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GRATITUDE

By Tanni Anthony



Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. This quote by William Author Ward offers guidance on giving flight to our joy and sharing it with others. In this season where we are more attentive to highlighting the many things we are thankful for, let me say that I am particularly grateful to each of you who were able to attend the recent State Conference on Visual Impairment. It was an extremely weather-challenged time and I was absolutely amazed on Friday morning as one-by-one almost all of the registrants came walking in to take his or her seat. In fact, it took my breath away. The two days were rich with questions and dialogue. As usual, Colorado TVIs and braillists did not fail – they stayed engaged, took responsibility for expanding their knowledge and skills, and continually demonstrated their high-educational standards.

I am grateful to our Colorado community of committed professionals. We are not a large group compared to other disciplines, but there is no question of the quality of personnel who serve our learners who are blind/visually impaired. The presenters who come to Colorado comment on this very fact. There are always places to improve, to grow, and to change – but it starts with the right people. We have the right people. Folks who show up in snowy weather to learn and network. Or fly across the country to attend a national literacy conference. Parents and teachers who come to the regional low vision clinics held across the state. Families who attended the recent State NFB Conference. The gratitude list is long.

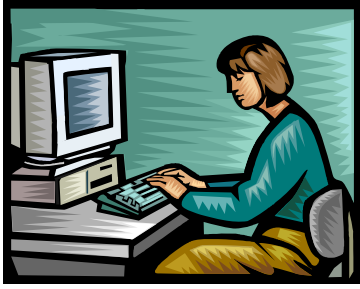
Take a moment, wrap a gift of gratitude, and give it away. Share your gratitude for what we have and all that we can be.

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

**A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
November — December 2009**

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Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

BonnieLS21@gmail.com

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

For the past two months I have been experimenting with various online instant messaging programs to see if they could be used to present webinars. I have been working with a couple of my computer friends who are fellow members of the Pikes Peak Computer Applications Society (PPCompAS). They have been very generous with their time and expertise.

What I am looking for, basically, is a way to present webinars so that I can be sitting here at my computer and each participant can be sitting at his or her own computer wherever they are located, rather than what I call the Satellite Downlink Model, where the presenter is at one location and the participants are all at one other location. The approach I am looking for is more convenient for participants and considerably more economical. I would call this approach the One to Many Model.

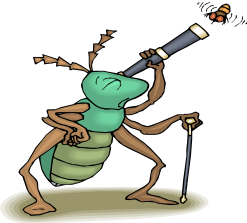
One of the programs I looked at was Skype. At its base level, with one to many, we can talk back and forth using a microphone. The video can only be used between two participants at a time, which has its limitations. There is an add-on called Innerpass which makes Skype basically an online collaboration system. It has a cost, but that would be paid only by the presenter (as a cost of doing business). You can test Innerpass out for free for fifteen minutes at a time and I was very impressed with its capabilities.

Another program I looked at was Windows Live Meeting. Its capabilities are very similar to Skype's, but I think the free collaboration options are a bit more varied.

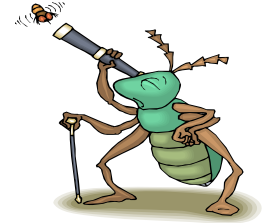
I have reached the point where I would like to experiment with these programs with some of the TVIs in Colorado (and other locations if they so desire). If you are interested in so doing, and I would like to try these out with a minimum of two other people besides myself, although more would be even better, please email me and I will try to set up a time that would work for the majority. Please let me know dates and times of your preference so I can put this together. My email address is at the top of this article, so feel free to email me any questions you might have about this little project.

Editor's Note: Parents and TVIs, please be in touch with Bonnie to assist you with the child's / students' assistive technology needs. Her consultation services are provided through the CDE Exceptional Student Leadership Unit and are of no costs to families / administrative units.

LOW VISION NEWS



NEW ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS



By Jim Olson, CLVT

Several parents and students attending the November low vision evaluation clinic in the Denver Metro area inquired about accessibility options for their home and school computers. For assistance with the accessibility features built into Microsoft operating systems and products, visit <http://microsoft.com/enable/products>.

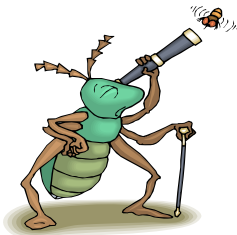
With the release of Microsoft's new "Windows 7" operating system comes a host of new and improved accessibility options including the "Ease of Access Center" on the Control Panel allowing for quick and easy access to accessibility settings and programs such as "Magnifier" and "High Contrast". Built in personalization and appearance options allows users to adjust the computer's theme, color scheme, high contrast options, sounds, as well as the size of text and icons on the monitor screen.

