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A CHALLENGE TO ACHIEVE OUR BEST

By Tanni L. Anthony

Welcome to School Year 2009-2010! There will be no other school year just like the one before us. It will unfold with both planned and unplanned events that help to shape the lives of our shared students.

At a recent all-staff meeting, we were treated to a talk by Bill Kurtz of the Denver School of Science and Technology. He talked about the philosophy of his school, which has achieved some very impressive student outcomes. Staff are challenged to achieve the very best and to believe in a larger story that is bigger and beyond ourselves. We each have students who depend on our guidance, vision, and active plans for their life success. Mr. Kurtz encouraged us to celebrate when our results are great and to find the needed support when we are challenged. This is more than looking at the glass half full— it is working to keep the glass completely full.

Please take some time to read through this edition to learn about the many exciting things that will be offered during this school year. Please continue to be in touch with how else we can work together to build systems of support. Let's join together to ensure we celebrate the many good successes along the way and to find the supports needed when there are challenges. Here's to a story that we can be proud of called *School Year 2009-10*.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
 of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
 August—September 2009

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Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

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[HTTP://TVIVIP.Org](http://TVIVIP.Org)

This is the second year that I was funded by the CDE Exceptional Student Leadership Unit to teach a summer technology class for teachers of students who are visually impaired. A year ago, the focus was on JAWS with Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer and freeware. This year our focus was on the DAISY Technology for learners who are blind and visually impaired. In exploring this technology, I found that screen readers in conjunction with a word processor or a browser can do SOME of the same things as DAISY, but DAISY has it all and it is a technology we should be exploring for our students.

The participants in this class included Chloann Woolley, Marci Reid, Holly Guinan, Mimi Schaper, Amy Gunning and Jamie Lugo. We explored several computer DAISY readers, and we looked at and tried out several hardware devices and their DAISY capabilities. Kevin Hughes from Humanware and Jonathan Ross from Accessibility.Net came to our class and demonstrated their products that read DAISY files, as well. In addition we took a look at some really useful pieces of freeware, tried them out and everyone took this freeware home with them. Finally, on the last day, Jim Olson gave us a wonderful day-long presentation on low vision information and devices.

We used the Stone Building computer lab on the CSDB campus, and the lab facilities were terrific. I would like to pass along a heart-felt thanks to CSDB Superintendent Carol Hilty, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Kevyn Brown and School for the Blind Principal Lou Tutt for giving us the full use of the lab for our class and access to one of the dorms for class members who wished to stay over.

On a related note, I will, again this year, be available to provide technology support to you and your students through CDE funding. I will be attempting to do some Webinars as well, and would appreciate suggestions from you all on what subjects you would like the webinars to cover. At the conclusion of the school year, I would like to present a class as I did the last two years and your suggestions for topics to be covered in that class will be greatly appreciated.

Have a wonderful school year, and I hope to see many of you as the year progresses!

Editor's Note: *Feedback on this class was highly positive! It was a great collaborative effort with CSDB. A special thanks to Jim Olson for his course contributions and the provision of some of the needed equipment. The CDE Exceptional Student Leadership Unit is thrilled to have Bonnie back as a technology consultant. If you have technology questions and/or needs some time to meet with Bonnie, please contact her for these arrangements. Visits across the school year will be based on a first-come, first-served basis. Days will be reserved for another summer class, so do be in touch with Bonnie about your ideas for this class.*



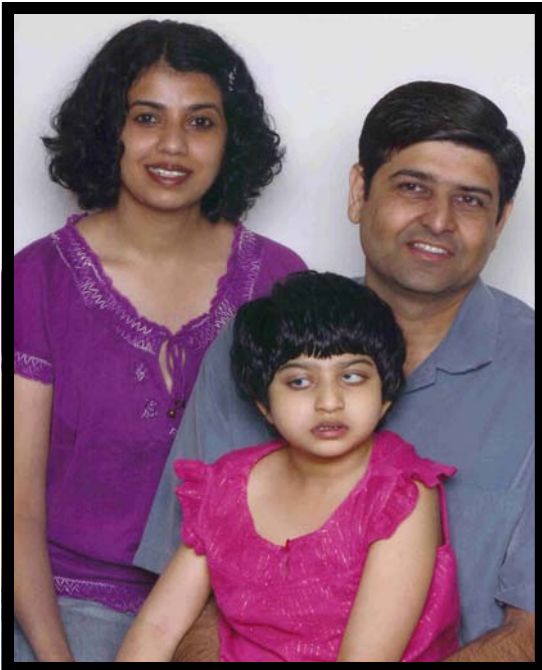
Journey to the Hadley School for the Blind

Thanks to Vicki Pearson for helping to share this important story.

By Supriya Desai.

My family and I are honored to be selected for the Robert J. Winn Family Education Award for 2009. It means a lot to us. The training courses motivate and encourage us to do our best to learn new skills to help our child.

It has been a long road since my daughter's birth. From the first time the doctor's diagnosis of cataracts, recommendation of immediate surgery to remove cataracts to her near-death experience from surgery and discharge from Hospice. It has been the longest struggle of my life.



To encourage my daughter, I have from the start, looked for innovative ways to give therapy with fun. We started getting services from Anchor Center of Denver when Ayushi was six months old. The name of the TVI doing home visits was Charlotte (Morgan) Javier. She informed me about courses offered by Hadley. Soon I contacted Hadley and started doing courses. It was a very difficult path to do anything extra with so much going on. I have done six courses in the last five years and learned many skills including un-contracted Braille. All of the courses were very practical and helpful in different areas. *Reach Out and Teach, Learning Through Play, Social Skills Foundation and Preschool Years, Introduction to Braille*, all of the courses are very special to me and helped me.

Parenting children with multiple disabilities is very special to me because I was the pilot student for this course and it matches with our unique situation because Ayushi is a child with multiple disabilities. Faculties of all these courses not only encouraged me, but also brought my focus to Ayushi's potential. I am so thankful and grateful to each one of them. My daughter's current TVI at Poudre's School District (Fort Collins, CO), Vicki Pearson always encouraged me to continue to learn from Hadley. She has been providing her valuable guidance, tools and confidence to move forward and help Ayushi. She is an extraordinary teacher who goes out of her way to make sure parents acquire knowledge and skills to help their child who has vision impairment.

Hadley courses have taught us how to advocate for our child and how to be a coach for the team of therapists. We appreciate every one who has been working with Ayushi and contributing in Ayushi's progress.

Hadley courses touch every aspect of life with child with visual impairment. Right from the beginning it was helpful to get tips on how to bond and develop social skills. Hadley courses give information about kinds of toys and games to make play time interesting. We have learned to

continued on page 4

taught us how to enhance her likes into very special talents and develop social skills.

We have learned from the courses how to do adaptive changes in our home for better mobility for our daughter. We have kept in our mind to keep appropriate color contrast of wall furniture etc., light arrangements according to her low vision and appropriate landmarks around for independence. Also we have learned to convert every task into small simple steps, which is easy for our daughter to understand and follow.

We are trying to involve our daughter in many activities like swimming, horse riding, music lessons etc. thanks to the tips provided from Hadley courses. In spite of her visual impairment and cerebral palsy, our daughter is able to participate in activities of her age. It is because Hadley has shown us the path that things are possible...it may be little different but it is possible and we have taken that path and enjoying each moment of it. It has made a lot of difference in our lives.

Now in my spare time I make toys for Ayushi from household items, do labels in Braille for her, and convert some of the simple children books into Braille and enjoy music even more as Ayushi loves music so much.

Growing up in central part of India in small town called Neemuch a place called "eye donation capital of India." I have seen some extraordinary people including my father Bhanu Dave advocating for eye donations and providing some help to special needs. As I was interested in Arts, I got in to a bachelors program in Fine Arts. After my bachelors I got my first job in Mumbai and to keep up with the demands of new technologies I had to update my computer skills by learning graphics and animation software. I worked more than five years in the area of Print and Web media in India in Publishing, Advertising and IT Sectors as a Graphic Designer. After my marriage I continued to work in Mumbai. In the year 2000, my husband Ketan and I moved to the US. We have been in living in Colorado for the last seven years. Ayushi was born in Colorado. Last year I served as a board member at Foothills Gateway, which is non-profit organization working for disables of all ages. I still continue to work part time doing freelance work of web and graphic designing from home.

I would certainly tell other parents to do these courses from Hadley as it has countless benefits for the family and the child. It is convenient to do at home at your pace and very easy to understand and follow. All the faculties at Hadley are wonderful and they go above and beyond to help you over come any obstacle. They give very useful tips, suggestions and individual attention to help you in your unique situation.

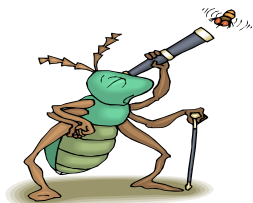
I would like to give my thanks to the award selection committee to select us for this award. I am proud to be a Hadley student.

