter

**Amanda Johnson** at (719) 578-2205 or [ajohnson@csdb.org](mailto:ajohnson@csdb.org)

- CSDB's Library (School for the Blind)

**Stephanie Isbell** at (719) 291-3325, [isbell@cmsd12.org](mailto:isbell@cmsd12.org)

- Representative of Southern TVIs/COMSs at Vision Coalition meetings
- Southern TVI meetings

**Elaine Karns** at (970) 225-6720 or [elk@psdschools.org](mailto:elk@psdschools.org)

- Coordinator of the Annual Snow Shoe Weekend

**Donna Keale** at (719) 578-2251 or [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org)

- BVI Adult Role Model Team
- CSDB Summer Enrichment Program
- Sports Camp
- CSDB Short Term Courses

**Nancy Knight** at (303) 734-3070 or [NKnight@lps.k12.co.us](mailto:NKnight@lps.k12.co.us)

- Site Coordinator of the Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

**Carol Love** at (303) 776-8674 or [love\\_carol@stvrain.k12.co.us](mailto:love_carol@stvrain.k12.co.us)

- Northern Region TVI Meetings
- Co-Coordinator of the Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

**Debbie Macleod** at (303) 727-9277 or [Macleod\\_d@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Macleod_d@cde.state.co.us)

- Colorado Talking Book Library

**Kevin O'Brien** at (970) 874-7607 or [kobrien@mcsd.k12.co.us](mailto:kobrien@mcsd.k12.co.us)

- Western Region TVI Meetings

**Jim Olson** at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)

- CIMC Braille Book Orders and Loan Materials
- Annual CIMC registration of students with Visual Impairments
- Braille Transcribers Mentoring Project

**Susan Pfaffenhauser** (719) 578-2102 or [spfaffenha@csdb.org](mailto:spfaffenha@csdb.org)

- CSDB Board of Trustees' meetings

**Trina Boyd Pratt** at 720-883-7154 or [tgboyd-pratt@aps.k12.co.us](mailto:tgboyd-pratt@aps.k12.co.us)

- Co-representative of CAER at Vision Coalition meetings

**Gina Quintana** at (303) 866-6605 or [quintana\\_g@cde.state.co.us](mailto:quintana_g@cde.state.co.us)

- Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project

**Melissa Shular** at (719) 234-1388 or [mshular@asd20.org](mailto:mshular@asd20.org)

- Site Coordinator for Southern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

**Brenda Shepard** at (303) 340-0520 (ext. 28539) or [brendas@ctech.aps.k12.co.us](mailto:brendas@ctech.aps.k12.co.us)

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

**Cathy Smyth** at (303) 377-9732 or [cathysmyth@yahoo.com](mailto:cathysmyth@yahoo.com)

- Representative of Anchor Center/ CSDB Infant/Toddler Program at Vision Coalition meetings

**Bonnie Snyder** at (719) 322.3854 or [bonniels21@adelphia.net](mailto:bonniels21@adelphia.net) or [TVIVIP.org](http://TVIVIP.org) Website

- CDE Regional Technology Assistance

**Sarah Sonnier** at (970) 254-5414 or [ssonnier@mesa.k12.co.us](mailto:ssonnier@mesa.k12.co.us)

- Site Coordinator for Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic
- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor
- State Reviewer of CSAP Braille Format

**Wendy Stoltman** at (303) 655-2932 or [wstoltman@sd27j.org](mailto:wstoltman@sd27j.org)

- Representative of Northern TVIs/COMSs at Vision Coalition meetings

**Lou Tutt** at (719) 578-2200 or 2201 or [ltutt@csdb.org](mailto:ltutt@csdb.org)

- CSDB School for the Blind
- CSDB Bridges to Life (transition program)