"Magnifier" in Windows 7 now allows the user to set magnification levels up to 16 times and includes a docked mode as well as the new lens and full-screen modes.

For more information on Windows 7, including online tutorials and videos, visit: <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/windows7>.

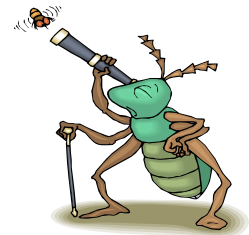
**Never bend your head. Hold it high.
Look the world straight in the eye. -**

Helen Keller



The CDE Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Schedule

Proposed Clinic Schedule for School Year 2009-2010



Region	Dates	Location	Site Coordinators
Northern	February 19-20, 2010	Brighton School District	Wendy Stoltman and Danielle Hillebrand
Southern	March 5 and 10, 2010	CSDB in Colorado Springs	Donice Fennimore

METRO LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC REPORT

By Donice Fennimore

What a great clinic!

The Metro Region low vision clinic was held November 12-14 in Denver at the Anchor Center for Blind Children. The clinic was full with 18 students being seen plus an hour-long segment in which Dr. Theune spent talking with and answering questions for approximately 10 parents of preschoolers attending Anchor Center for Blind Children.

There were five districts represented by 10 TVIs besides the preschoolers represented by Anchor. Thanks to Wendy Schlageter and Lorraine Hutcheson (Arapahoe County District 28J Aurora); Mimi Schaper and Barb Galgano (Arapahoe County District 5 – Cherry Creek); Shelley Moats, Peg Collins and Edie Smith (Douglas County District RE-1); Pam Edinger and Ann Marie Jansen (Adams County District 12 Five Star Schools); and Nancy Knight (Arapahoe County District 6 Littleton) for bringing students to the clinic.

The three-day clinic was very exciting and the low vision team would like to offer a special thanks to Nancy Knight for all of her efforts in organizing the Metro Region clinic, as always, she did an awesome job. We would also like to thank J.C. Greeley and all the staff of Anchor Center for Blind Children for the use of their facility and their help in making the clinic run so smoothly.

The next clinic scheduled is the Northern Region which will be held Friday, November 19 and Saturday, November 20 in Brighton. Regional Coordinators are Wendy Stoltman and Danielle McGrath. We are looking forward to this clinic and know it will be great.

Open House for Youth Programs

Colorado Center FOR THE BLIND

On December 11 – The Colorado Center for the Blind is hosting an open house for our youth programs. We are inviting all kids, their parents and teachers of blind or visually impaired students to visit the center to learn about our exciting new programs for 2010. Starting in January we have scheduled monthly events for youth of all ages at the CCB. The events will be divided into two different age groups. The younger kids will get together January 9th and the older kids will get together January 23rd. We have fun, exciting and rewarding activities planned throughout the year. We will also discuss issues relevant to blindness and vision loss such as socialization, academics, recreation, extended core curriculum, daily living skills and much, much more. With each of these activities the kids will be exposed to blind role models with a positive philosophy about blindness and life in general. These activities are free of charge to families of blind children. For more information, please contact Brent Batron at the Colorado Center for the Blind, 303-778-1130 x 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org. If you are planning on attending the open house, please RSVP with Brent. The Colorado Center for the Blind is located at 2233 W Sheperd Ave in Littleton.



National Federation of the Blind 2010 Junior Science Academy A STEM Program for Blind Children Ages 8-12

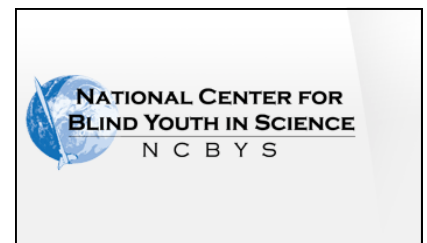
In 2008, the National Center for Blind Youth in Science (NCBYS), a program of the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, offered its first Science Academy program for elementary students. Once again, we are making this program possible for children in grades three through six. The NCBYS developed its Junior Science Academy (JSA) in 2004 in order to spark and enhance blind students' interest in scientific study, an academic area that many falsely believe is too difficult for the blind. This year, with hands-on experiences, tactile materials, and innovative nonvisual teaching methods, the JSA will open its doors again to young explorers with two sessions of the program. Applicants can apply for one of the following dates:

Session 1: July 28-August 1, 2010

Session 2: August 4-August 8, 2010

The Junior Science Academy is a four-day session that will expose blind children to the excitement of science in real-life applications. The students will learn about how much fun science can be through hands-on instruction, field trips, and interactive activities. Attending parents will participate in a corresponding seminar with workshops designed to focus on meeting the needs of their blind children.