The Hadley School for the Blind (800)526-9909

Contact: Karen Woodfork

700 Elm Street, Winnetka, IL 60093

woodfork@hadley.edu



LOW VISION NEWS



The CDE Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Schedule

Proposed Clinic Schedule for School Year 2009-2010

Region	Dates	Location	Site Coordinators
Southern	September 18-19, 2009 March 5 and 10, 2010	CSDB in Colorado Springs	Donice Fennimore
Western	September 25-26, 2009	Grand Junction	Sarah Sonnier
Metro	November 12-14, 2009	To be Determined	Nancy Knight
Northern	February 19-20, 2010	Brighton School District	Wendy Stoltman and Danielle Hillebrand



THE TOP FIVE REASONS Why You Should Bring Your Student to the 2009-10 Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

By Dr. Tom Theune

5. **Devices in action** - Your student and family will be able to watch Dr. Theune use many of the devices you have been trying to get him or her to use for a long time.
4. **Be on the cutting edge** - You can try out some of the latest technology for the visually impaired student including Enhanced Vision's "Pebble" portable electronic magnifier, Optelec's "Flex-Arm" 22" electronic magnifier and the largest dome magnifier you have ever seen.
3. **90 minutes of fun and learning** - You get to hang out for 90 minutes with Jim, Donice & Tom and you may try out all sorts of magnifying strategies and ask as many questions as you wish.
2. **Partake in the awesome world of technology** - Your students can read Harry Potter on an electronic book and use a Canon camcorder to read the blackboard.
1. **Reading & Learning in the 21st Century** - Your student and his or her family will interact with a "world" of devices and information that will help them for the rest of their lives.

Low Vision and Blindness Technology Fair

October 1, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Open House schedule so you can visit when it's convenient
2211 W. Evans Avenue, Columbine room, Denver, Colorado

- ◆ Come meet local technology and service providers who serve individuals that are blind and vision impaired.
- ◆ Find out about services and technology that can assist people who are blind and vision impaired.
- ◆ Come try out blindness and low vision assistive technology that can make a difference for accessing work, school and improving independence.
- ◆ Come meet and exchange ideas with people in Colorado who work in the field of blindness and vision impairment.

Vendor Exhibits:

AKB Visions, AGA LLC, Beyond Sight, National Federation of the Blind of Colorado, Recording For the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D), Audio Information Service of Colorado, SansVision Consultants, Freedom Scientific, Team EEI, American Council of the Blind of Colorado. Products displayed will include Freedom Scientific, Telesensory, Humanware, GW Micro, AI Squared, Vision-Tech, Enhanced Vision, and many, many more.

PLEASE JOIN US!

For more information contact:

Julia Zanon 303.866.3562 / julia.zanon@state.co.us

Jason Fayre, 303.866.3509 / jason.fayre@state.co.us

Sponsored by the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).
Admission is free. Registration is not required.

**NOVEMBER 5, 2009
RESOURCE FAIR FOR PARENTS
OF BLIND AND VISUALLY
IMPAIRED CHILDREN**



The Colorado Parents of Blind Children will be hosting a resource fair and educational seminar on November 5, 2009. The event will be held at the Double Tree Hotel at 32nd and Quebec streets in Denver. Parents, teachers and students will be able to speak with representatives from a wide variety of agencies and service providers. Technology providers will offer a “hands on” look at some of the latest technology, such as refreshable Braille notetakers, the Victor Reader Stream, and the KNFB Reader -- a cell phone, document scanner and GPS all rolled into one. In addition, several break-out sessions will involve the participants in discussions of topics of interest to parents of blind children (to be announced). The event will tentatively begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude around 3:00 p.m. and will include lunch. There will be a \$10 registration fee. Please watch for more detailed information as the date gets closer. If you would like to be updated on the seminar and registration information when it is ready, send an e-mail to jhunter@cocenter.org.

Nominations Welcomed to Honor Colorado Teacher of the Year

Nominations for the 2010 Colorado Teacher of the Year are now being taken and will be accepted until Thursday, October 1, 2009.

The annual Colorado Teacher of the Year award has been given since 1963. It was created to recognize the contributions of the classroom teacher to the students he or she teaches and to the continued growth and well-being of the state. The selected Colorado Teacher of the Year is also considered for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

The 2010 Teacher of the Year application can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeawards/download/pdf/2010CTOYApp.pdf>

Nominees must fill out and submit their own applications by Thursday, October 1. An external selection committee will determine the finalists and make a final decision in November when the 2010 Teacher of the Year will be announced.

For More Information, Contact: Deborah Fallin; Phone: 303-837-1500; Email: dfallin@nea.org



THE SEE THE FUTURE FUND
Scholarships for the Blind & Visually Impaired



“Tools for Life” Program—Deadline Approaching!

Application Deadline: October 15, 2009

The Need: A visually impaired or blind student may be highly motivated and highly educated, but without the proper adaptive devices (tools) they are not able to perform to their highest level. Visually impaired and blind students need special “tools” to interact and compete with their sighted peers. Unfortunately, many families can not afford these tools for their children due to their financial situation.

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 & 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 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 or email: twtheune@prodigy.net.

PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS

Dates & Locations—to be Announced

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: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp>



Stargardt's Disease

Information retrieved from the Lighthouse International at www.lighthouse.org/medical/eye-disorders/stargardts-disease/ and from an article by Drs. Richard L. Windsor and Laura K. Windsor retrieved at www.visionww.org/drswindsor-stargardt.htm.

What Is Stargardt's Disease? Stargardt's disease is the most common form of inherited juvenile macular degeneration. It is characterized by a reduction of central vision with a preservation of peripheral (side) vision. Dr. Stargardt first described this condition in 1909. It is a common form of a juvenile macular degeneration. Stargardt's disease may occur in one of every 20,000 children over the age of 6 and is usually diagnosed before the age of 20. Boys and girls are equally affected by this condition. Over 25,000 Americans have Stargardt's disease

Clinical Description: Stargardt's disease, also known as fundus flavimaculatus, is usually diagnosed in individuals under the age of 20 when decreased central vision is first noticed. On examination, the retina of an affected individual shows a macular lesion surrounded by yellow-white flecks, or spots, with irregular shapes. The retina consists of layers of light-sensing cells that line the inner back wall of the eye and are important in normal vision. The macula is found in the center of the retina and is responsible for the fine, detailed central vision used in reading and color vision.

The progression of visual loss is variable. One study of 95 individuals with Stargardt's disease showed that once a visual acuity of 20/40 was reached, there was often rapid progression of additional visual loss until acuity was reduced to 20/200 (legal blindness). By age 50, approximately 50 percent of all those studied had visual acuities of 20/200 or worse. Eventually, almost all individuals with Stargardt's disease are expected to have visual acuities in the range of 20/200 to 20/400. The reduced visual acuity due to Stargardt's disease cannot be corrected with prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses. In late stages of the disease, there may also be noticeable impairment of color vision.

What Causes Stargardt's Disease: In 1997, Foundation Fighting Blindness researchers isolated the gene for Stargardt's disease. The ABCR gene produces a protein involved in energy transport to and from photoreceptor cells in the retina. Mutations in the ABCR gene, which cause Stargardt's disease, produce a dysfunctional protein that cannot perform its transport function. As a result, photoreceptor cells degenerate and vision loss occurs.

Symptoms

- ◆ Bilateral, decreased central vision in childhood or young adulthood;
- ◆ Visual acuity may start at the 20/40 level and later decline to 20/200 or slightly worse. Stargardt's disease may first be detected by a mild loss of visual acuity (sharpness of vision). In the early stages, the person's vision may be near normal. Visual acuity measurements may also vary due to the effects of light exposure and one should not be alarmed if your visual acuity varies on each test. The majority of Stargardt's patients have visual acuities from 20/100 to 20/400.

Continued on page 10

- ◆ Central scotoma (blind spot in central vision). Stargardt's disease creates central blindspots that increase in size as the disease progresses. Individuals often learn to turn their eyes in a specific direction to work to see around the blindspots. This is called eccentric viewing.
- ◆ Blind Spots: As Stargardt's disease progresses, individuals may experience small areas of vision loss or blind spots. As images fall upon the damaged areas of the retina, objects may disappear and reappear causing a come and go effect.
- ◆ Abnormal color vision: The condition eventually damages the macular area where cone or color vision cells are. Color vision declines as the disease progresses, but individuals with Stargardt's disease usually maintain a significant amount of color vision
- ◆ Photophobia -- an abnormal visual intolerance of light
- ◆ Night blindness and Poor Light/Dark Adaptation: Children with this condition may report difficulty adapting to the dark after sunlight exposure. Light striking our retina causes chemical reactions to occur in the rods and the cones. When exposed to bright sunlight, the retina may become bleached by the light and the sharpness of vision may decrease and blind spots may become denser. These are temporary conditions, but can be prevented or lessened by use of sun filters and hats.
- ◆ Reduced Depth Perception: Depth perception requires good vision in both eyes. Anything that decreases vision in one or both eyes will affect depth perception.

Diagnosis: At the beginning stage of the disease, the retina may appear normal upon routine examination. As the disease progresses, clinical signs of the condition can be viewed with ophthalmoscopy. Your ophthalmologist or retinal specialist may perform additional common diagnostic procedures -- visual acuity tests, color vision testing, the Amsler grid test or an automated macular field test to assess vision. Other tests may also be ordered, such as an electrodiagnostic test to examine macular function.

As with macular degeneration patients, fluorescein angiography may be necessary to document the pattern of blood vessels and determine whether dye leaks from the vessels. A doctor can determine which areas of the macula are damaged and whether there are abnormal blood vessels to be treated.