**Jon Vigne** at (719) 578-2177 or [jvigne@csdb.org](mailto:jvigne@csdb.org)

- Questions about CSDB and enrollment

**Randy Witte** at (719) 578-2204 or [rwitte@csdb.org](mailto:rwitte@csdb.org)

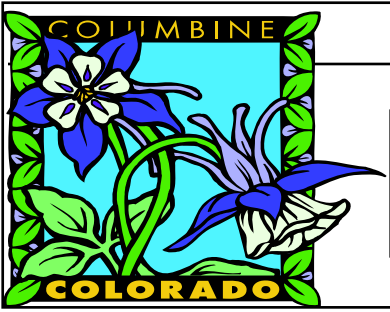
- Braille Challenge

**Julia Zanon** at (303) 866-3562 or [julia.zanon@state.co.us](mailto:julia.zanon@state.co.us)


- Representative of Colorado Rehabilitation Services at Vision Coalition meetings







# COLORADO CONNECTIONS

- 🌀 "Good on ya!" to the following people who earned braille renewal clock hours: **Jan Wood, Samantha Hoffman, and Deb Carlisle**. Good for Jan Wood for earning her CDE Braille Competency Renewal certificate. Thanks to proctors **Lucia Hasty** and **Julie Wetzstein**!
- 🌀 Congratulations to **Karen Jamison** for earning her CDE Certificate of Braille Competency! Karen is a TVI/COMS in Jefferson County.
- 🌀 Congrats and wonderful best wishes to the happy married couple, **Angie and Lou Tutt**! These wild and crazy kids tied the knot on May 30th! 
- 🌀 Hats off to the following TVIs who attended the 2008 Summer Institute on Deafblindness: **Rita Albright, Tanni Anthony, Linda Campbell, Michelle Chacon, Ann Gillmeister, Ann Marie Jansen, Danielle McGrath, Janis Mountford, Vicki Pearson, Mike Plansker, and Wendy Stoltman**.
- 🌀 **Tanni Anthony** has had book chapters published in two new books edited by Dr. Toni Linder and published by Paul Brookes. The first chapter, *Vision Development*, is in the recently revised *Transdisciplinary Play-Based Assessment* text and is based on her 2002 dissertation study. The second chapter, *Strategies for Working with Children with Visual Impairments*, is included in the new *Transdisciplinary Play-Based Intervention* book.
- 🌀 We will miss **Phyllis Penniston Jordan**, former TVI and COMS in Grand Junction, who is now pursuing new trails in Australia as an O&M Specialist. Also, we say farewell to **Kristen Lavergne** who will be moving to Virginia with her family in early October. We wish both Phyllis and Kristen all the very best.
- 🌀 Thanks to **Bonnie Snyder** for all her hard work to organize and teach an Assistive Technology Course for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments. Attendees of the June course included: **Kevin O'Brien, Ann Gillmeister, Janet Anderson, Barbara Adams, Megen Nehls, and Kathy Gallina**.
- 🌀 A huge thank you to **Lucia Hasty, Brenda Shepard, and Sarah Sonnier** who worked an unbelievable amount of hours with **Tanni Anthony** in early August to address the materials and procedures of Colorado braille competency testing. Lucia allowed us to virtually live in her house for three days. **Julie Wetzstein**, who was already back in school during this time, provided her consultation via distance delivery.
- 🌀 Thanks to **Janet Anderson** and **Nancy Cozart** for their review time on the 2007-08 Braille-Format CSAP item analysis. You two are a terrific team!
- 🌀 The Braille teacher of the year by the Braille Institute is **James Nezol** Teacher of the Visually Impaired in Willamette Education Service District in Oregon and past CDE State Consultant on Blindness/Visual Impairment! Congratulations, Jim!
- 🌀 Congrats to Anchor Center for Blind Children staff for their recent very successful hosting of the XXVIII International Preschool Seminar. The seminar was held in late August at the center and had close to 40 participants. This staff rocks and their Director **Alice Applebaum** is incredible. Thanks, Anchor staff (**JC, Cathy, Carol P., Carol S., Zoe, Paula, Sarah, Charlotta, Mindy, Jena, Karen R., Karen C., Sheila, Belinda, and Louanne**) Also thanks to **Kay Ferrell** for organizing an amazing tribute dinner.

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