A registration fee of \$150.00 will be charged for each accepted student and parent/chaperone pair. The cost of travel, room, board, and program materials will be covered by the NFB Jernigan Institute for all student and parent/chaperone pairs.



Contact Brent Batron at the Colorado Center for the Blind For More Information:

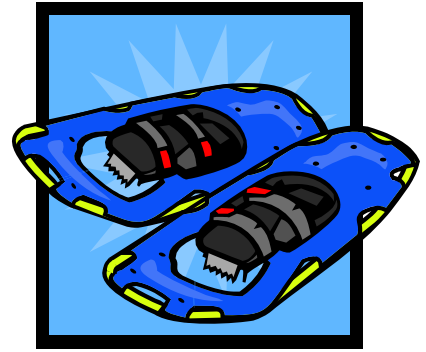
303-778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org

SNOWSHOE WEEKEND

February 26-28, 2010

COME JOIN THE WINTER FUN!!

8th Annual Weekend



- WHO:** All students with visual impairments in the state of COLORADO, age 8 or older!
- WHEN:** February 26 to February 28 2010
Check in at 4:00 p.m. January 30th (Friday)
Check out at 3:00 p.m. February 1 (Sunday)
- WHERE:** Estes Park Center, YMCA Center of the Rockies
- WHY:** Why would you want to miss winter in the mountains?
- COST:** \$80.00 per person (but the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind has agreed to sponsor this event again, so each person is responsible for only ½ the cost! \$40.00 per person!)

Deadline to Register is January 20, 2009!

Complete the registration form and send to:

Elaine Karns, 1303 Armsley Ct., Fort Collins, CO 80525

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CSDB!

Questions?

Contact Elaine at 970-225-6720 (evening)

or E-mail: elkinco@aol.com

SNOWSHOE WEEKEND REGISTRATION & PERMISSION FORM

February 26-28, 2010 - All participants must complete permission form

NAME OF PARTICIPANT (STUDENT OR ADULT) _____ M / F

PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPOUSE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Zip Code: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ AGE: _____ GRADE: _____

VISUAL DIAGNOSIS & ABILITIES: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS:

- BRAILLE OR LARGE PRINT: _____

- DIETARY RESTRICTION: _____

- ALLERGIES: _____

- MEDICATIONS: _____

(Medications must be in original container in a Ziploc bag and must indicate dosage and times of day to be taken.)

ANY INFORMATION NEEDED BY STAFF TO ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH AND SAFETY: _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT: _____ VISION/O&M TEACHER: _____

E-MAIL OF TVI: _____ CELL PHONE OF TVI: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

PHONE(S): _____

NAME: _____ RELATIONSHIP: _____

PHONE(S): _____

NAME OF DOCTOR: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

INSURANCE PROVIDER: _____

YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW INDICATES PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SNOWSHOE EVENT AND OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. OUR FIRST PRIORITY WILL BE TO NOTIFY YOUR CONTACTS IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY.

NAME OF PARTICIPANT (please print) _____

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN (students only) _____

(OVER)

SNOWSHOE WEEKEND REGISTRATION & PERMISSION FORM

Page 2

I DO ___ DO NOT ___ GIVE PERMISSION FOR MY CHILD TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED DURING THIS EVENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT PHOTOS THAT ARE TAKEN WILL BE USED TO PROMOTE FUTURE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN or ADULT PARTICIPANT

QUESTIONS:

HAS YOUR CHILD ATTENDED THE SNOWSHOE WEEKEND BEFORE? YES ___ NO ___

IF YES, WHICH GROUP WERE THEY IN?

_____ HARES (short)

_____ JACKRABBITS (long)

WHAT KIND OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DOES YOUR CHILD PARTICIPATE IN ON A REGULAR BASIS? _____

DOES YOUR CHILD HIKE? YES ___ NO ___

LENGTH OF HIKE ENJOYED? _____

HAS CHILD EVER SKIED OR SNOWSHOED BEFORE? _____

FAVORITE OUTDOOR WINTER ACTIVITY: _____

ROOMMATE REQUEST: (We will try to honor the first request.)

1) _____

2) _____



CAER November Meeting Update

The Colorado chapter of AER is proud to announce the recipients of the fall 2009 mini-grants. The teachers were: Edie Smith, Holly Guinan, Barb Galgano, Sue Newhart Larson., and Barbara Adams. The approved grants totaled \$1,000! All teachers requested funding for items and activities that were supplemental to academic programs for students with visual impairments. If you are interested in applying for a mini-grant, please see the CAER website at <http://co.aerbvi.org>.

New- If you are requesting ACVREP certification or recertification reimbursement, you can now scan your certificate and email it to Deb Carlisle at deb.carlisle@gmail.com.