Stargardt's disease, an early-onset form of macular degeneration, is an inherited disease. The condition is programmed into one's cells at conception. It is not caused by injury, infection or exposure to a toxic agent.

Educational Recommendations: The Foundation Fighting Blindness strongly recommends that patients with Stargardt's disease wear brimmed hats or visors and sunglasses when outdoors. Low vision devices and orientation mobility services are recommended. A certified teacher of students with visual impairments will provide more details on an individual learner's educational needs.

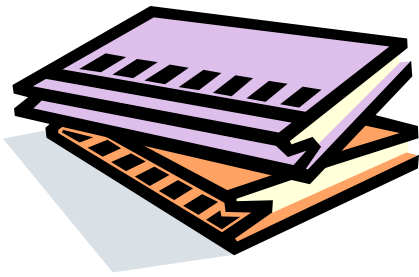
Resources on Stargardt's Disease

- ◆ Fact Sheet - <http://www.visionaustralia.org.au/info.aspx?page=598>
- ◆ Foundation Fighting Blindness Webpage specific to Stargardt's Disease :
http://www.blindness.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=74
- ◆ FamilyConnect Stargardt's Disease Forum:
http://www.familyconnect.org/message_board_subjects.asp?FolderID=68

Resources and Materials

NEW INFOMERCIAL NOW AVAILABLE AT APH PRODUCTS A new audio enhanced PowerPoint presentation, (<http://www.aph.org/products/brailleur/index.htm>), is available on the American Printing House for the Blind website under the heading of Products. This joint effort of Perkins and APH is designed to assist you in understanding the operating differences between the "Classic" Perkins brailleur and the new Perkins/APH "Next Generation" brailleur

BOOKS ON DISABILITY Disabilities Books is an on-line book seller that offers resources for adults with disabilities, families of disabled children, and professionals who work with people who are disabled. One available book is, "You Will Dream New Dreams: Inspiring Personal Stories by Parents of Children with Disabilities." This is a collection of over 60 short essays by "veteran" parents of children with disabilities who were asked to write the stories they wish they had heard when they received their child's diagnosis. Another sample of their inventory is "Reflections from a Different Journey: What Adults with



Disabilities Wish All Parents Knew," which is a collection of 40 inspiring short essays by successful adults with different disabilities. Essay authors were asked to write about something they wished their own parents had read or been told while they were growing up. To review their entire collection, visit www.disabilitiesbooks.com or call (617) 879-0397.

UPDATED STANDARDS FOR AUDIO DESCRIPTION The Audio Description Coalition has published the third edition of its Standards for Audio Description and Code of Professional Conduct for Describers. This edition includes the new standards unique to dance description and to opera description. The Audio Description Coalition Standards and Code of Conduct is free to download at www.AudioDescriptionCoalition.org.

ACCESSING THE IPOD National Braille Press has recently released Using the Accessible iPod, by Anna Dresner. This book walks you through the few simple steps it takes to make every feature on the iPod Shuffle and most features on the Nano accessible for people who are visually impaired. The included iPods are the fourth generation Nano and the second and third generation Shuffles. You can order this book in braille, PortaBook, ASCII text/Word, or DAISY format for \$15 by calling NBP at 1-800-548-7323; e-mailing orders@nbp.org; or visiting www.nbp.org.



Resources and Materials

Four New Downloadable APH Product Manuals

The American Printing House for the Blind offers a growing list of product manuals available for free download (www.aph.org/manuals/). You may print or emboss these as needed. We will continue to package hard copies of these manuals with their products and sell hard copy replacements. If you purchase one of these manuals it will be considered a special order product and will normally be shipped within three weeks. The following braille edition manuals are now available for free download (.brf files):

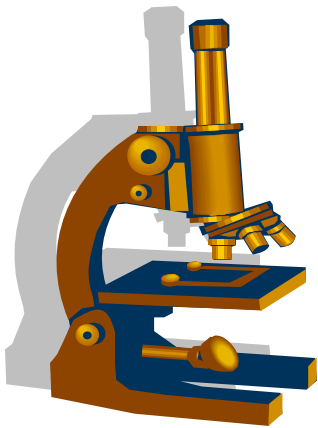
Beginner's Abacus Guidebook: 5-03180-00

IntelliTactiles: Pre-Braille Concepts User's Guide: 5-08516-01

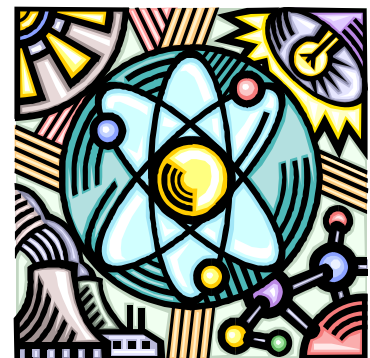
Basic Science Tactile Graphics: 5-08850-00

Teaching Touch Manual: 5-08861-00

NEW ONLINE SCIENCE TOOL



The Perkins School for the Blind has launched a new online tool for teaching science to children who are visually impaired. The site includes: a video webcast, illustrated classroom activities, product suggestions, and links to online and hard copy resource materials. The first on-demand educational webcast is, Making Life Sciences Accessible to Students with Visual Impairments." The video outlines how to make science lessons and activities accessible through practical adaptations. Future webcasts will focus on other specific fields of science education. This resources can be accessed at www.perkins.org/accessiblescience.





TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH WHO ARE BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED: AN ONLINE EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION PROGRAM

Attention seniors or recent graduates from high school OR seniors or recent graduates from college who want a job. Mississippi State has a program for you that is being offered online, and it's free! We know that youth who are blind or visually impaired often have difficulty finding employment, and we want to help by providing a program that specifically focuses on identifying the right job for you and the steps to take to find that job. The program will last 8 weeks, beginning in the Fall of 2009 or the Winter of 2010.

Interested? Please contact the Research and Training Center on Blindness and Low Vision at Mississippi State University at their website--<http://www2.blind.msstate.edu>, or contact Lynda Goleman at 800/675-7782 or lgoleman@colled.msstate.edu.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 2010 SESSION –

The International Institute for Social Entrepreneurs, located in Kerala, India, founded by Braille Without Borders (BWB) offers full scholarships and transport to qualified, motivated candidates with blindness or partial sight to participate in a one-year course, which covers business management, communication, project and financial planning, open source computer technology, English, public speaking, and fund-raising, among other subjects. The institute is now accepting applications for the course beginning January, 2010. Candidates from all over the world who are at least eighteen and older and who can read and write English are invited to apply for this one-year program before the 30th of June. For more information please visit the website at <http://www.bwb-iise.org>.

COLLEGE ACCESSIBILITY CONFERENCE

Disability Services at the University of Colorado at Boulder will host the 12th annual Accessing Higher Ground: Accessible Media, Web and Technology Conference for Education, for Businesses, for Web and Media Designers the week of Nov. 10-14, 2009. The conference will focus on the implementation and benefits of assistive technology in the university and college setting for people with sensory, physical and learning disabilities. Other topics include legal and policy issues, including ADA and 508 compliance, and making campus media, web pages and library resources accessible. You can learn more by visiting www.colorado.edu/ATconference.

SAVE THE DATE



Getting In Touch With Literacy Conference
The Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa
Located in Southern California

November 12–15, 2009

Look for more information soon on our web site!

www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.com

COSTA MESA, CA

BRILLE TRANSCRIBER'S MENTOR PROJECT

With the goal of increasing the number of certified Braille transcribers who can produce quality materials for Colorado school students who read Braille, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Exceptional Student Leadership Unit has once again funded the Braille Transcriber's Mentor Project. This mentor project, coordinated by the Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC), allows experienced transcribers to mentor Colorado residents who are enrolled in the literary Braille transcribing course through the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (NLS) and the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute. Upon successful completion of the course, participants receive a Library of Congress certificate in literary Braille transcribing.

The CIMC attempts to pair mentors and mentees in similar geographical areas to allow for personal mentoring opportunities. Applications for the literary Braille transcribing course are available online at www.nfb.org. The course and the new 5th edition instructional manuals are provided free of charge.

NEW 5TH EDITION MANUALS AVAILABLE!

"Instructional Manual for Braille Transcribing"

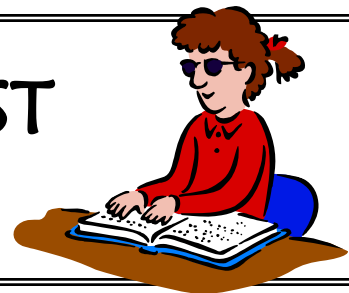
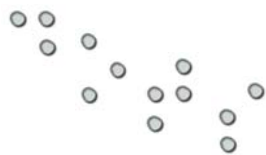
5th Edition complete manual, © 2009, available online (pdf version) (www.nfb.org)

"Drills Reproduced in Braille"

5th Edition Drills, ©2009 available online (pdf version) (www.nfb.org)

For more information contact Jim Olson
at the Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)
at (719) 578-2195 or jolson@csdb.org

DOTS OF INTEREST



Braille is NOT a Language

Diane P. Wormsley, Ph.D.

A Position Statement of the Braille Authority of North America Adopted November 8, 2008

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) often receives requests to verify the status of braille as a language, in order that students may use it to qualify for language credit at high schools and sometimes colleges. It is the position of BANA that braille is not a language but a code. While BANA applauds high schools and colleges which wish to give credit for learning braille, it cannot accept the premise that braille is a language.

In *Foundations of Braille Literacy*, Rex et.al (1994) state, "Braille is *not* a language; since it is a portrayal of print, with special rules and multiple uses of each sign (configuration), it is a code. English is the language, one that can be conveyed in any number of ways as long as the code is systematic and is agreed to by those who use it" (pp. 30-31). In fact, the language does not need to be English. Any language can be conveyed in braille, and numerous languages around the world are reproduced in braille with the code differing, of course, based upon the language being encoded.

Perhaps those who assert that braille is a language are confused about the status of braille relative to American Sign Language. ASL is so often associated in people's minds with braille, possibly because of their familiarity with Helen Keller, who used both braille and ASL due to her Deaf-blindness. However, while ASL meets the definition of a language, it is generally arbitrary in the use of signs, and uses complex syntax (Comrie, 2008), whereas braille does not.

Languages have the major components of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics (Comrie, 2008). Braille is developed and concerned with the representation of the symbols used in print. To call braille a language would be comparable to calling "print" a language. Print and braille are similar in that each reproduces the various sounds of language to represent speech, but neither is a language.

Another indication that braille should not be considered a language is found in consulting the *Ethnologue*, a comprehensive listing of the known living languages of the world, compiled by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (Gordon, 2005). Braille is not included in the *Ethnologue* as a separate language but is mentioned under the heading of "Blind population" with the comment that "information about the availability of braille codes and braille literature is given under specific languages." This confirms the connection of braille as a code to specific languages, rather than as a language by itself.

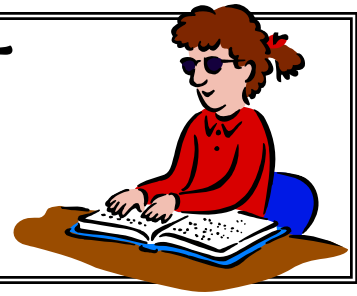
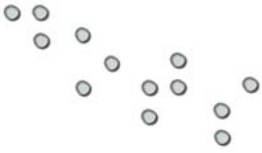
Comrie, B. (2008). Language. MSN Encarta Encyclopedia. Retrieved May 5, 2008 from http://encarta.msn.com/text_761570647___0/Language.html

Gordon, R. G. (ed). (2005). *Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Fifteenth Edition*. Dallas, Tex: SIL International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com/> Retrieved on September 28, 2006 from http://www.ethnologue.com/ethno_docs/introduction.asp

Rex, E. J., Koenig, A.J., Wormsley, D.P. & Baker, R. L. (1994). *Foundations of braille literacy*. New York: AFB Press.

Article retrieved from the BANA website at <http://www.brailleauthority.org/> on June 30, 2009.

DOTS OF INTEREST



Braille Slate Pals



Slate Pals is a program for children in grades K-12 that matches students who want Braille pen pals. The program is sponsored by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and is available, free of charge, to children around the world.

Slate Pals enables children who are blind to correspond with one another in Braille. It also finds blind pen pals for sighted children who are interested in learning the Braille code.

Slate Pal requests have come from all fifty states and most of the Canadian provinces. They have also received requests for Slate Pals from many nations overseas, including Taiwan, South Africa, Denmark, Hungary, Uganda, El Salvador, Germany, Australia, and Great Britain. In matching Slate Pals the primary considerations are age range, gender, and interests. They try to match each prospective Slate Pal with someone who lives in a distinctly different geographic locale.

If you have a child or student who would like one or more Slate Pals, please contact Debbie Kent Stein at 5817 North Nina Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631; Phone: (773) 631-1093 • Fax: (773) 792-8245 • E-mail: dkent5817@att.net

Interested persons can receive a free copy of the CD of Louis Braille's 1829 book, The CD contains page images of the book, a transcription of the French text, and a translation into English. You can request a copy with an e-mail to jtblibrary@nfb.org. Please be sure to include a mailing address.



DOTS OF INTEREST



Braille Is Beautiful

Building a Bridge of Understanding between Sighted and Blind Children

Braille Is Beautiful is a diversity awareness program that uses the beauty of Braille to build a bridge of understanding between sighted and blind children. As sighted children discover how much fun it is to write and read Braille “bumps,” they come to respect and appreciate the way blind children learn, and ultimately accept them as friends and equals in the classroom.

Developed and distributed by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Jernigan Institute, the program targets sighted children in grades four through six, but can be adapted for younger or older youth. *Braille Is Beautiful* can be used in the classroom or with youth clubs and service organizations. The program provides all the audio, print, and Braille materials needed for an exceptional learning experience. *Braille Is Beautiful* comes in three different kits to fit different budgets and instructional needs. Portions of the program are also FREE on the NFB Web site, www.Braille.org.

Teacher’s Guide Economy Kit: \$35 plus s/h includes *Braille Is Beautiful Teacher’s Guide* in a loose-leaf binder (a 100-page guide is structured in five units with a variety of learning formats such as interactive games, word puzzles, quizzes, applied projects, discussion questions, etc.), 100 Braille alphabet cards, 1 slate and stylus for writing (embossing) Braille dots, 25 copies of the paperback booklet, *The World Under My Finger: Personal Reflections on Braille, Second Edition*, and 1 master copy of a student instruction book and a workbook. Parts of the program can be used together or alone.

Audiovisual Kit: \$25 plus s/h includes *Jake and the Secret Code* (running time: 15 minutes) 1 DVD, 1 video cassette (Jake, a sighted 4th grader, visits the National Center for the Blind with his mom and learns about a wonderful “secret code” which allows the blind to read with their fingers, audience: children ages 8 and up), *That the Blind May Read* (running time: 17 minutes) 1 video cassette (A documentary about the Braille literacy crisis featuring interviews with Braille illiterate blind adults. Audience: older students and adults), Audiovisual Discussion Guide, Braille Writing Demonstration Guide, 1 slate and stylus, and 1 Braille alphabet card.

Curriculum Program Kit: \$250 plus s/h including *Braille Is Beautiful Teacher’s Guide* in a loose-leaf binder, Audiovisual Kit, *The Slate Book* (a teacher’s manual for the slate and stylus), Service Guide (ideas and instructions on how to complete a Braille service project), 100 Braille alphabet cards, 25 slates and styli for writing (embossing) Braille dots, 25 sets of the student instruction book and workbook, 1 ream of Braille paper, Plastic adhesive Braille labeling sheets (for a service project), 50 paperback books with stories by and about real blind people, 25 copies of the paperback booklet, and *The World Under My Finger: Personal Reflections on Braille, Second Edition*. Note: Contents are subject to revision and may change without notice.

Braille Is Beautiful is available from the INDEPENDENCE MARKET
National Federation of the Blind, 1800 Johnson Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230
Phone: (410) 659-9314, Fax:(410) 685-2340
E-mail: IndependenceMarket@nfb.org
Web site: http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Independence_Market.asp



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. If you know of an anticipated opening in your part of the state, please begin working to recruit someone into our field by ensuring he or she has an opportunity to learn about being a TVI and/or an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. This may be a paraeducator, a brailist, and/or a colleague already in the teaching profession. Please work with Dr. Paula Conroy to learn more about the UNC distance education / graduate program to prepare TVIs and O&M Specialists in Colorado!

Jobs for School Year 2009-2010

TVI = teacher certified in the area of visual impairment.

COMS = certified orientation and mobility specialist

Metro Region

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (.5—1 FTE): Contact Ann Marie Jansen of Adams 12 District in Northglenn at (720) 972-4789 or annmarie.jansen@adams12.org for more information.
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1 FTE): Contact Dixie Periman of Cherry Creek School District at (720) 554-4250 or dperiman@cherrycreekschools.org for more information.
- ✓ **TVI as Lead in a Preschool Classroom** (1 FTE): Contact Alice Applebaum of the Anchor Center for Blind Children, Denver at aapplebaum@anchorcenter.org or (303) 377-9732 x113

Southern Region

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1. FTE): Contact Kim Lovelace at LOVELKM@D11.ORG in El Paso 11 District in Colorado Springs for more information.
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (.1FTE or five hours a week for 2010-2011): Contact Debi Blackwell of Canon City Schools at BLACKWD@canoncityschools.org for more information.





Calendar of Events

2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009

- September 3** **Southern TVI Meeting** - CSDB/CIMC (Reading Eye Reports) - Colorado Springs
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- September 17** **Vision Coalition** - CO Rehab Services Office in Denver
Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- September 18 - 19** **CDE Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Site Coordinator Donice Fennimore at dfennimore@csdb.org
- September 25** **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Educator's Conference** - Parker CO
Contact: Sharon Thorson at (303) 805-2502 or thorfam@rmi.net
- September 25 - 26** **CDE Western Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - Grand Junction
Contact: Sarah Sonnier at ssonnier@mesa.k12.co.us
- October 1** **Low Vision and Blindness Technology Fair** - Denver
Contact: Julia Zanon at julia.zanon@state.co.us
- October 7** **Southern TVI Meeting** - CSDB/CIMC (IEP-1 Goals & Objectives) - CO Springs
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- October 15 - 17** **APH Annual Meeting** - Louisville KY
Contact: American Printing House for the Blind—www.aph.org
- October 15 - 17** **27th Annual Closing The Gap Conference, AT in Special Education** - Minneapolis MN
Contact: Closing The Gap—www.closingthegap.com
- October 29 - 31** **Colorado State Conference on Visual Impairment** - Denver CO
Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- November 5** **Resource Fair for Parents of Blind and Visually Impaired Children** - Denver
Contact: Colorado Parents of Blind Children at jhunter@cocenter.org
- November 5-8** **55th Annual National Federation of the Blind Convention**—Denver
Contact: Scott LaBarre at 303 504-5979 or slabarre@nfbco.org
- November 12 - 14** **CDE Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic**
Contact: Site Coordinator Nancy Knight at nknight@lps.k12.co.us

More Calendar of Events

2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009

- November 12 - 15** **Getting In Touch with Literacy Conference** - Costa Mesa CA
Visit: www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.com
- November 13 - 15** **AER Regional Conference** - Cleveland, OH
Visit: www.aerbvi.com
- November 17** **Accessible Math and Tactile Graphics Workshop** – CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Kevin Hughes at kevin.hughes@humanware.com
- November 18** **Accessible Math and Tactile Graphics Workshop** – Anchor Center, Denver
Contact: Kevin Hughes at kevin.hughes@humanware.com
- November 19** **Accessible Math and Tactile Graphics Workshop** – JeffCo School District
Contact: Kevin Hughes at kevin.hughes@humanware.com
- November 25** **Last day to order a Large Print or Braille CSAP**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- December 14** **National Instructional Partnership Workshop on Administering and Scoring the Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement for Braille Readers** - Phoenix, AZ
Contact: www.aph.org/tests

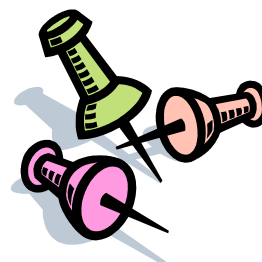
2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

- January 4 - February 2** **Assessment Window for CELApro**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- January 13** **Southern TVI Meeting** - CSDB/CIMC (New APH product “In Focus”) - CO Springs
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- February 1 - 12** **Early Assessment Window for CSAP Grade 3 Reading and Lectura**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- February 3 - March 26** **Assessment Window for CSAPA (All grades)**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- February 11** **Southern TVI Meeting** - CSDB/CIMC (Make’n’Take feat) - CO Springs
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- February 5** **Braille Challenge** - CSDB in Colorado Springs
Contact: Randy Witte at rwitte@csdb.org
- February 16 - 26** **Assessment Window for CSAP Grade 3 Reading and Lectura**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)

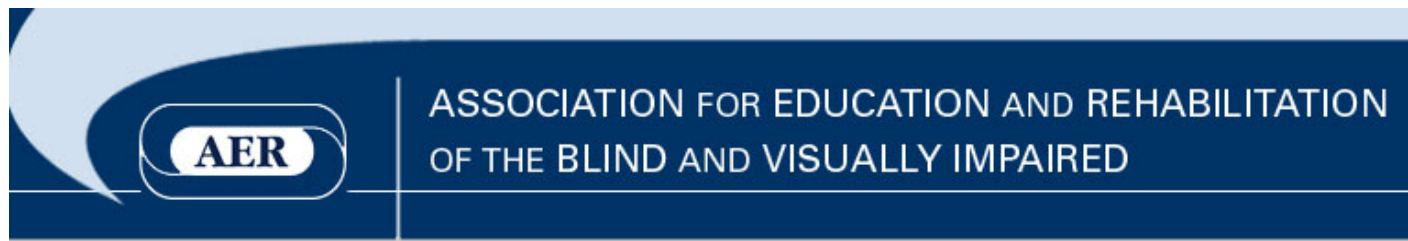
More Calendar of Events

2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

- February 19 - 20** **CDE Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - TBD
Contact: Site Coordinators Wendy Stoltman at wstoltman@sd27j.org and Danielle Hillebrand at dmcgrath@sd27j.org
- March 1 - April 2** **Early Assessment Window for CSAP Grade 3 Writing and Grades 4-10**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- March 5** **CDE Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Site Coordinator Donice Fennimore at dfennimore@csdb.org
- March 8 - April 9** **Assessment Window for CSAP Grade 3 Writing and Grades 4-10**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- March 10** **CDE Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Site Coordinator Donice Fennimore at dfennimore@csdb.org
- April 13** **Southern TVI Meeting** - CSDB/CIMC (Case studies, video assessment)
Colorado Springs CO Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- April 22 - 24** **Council for Exceptional Children's Convention and Expo** - Nashville, TN
Visit: CEC at www.cec.sped.org
- April 28** **Assessment Window for COACT State Test Date**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- May 5** **Southern TVI Meeting** - CSDB/CIMC (APH Updates, paras invited) - CO Springs
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- May 12** **Assessment Window for COACT Makeup**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- June 14 - 15** **Colorado Assistive Technology Symposium**
Contact: www.uchsc.edu/atp/index.html
- June 27 - 30** **International Society for Technology in Education (formerly the National Education Computing Conference)** - Denver Convention Center, CO
Visit: <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/2010/>
- July 20 - 25** **AER International Conference** - Little Rock, AR
Visit: www.aer.bvi.org
- August 9 - 13** **World ICEVI Conference**— Jomtein, Thailand
Visit: www.icevi.org



It's Back to School Time at AER!



Take Advantage of AER Member Discounts and Special Offers

Mental training improves the brain, according to a brain-training expert. And Fall is the ideal time of year to get back on a mental workout schedule with AER books and online professional development courses.

Check Out These Back-to-School Specials on AER Books

- ≈ Buy **Preschool Orientation and Mobility Screening**, get **The Family of Owen M.** at half price.
- ≈ 50% off on **A Parent Perspective on Schools for Students Who are Blind and Visually Impaired.**
- ≈ 25% off on **My Maggie** by sportscaster Rich King.
- ≈ And introducing...**Words in My Hands** by Diane Chambers. The story of an 86-year-old deaf-blind pianist who discovers a new life through tactile sign language. An excellent resource for educators, rehabilitation counselors and others who work with those who are deaf, blind, elderly, or disabled.
- ≈ Also new -- a CD version of the popular **Computerized Nemeth Code Tutor.**

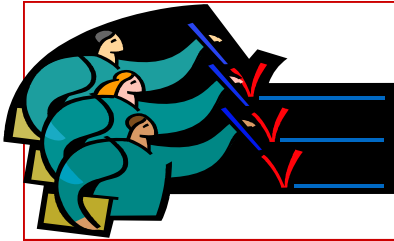
Discounts valid through September 30, 2009. Take advantage of these special offers and also get **free handling** through September 30! See more available titles in our **online catalog (www.aerbvi.org/store.pubs.htm)**, including textbooks from AER and AFB.

Professional Development

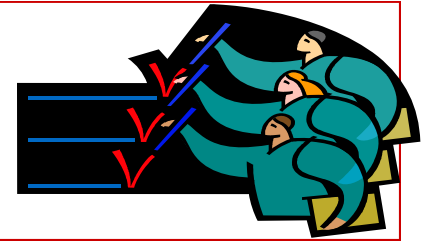
There are more than 200 hours of AER International Conference presentations available on the Web at the low member price of \$25 per hour, covering topics such as Orientation & Mobility, Itinerant Teaching, Adult Services, Low Vision, Info & Technology, Deafblind, Vocational Rehab, and many more.

Go to <http://aer.confex.com/aer/2008/webprogramquiz/start.html> and sign up today. Or, take any course, anytime if you purchased the All-Access CE Pass in the summer of 2008.

Questions about books or professional development? Send an e-mail to aer@aerbvi.org or call **877-492-2708** or **703-671-4500**.



CHECK IT OUT!



13TH WORLD CONFERENCE – INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION

The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment's (ICEVH) 13th World Conference will be held at the Hotel Ambassador City, Jomtien, Thailand from 9th - 13th August 2010. While the main conference will be held from the 9th - 12th, the General Assembly will be held on the forenoon of the 13th. The host committee, which consists of the Thai Blind Union and the Foundation for the Employment Promotion of the Blind (FEPB), has negotiated with the hotel to provide affordable prices for the participants of the conference. Please log onto www.icevi.org to learn more about the world conference.

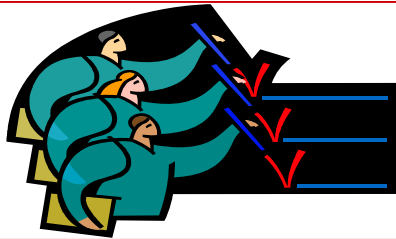
13TH WORLD CONFERENCE – CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVH) is inviting abstracts for oral presentation and posters at its 13th World Conference. The topic of the conference is "Education for All Children with Visual Impairment: Challenges and Strategies," and the presentations may fall under 16 major themes. Please visit their website www.icevi.org to learn more about the conference themes and the topics under which you can make presentations. In addition to the plenary, poster, and concurrent sessions, the conference will host 10 focus-day sessions on specific areas of interest and we also encourage you to take advantage of one of the focus-day sessions. During the Conference there will be dedicated sessions for poster presentations, an ideal way to present projects and outcomes of research. The last date for the submission of abstracts is **31st October 2009**.

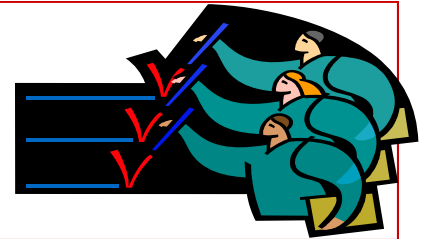


APH PRODUCT INFORMATION

The American Printing House for the Blind is beginning to "populate" their website with product infomercials. Of particular interest at this time is the video/power point that provides "Quick Start" instructions for operating the new APH Perkins Braille found here: <http://www.aph.org/products/braille/index.htm>. Other short videos can be found on their website, www.aph.org, under the heading *Products*.



CHECK IT OUT!



Perkins Training & Educational Resources Program presents:

ACCESSIBLE SCIENCE WEBCAST AND PILOT WEBSITE

This webcast is the first in a series focused on specific fields within science education. Perkins Science Teacher Kate Fraser outlines teaching strategies and adaptations to make science lessons and activities accessible to students who are visually impaired.

The webcast goes along with the debut of a pilot which features activity plans, product tips, materials, and other resources for science teachers working with students who are visually impaired. Check it out at www.perkins.org/accessiblescience

CHARGE SYNDROME WEBCAST: AN OVERVIEW

In this webcast, Pamela Ryan, Perkins School Psychologist, offers an overview of the characteristic features of CHARGE Syndrome and discusses the very diverse ways these features may manifest themselves in children. She talks about some of the early medical complications that many children face and how these issues affect development and learning. Check it out at: www.perkins.org/webcasts



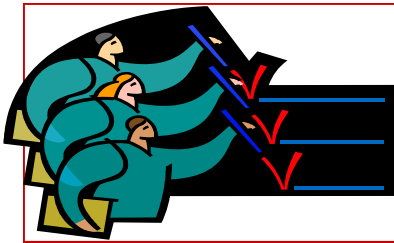
Closing The Gap
OCTOBER 15-17, 2009
Preconference Workshops
October 13-14, 2009
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

**Assistive Technology in
Special Education and Rehabilitation**

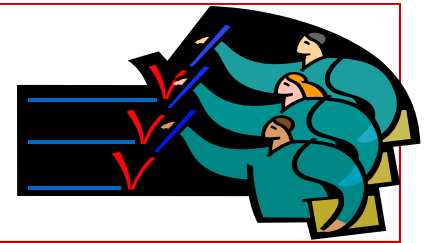
- 25 PRECONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
- OVER 200 PRESENTATIONS
- COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS

Hailed as the most practical and best educational AT conference in North America, this conference is for speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, teachers and other professionals interested in finding practical and readily available AT solutions for ALL disabilities, mild to significant, infant through adult! The complete event includes 25 day-long, in-depth, preconference workshops on two days (October 13-14), followed by three days (October 15-17) of one- and two-hour presentations, state-of-the-art commercial exhibits and hands-on opportunities. CEUs and academic credit are available; early registration (by June 30th), group, student and parent discounts all apply.

Updated information is available here: www.closingthegap.com.



CHECK IT OUT!



Field Evaluators Needed for APH Product

APH is currently seeking field evaluators for Feel n' Peel Textured Sheets, a package of 8.5 x 11 sheets in a variety of colors and textures that can be used by teachers, parents, and students to make collage tactile displays; construct or adapt games and storybooks; design worksheets and matching activities; label/mark personal belongings; create tactile artwork; and much more. The rough and bumpy translucent sheets can be used underneath coloring pages as a child colors to achieve a textured surface, or can be used in combination with a light box. If you are interested in being considered as a field test evaluator, please contact Karen Poppe, Tactile Graphics Project Leader, at kpoppe@aph.org or 800/223-1839, ext. 322 for more information.



Helpful Resources for Estimates of Visually Impaired Children

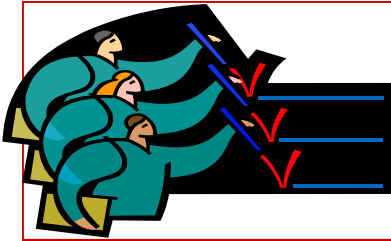
The Federal Child Count, a statutory provision of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act conducted by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), renders a considerable number of students with educationally significant visual impairments systematically invisible. Because the count is based upon a primary disability category model, students who have disabilities in addition to visual impairment are often not represented as having a visual impairment in OSEP's annual report to Congress.

Using other sources of information, such as the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), the magnitude of the issue is obvious. APH conducts an annual count of students who are legally blind. As such, the APH count is a more restrictive count than the OSEP count. Yet, the APH count consistently reports numbers that are more than twice that of the OSEP count. For example, in 2004, APH reported 56,700 students who were legally blind and receiving services, while the OSEP count reported there were only 25,500 students who were visually impaired and receiving services.

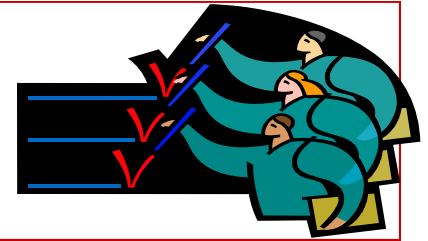
A sign on letter was sent to the U.S. Secretary of Education last week articulating this issue and requesting assistance in solving this persistent problem affecting special education services for blind and visually impaired students.

Individuals are welcome to use the text of this letter in their own advocacy work. The text of the letter is posted on the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) web site at www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=3&TopicID=138&DocumentID=4756. The letter was endorsed by 160 individuals and organizations across 40 states.

An additional resource pertaining to the issue is located at www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=3&TopicID=377&SubTopicID=119&DocumentID=3350. This document compares the OSEP and APH estimates of children who are severely visually impaired over a thirty year time period. For further information contact Dr. Stacy Kelly, COMS, Policy Research Associate at 202-822-0835 or skelly@afb.net.



CHECK IT OUT!



Call for Manuscripts!

AER Journal: Research and Practice in Visual Impairment and Blindness

Special AER Journal Theme Issue

- Do you work with children or adults who are deafblind?

- Do you conduct research involving persons with this dual disability?

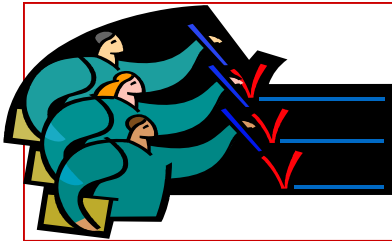
Consider submitting an article on your research or practice for the AER Journal's Special Theme Issue 2010: Issues in Services to People who are Deafblind. Deafblindness creates challenges in communication, education and rehabilitation, as well as significant rewards. Professionals find there is only limited information in the research literature that applies to the work they do with people of all ages who are deafblind or who are losing both hearing and vision simultaneously due to their age. This issue aims to fill that gap.

Manuscript submission deadline: January 31, 2010. Publication date: August 2010.

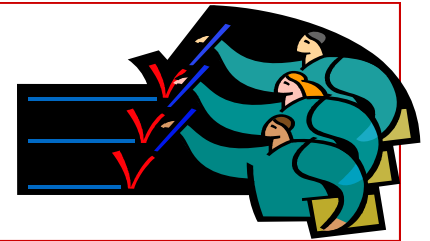
Visit www.aerbvi.org for submission information.

HADLEY PARTNERS WITH UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY The Hadley School for the Blind is partnering with Utah State University (USU) to offer four college-level courses in blindness studies starting in the fall of 2009. Credits can be used toward associate's, bachelor's or master's degrees. The courses will include: Introduction to Blindness and Visual Impairment, The Human Eye and Visual System, Introduction to Braille, and The Role of Paraeducators with Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Two additional courses, Introduction to Multiple Disabilities and Introduction to Low Vision, will be available in spring 2010. To learn more about enrolling in USU/Hadley, please contact Linda Alsop at linda.alsop@usu.edu or (435) 797-5598. To take courses on a non-credit basis, contact Fran Payne at fran.payne@usu.edu or (435) 797-5591.

RFB&D EXPANDS SERVICES Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D) now offers all of its more than 50,000 textbooks on-line in AudioPlus DAISY format. They feature full navigation, bookmarking and the variable speed control of DAISY-accessible audio books. Downloaded books can be played on a PC, transferred to the memory of a specialized DAISY player or burned to a CD to be played with a DAISY CD player. For complete technical requirements and specifications, visit www.rfbd.org/audioplus. Additionally, all RFB&D members now have direct access to 24/7 member service support online or on the phone. This service includes full membership and program support, book catalog support, technical support with equipment operation and audio book download support for all RFB&D products.



CHECK IT OUT!

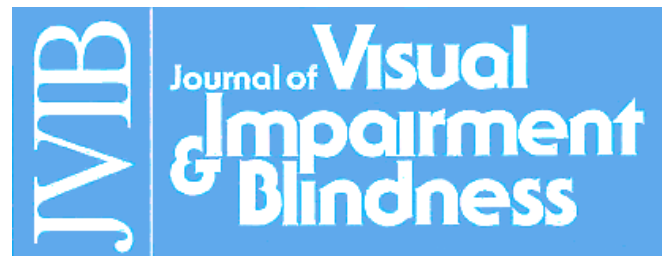


Information from NEI and the Healthy Vision Community Awards

Applications for the 2010 funding cycle for the National Eye Institute's Healthy Vision Community Awards Program will be available the end of June. To learn more about the program and how funds can be used, visit the AER Web site at www.aerbvi.org.

New, reduced individual subscription rate for JVIB is now available!

The Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB), the leading journal in the area of blindness and low vision, just became more affordable! For only \$65 you'll get a 12 print issues of the journal and online access to more than 10 years of content. Online subscriptions are just \$25. For over 100 years, JVIB has been the most reliable source for the latest in cutting-edge research,



best practices, technology and news in the visual impairment field. www.afb.org/jvibspecial.asp

Woodcock-Johnson III Workshop Rescheduled

A National Instructional Partnership (NIP) Workshop on "Administering and Scoring the Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement (WJ III ACH) for Braille Readers" has been rescheduled for Friday, December 4 and Saturday, December 5, 2009. The audiences for this workshop are psychologists, educational diagnosticians, teachers of visually impaired individuals, and graduate students in visual impairment or psychology programs.

This 2-day event will be conducted at the Desert Valleys Regional Cooperative in Phoenix, Arizona. The instructor will be Dr. Lynne Jaffe. Dr. Jaffe is an educational consultant, WJ III trainer, and adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation and School Psychology at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Dr. Jaffe retired in 2007 as a member of the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind statewide assessment team.



Day 1 will focus on administration and scoring of the regular print WJ III ACH and interpretation of scores; Day 1 is required for examiners who have not had this training. Day 2 will focus on administration of the WJ III ACH: Braille Adaptation, working with an ancillary examiner (a non-braille reader working with a braille reader), and special considerations and cautions when testing individuals who are blind.

Visit www.aph.org/tests/ for updated information and a registration form.

NFB Conference in Colorado

The Convention will kick off with the 5th annual Seniors Possibilities Fair and first ever Youth Fair, Thursday morning, November 5. NFB is calling this a *Fair for All*, because there is no generation gap when it comes to the pressing issues facing the blind of all ages. Hundreds of blind/visually impaired seniors and youth, their friends, family, and related professionals will learn about services, products, and possibilities available to them. In addition to the customary room full of exhibitors and service providers and a luncheon featuring a keynote address, this year's Fair will include breakout sessions targeted to specific topics and groups.

General Convention sessions will start Friday morning, November 6 and last through noon on November 8, 2009. Several breakout sessions will occur, concentrating on special topic areas and interest groups. Please contact NFBCO president Scott LaBarre at 303 504-5979 or slabarre@nfbco.org if you would like to be an exhibitor or if you would like more details generally.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, (RFB&D)—Audio Textbooks for Blind and Print Challenged Students

At Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D) we are proud to empower students with print disabilities to achieve their educational dreams. For over 60 years RFB&D has been providing blind, visually, physically and learning disabled students with the tools to gain an education.

One in 1,000 Americans is legally blind, and one in 20 has a learning disability. People with disabilities are at an academic disadvantage because the printed word is of little or no use to them. By providing audio textbooks, RFB&D removes the most significant obstacle to their success in the classroom --*access to the printed word*. Audio textbooks supplement books, and help students read faster and keep up with their coursework.

In two recent studies by Johns Hopkins and Rutgers comprehension and fluency went up by 37% when print challenged students used audio books while reading their text.

RFB&D's library of more than 55,000 titles is the largest audio textbook library in the nation with textbooks in every subject matter (K-Post Graduate). If a student needs a book that is not in the RFB&D library it will be recorded it for free.

On August 10, 2009, RFB&D announced any individual with a qualifying print disability can enroll for a full one year membership including complete access to our collection of more than 55,000 digital titles, in both AudioAccess and AudioPlus formats for FREE.

There is still a minimal cost for Institutional Memberships (schools and/or districts) because support is needed to shoulder a portion of the costs associated with providing appropriate accommodations for their students with print disabilities. Institutions may now supplement their school membership with the addition of free individual memberships so that students may have full access to RFB&D books in the classroom and at home.

RFB&D books can be accessed in several ways including digital downloads, DAISY downloads and DAISY compatible CD's. Training and support services are always included.

For further information please contact: Suzanne Jonsen/Regional Director of Sales/Service at 303-906-6061 or sjonsen@rfd.org.

Training and Support Activities Specific to 0-21 Children and Youth who are Blind/ Visually Impaired, Their Families and Their Service Providers

School Year 2009-10

Compiled By Tanni Anthony

State Consultant on Blindness/Visual Impairment, Colorado Department of Education

Legend for Acronyms:

CDE ESLU= Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Leadership Unit

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 Anthony's CDE budget.

Adult Role Model Team (CSDB Outreach Funds) Gabe Gates, a former student at CSDB who recently graduated from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, is providing leadership for the role model group. 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' licenses, organizations, resources, orientation/mobility, daily living skills and all sorts of other frenzied topics that can and do come up. 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.

Braille Competency (CDE ESLU 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 / Brailleists 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 ESLU 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.

Funds have been reserved to review the 2009-10 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 fifth year of onsite test review. They will meet with the tactile graphics experts and the test publisher over a two day period.

(continued)

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

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 Louis Tutt, Principal, CSDB School for the Blind at 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 2009, they offered programs for elementary, middle, and secondary- aged students. For more information, please contact Julie Deden at jdeden@cocenter.org.

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds flowed through CSDB, administrative-unit assessment fees of \$250 per identified child who is blind/visually impaired, 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 educational materials for all students who are visually impaired in Colorado. For CIMC questions or assistance, contact Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org or (719) 579-2195.

CIMC Braille Scholarships (Sponsored by the CIMC) The CIMC is offering three \$200 scholarships to help certified Library of Congress brailleists from Colorado attend the fall 2009 National Braille Association Professional Development Conference to be held October 29-November 1, 2009 in Lexington, KY. Scholarship recipients are asked to share the conference information with other Colorado brailleists. Conference information is posted at www.nationalbraille.org. For more information, contact Jim Olson at 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: Carol Hilty CSDB Superintendent at chilty@csdb.org or (719) 578-2102.

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 Batteiger at (719) 578-2205 or abatteiger@csdb.org or the CSDB website at 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 courses that will begin on a Thursday afternoon and run through Saturday afternoon. Check out dates and a description of short-courses for the 2009-10 school year in future editions of *WHOT* and the CSDB website (www.csdb.org). If you have questions, contact Donna Keale at 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. For more information, contact Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org or (719) 578-2251.

(continued)

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. Sharon Boyd, the manager of the Touch Museum, can be reached at sharon_boyd_co@msn.com or (719) 592-9193.

Colorado O&M Workshop (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): This training is co-sponsored by CDE and CAER. A planning committee works together 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 Specialist in Colorado. Contact person is Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or 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 ESLU): The project is entering its second 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 / instructional 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 Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681, Gina Quintana at Quintana_g@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6605 or and/or go the project webpage: www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Deafblind.asp.

Family Learning Retreat 2010 (CSDB Outreach Funds): The Family Learning Retreat will take place at CSDB on **June 4-6, 2010**. The weekend retreat is for families who have a child who is deaf/ hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deafblind. The retreat is a great opportunity for families to meet other families and share their stories, have fun, make friends, and learn together. 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 Batteiger at abatteiger@csdb.org or (719) 578-2205.

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics (CDE ESLU Set Aside and CSDB funds): The Low Vision Evaluation Team is once again funded for five 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 2009-10 clinics are posted within this newsletter, as are the local site coordinators for each clinic. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.





National Braille Challenge: (Sponsored by CSDB) The Colorado regional contest will again be held at CSDB on Friday, February 5, 2010. 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. Contact Randy Witte at CSDB for more information at rwitte@csdb.org or (719) 578-2204. Visit www.brailleinstitute.org and then find pages on the National Braille Challenge for more info.

TVI Mentor Project (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): This will be the seventh 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 antony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

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: Laura Douglas at douglas@csdb.org at (719) 578-2110.

Snow Shoe Weekend (sponsored by TVIs and CSDB staff!): The 10th Annual Snowshoe Weekend is tentatively planned to occur in Winter 2010, 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 elk@psdschools.org or (970) 225-6720 or (970) 231-1854..

SMART 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 or contact Laura for more information.

State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): The key professional development activity for TVIs during this school year will be the *Math Instruction for Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired*. The course will be taught by Dr. Derrick Smith. 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 Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Technology Consultation (CDE ESLU 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 2010 mini course on technology. Contact: Bonnie at BonnieLS21@gmail.com or (719) 322-3854 .





SCHOOL YEAR 2009-10

Who Ya Gonna Call?



Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

- Braille Competency Testing/Braille Certification Renewal
- CDE web pages on Blindness/Low Vision, Deafblindness, and O&M
- CDE Initiatives specific to Standards, Literacy, Numeracy, Science, etc.
- CDE TVI and COMS listserv
- CO Services for Children and Youth w/ Combined Vision & Hearing Loss Project
- CSAP, CSAPA, and CELA testing of students with BVI / deafblindness
- Eligibility of Learners who are Blind/Visually Impaired or Deafblind
- IEPs, Learning Media Assessments and LMA Plans, instructional accommodations
- Job Clearinghouse – TVI and O&M Specialist positions within Colorado
- Licensure and Highly Qualified Status of TVIs and COMSs
- NIMAS and NIMAC procedures within Colorado
- Response to Intervention (RtI) for students with BVI or deafblindness
- Policy / Guidance documents pertaining to learners with BVI and/or DB
- State Conference on Visual Impairment / Annual O&M Conference
- *What's Happening Out There* newsletter
- Vision Coalition

Amanda Batteiger at (719) 578-2205 or abatteiger@cldb.org

- CSDB's Library
- CSDB Family Literacy Packs

Sharon Boyd at (719) 592-9193 or sharon_boyd_co@msn.com

- CSDB Touch Museum

Paula Conroy at (970) 351-1651 or paula.conroy@unco.edu

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

Nancy Cozart at (303) 734-3090 or NCozart@lps.k12.co.us

- Rep 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

- Colorado Center for the Blind

David Dawson at (303) 786-7777 x 101 or ainc@aincolorao.org

- Audio Information Network of Colorado

Laura Douglas at (719) 578-2110 or ldouglas@csdb.org

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

Donice Fennimore at (719) 578-2198 or dfennimore@csdb.org

- Site Coordinator of the Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic
- Low Vision Clinic Coordinator

Kay Ferrell at (970) 302-1995 or kay.ferrell@unco.edu

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

Louise Gettman at (719) 578-2189 or lgettman@csdb.org

- CSDB Early Education Teacher of the Visually Impaired (southern region)

Jennie Germano at (719) 578-2116 or jgermano@csdb.org

- CSDB Early Education

J.C. Greeley at (303) 337-9732 or jandkgb@aol.com

- Anchor Center for Blind Children

Lucia Hasty at (719) 577-4710 or lhasty2@earthlink.net

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Danielle Hillebrand at (720) 685-7659 or dmcgrath@sd27j.org

- Co-Coordinator of the Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

Carol Hilty at 719-578-2102 or chilty@csdb.org

- CSDB Intern Placement

Samantha Hoffman - (303) 216-6251 or shoffman@jeffco.k12.co.us

- President of Colorado AER Chapter

Suzanne Jonsen at (303) 906-6061 or sjonsenrfd@questoffice.net

- Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D) – Rocky Mountain Unit



Elaine Karns at (970) 225-6720 or elk@psdschools.org

- Coordinator of the Annual Snow Shoe Weekend

Donna Keale at (719) 578-2251 or dkeale@csdb.org

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



Nancy Knight at (303) 734-3070 or 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

- Northern Region TVI Meetings

Debbie Macleod at (303) 727-9277 or Macleod_d@cde.state.co.us

- Colorado Talking Book Library

Kevin O'Brien at (970) 874-7607 or kobrien@mcsd.k12.co.us

- Western Region TVI Meetings

Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or jolson@csdb.org

- CIMC Braille Book Orders and APH Loan Materials
- CIMC Brailist Scholarships
- Annual CIMC registration of students who are Blind/Visually Impaired
- Braille Transcribers Mentoring Project
- Southern Region TVI Meeting Coordinator

Susan Pfaffenhauser (719) 578-2102 or spfaffenhauser@csdb.org

- CSDB Board of Trustees' meetings

Gina Quintana at (303) 866-6605 or quintana_g@cde.state.co.us

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

Brenda Shepard at (303) 340-0520 (x28539) or brendas@ctech.aps.k12.co.us

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Angela Sims at (970) 254-5414 or sims@mesa.k12.co.us

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



Cathy Smyth at (303) 377-9732 or cathysmyth@yahoo.com

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

Bonnie Snyder at (719) 322.3854 or bonniels21@adelphia.net or tvivip.org website

- CDE Regional Technology Assistance

Sarah Sonnier at (970) 254-5414 or 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) 665-2932 or wstoltman@sd27j.org

- TVI northern region rep at Vision Coalition meetings
- Co-Coordinator of the Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

Lou Tutt at (719) 578-2200 or 2201 or ltutt@csdb.org

- CSDB School for the Blind
- CSDB Bridges to Life Program
- CSDB Rep at Vision Coalition Meetings
- Close Up

Jon Vigne at (719) 578-2177 or jvigne@csdb.org

- Questions about CSDB and enrollment

Randy Witte at (719) 578-2204 or rwitte@csdb.org

- Braille Challenge

Chloann Wooley at (719) 499-6886 or cwoolley@wpsdk12.org

- Southern Region Rep at Vision Coalition Meetings

Julia Zanon at (303) 866-3562 or julia.zanon@state.co.us

- Rep of Colorado Rehabilitation Services at Vision Coalition meetings



WELCOME BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

New Faces in Colorado

STEPHANIE LABOSSIERE has served students with visual impairments for 30 years, beginning her career as a teacher and consultant at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind and Arizona Diagnostic and Treatment Center. Stephanie worked as a teacher for several school districts in the Houston area and served as a consultant for Region IV Education Service Center serving 56 school districts. Stephanie recently moved to Steamboat Springs Colorado with her husband and son who attends SS High School. Her family enjoys skiing hiking and traveling.

RACHEL SULLIVAN was recently hired by Cherry Creek Schools as a TVI. Rachel moved to Colorado last year with her husband and two boys (Max age 9 and Adam age 4) from San Diego CA. She took this past year off to be a full time Mom and is now very excited to send Adam off to preschool and get back to teaching! Rachel was a TVI in San Diego for 13 years. During her time there Rachel did just about everything a TVI can do; she had a self-contained class for 2 years, was itinerant for 5 years with all age groups, and for the last 6 years she had a resource room at the middle school

level. She really enjoys teaching students the technology skills they need to be independent, and watching them go from being young children to young adults. Rachel is looking forward to building new partnerships and friendships with colleagues here in Colorado.



CAROLYN SPARKS moved to Colorado two years ago from Nashville, TN after completing a Masters Program in Severe Disabilities. During her program, she took a vision class and became interested in pursuing her TVI license. She is a transition teacher / advocate with the CSDB Bridges to Life Program She loves hiking and spending time with friends and family.

JAMIE LUGO went to the University of WI in Madison and received her Bachelor's degree in Special Education. After graduating from college, she moved to Peru to live in an orphanage and do mission work for a year. After returning from Peru, she worked at the TX School for the Blind. She earned her Braille and Visual Impairment endorsement through Texas Tech University while teaching at TSBVI. She got married last May 2008 and moved to Colorado Springs. Last year, Jamie worked as a special education teacher at Palmer High School and Palmer Night School. She is very excited to be working at The Colorado School for the Deaf and Bind this year. Jamie is an avid marathon runner and triathlete and in her spare time she loves to sing.

ALEXANDRA BRADSTREET (Alex for short) is a new TVI at the CO School for the Blind at CSDB. Her original home town is Buffalo, New York. She earned her BA from PA in Elementary and Special Education and received her MA as TVI from Florida. She has worked in North Carolina for 9 years as a resource and itinerant TVI of all ages and ability levels. She decided to come to CSDB because she heard so many great things about the school. She also liked the area and loves the outdoors, so Colorado was a perfect fit.

LEO RANDOLPH is a native of Tennessee and began his work with the Blind at the Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, Little Rock, Arkansas, a Rehab center sponsored by the Lion's Clubs. He received his Masters in Special Education from Western Michigan University, as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. He taught O&M at the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Kansas School for the Blind. Last spring (2009) he was a para professional for a student in the Special Needs High School class at CSDB. He is presently working in the OJT program here at CSDB. He is not a native of Colorado but says "I got here as soon as I could".



colorado connections

- 🔊 Congrats to UNC's National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities who received a \$232,000 U.S. Department of Education grant for a project that will examine existing curriculum for students with visual impairments to help determine whether there is a relationship on post-school outcomes. The project will be overseen by the center's director and professor of special education, Dr. **Kay Ferrell**, and Daniel Mundfrom, professor emeritus of applied statistics and research methods.
- 🔊 Colorado TVIs who attended the 2009 Summer Institute on Deafblindness, which featured Jane Korsten and *Every Move Counts - Clicks and Chats*: **Rita Albright, Janet Anderson, Tanni Anthony, Sarah Bickford, Sally Burch, Peg Collins, Barb Galgano, Louise Gettman, Ann Gillmeister, Danielle Hillebrand, Charlotta Javier, Carol Jordan, Julie King, Debbie Mendoza, Shelley Moats, Amber Rundle, Mimi Schaper, Wendy Schlageter, Wendy Stoltman and Rachel Sullivan.**
- 🔊 **Jim Olson** from our CIMC was one of ten new (or nearly new!) Ex Officio Trustees that traveled to Louisville on June 14-16 for an intensive two-day introduction to the American Printing House for the Blind and training on what it means to be an Ex Officio Trustee.
- 🔊 Congratulations to **Kaitlin Lombardi** (Denver Public Schools), **Shannon Martinez** (Pueblo 70 School District), **Jessteene Clifford** (CSDB), and **Melinda Carter** (JeffCo) for earning their CDE Certificates of Braille Competency over the summer months! Thanks to **Lucia Hasty** for her proctoring assistance.

State of Colorado Department of Education

Colorado State Board of Education

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