CAER has board member positions open! If you would like to come check us out, our next meeting is February 3rd in Cherry Creek. 5:30-:00 p.m.. CAER meetings are open for the public to attend. If you are interested in coming or in being an AER member, please contact Samantha Hoffman at shoffman@jeffco.k12.co.us.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2010 AER AWARDS PROGRAM!!! Submission Deadline: March 1, 2010

The 2008-2010 Awards Committee strongly encourage you to nominate candidates for one of AER's prestigious awards. The highest recognition that AER gives to outstanding blindness professionals include:

Mary K. Bauman Award - This award honors an individual who has made significant and outstanding contributions to the education of children and youth who are blind and visually impaired.

Ambrose M. Shotwell Award - Established to honor an individual who has made significant and outstanding contributions to the personal adjustment or rehabilitation of adults who are blind or visually impaired.

John H. McAulay Award - A professional who has contributed outstanding efforts and achievements leading to the placement of people with visual impairments in productive employment is honored with this award.

Alfred Allen Award - Established to honor professionals who have spent their career in direct service to people with visual impairments.

Douglas C. MacFarland Award - This award is presented to an individual who is retired from the field after having provided leadership in the field of blindness and visual impairment and who made innovative, significant or outstanding contributions either through direct service, professional organizations, research, literature and/or preparation of professionals.

C. Warren Bledsoe Award - Presented by the AER Publications Committee in recognition of an outstanding piece of literature in the field of blindness and visual impairment that has been published within the past five years.

For complete award criteria and nomination forms, please visit www.aerbvi.org
or phone 877-492-2708 x201

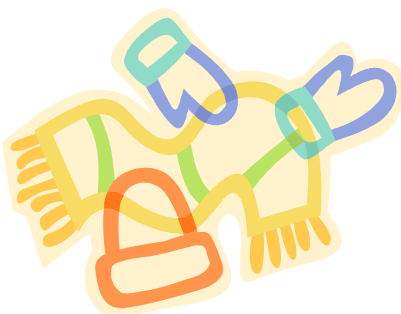


Leber's Congenital Amaurosis

Information retrieved from <http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/lca-faq.html#what-is-lca> and <http://www.aapos.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=264>

What is LCA? Leber's Congenital Amaurosis (**LCA**) is a genetic disorder in which retinal dysfunction causes vision loss, often from birth. It is rare (3 cases per 100,000 births). About 10% of cases of congenital blindness or severely-reduced vision are caused by LCA. The extent of vision loss varies from person to person, but can be quite severe (with little to no light perception). LCA is named after the doctor who first described the condition, which exists since birth and is usually hereditary. The *Amaurosis* refers to a total loss of vision, especially when the vision loss does not result in any apparent change to the eye. LCA can also be seen as part of a system of disorders (e.g. neurologic dysfunction, kidney disease, and, rarely, chromosomal imbalance).

How is LCA Diagnosed? LCA is usually diagnosed by an ophthalmologist, based on the history and the physical findings. An electroretinogram (ERG) is often utilized to test the function of the rods and cones of the retina and is performed with special equipment. Blood tests for genetic changes can sometimes help make the diagnosis as well as identify carriers of the condition. The ERG (electroretinogram) tests the retina's response to light. The ERG involves placing contacts on the child's eyes that are hooked up to a machine by wires. Young children may be mildly or fully sedated for the exam. ERGs produce graphs that in normal eyes move up and down, while LCA eyes will produce comparatively flat graphs. The ERG cannot tell how much a person can or cannot see, it can only diagnose LCA. The second test is a genetic screen of the patient's blood that looks for the nine known genetic variations that cause LCA. This test involves drawing a blood sample. Some parents opt out of both tests and choose to diagnose their child based only on symptoms. This is always an option if the genetic test is too expensive (or turned up negative results) and the ERG seems too stressful for your child. Many doctors will provide a tentative diagnosis of LCA if the patient presents most of the common symptoms, even without testing.



What are the symptoms of LCA? In LCA, children are born with an absence of light-gathering cells (rods and cones) of the retina. A lack of visual attentiveness at and shortly after birth is the first sign of the disease. There are many different types of LCA and the disease will present differently in differ-



ent patients. However, there are some basic symptoms doctors usually look for when diagnosing LCA:

- ◆ Severe vision impairment from birth
- ◆ Nystagmus (involuntary jerky rhythmic eye movement)
- ◆ A normal looking eye upon examination (though there may be some pigmentation on the retina)
- ◆ Extreme farsightedness
- ◆ Photophobia (sensitivity to light)
- ◆ Slow pupillary response to light
- ◆ Eye-pressing can be common with babies and children who have very little vision. This can cause damage to the cornea and lens and may result in a loss of fatty tissue around the eye causing the eyes to look deep-set or sunken.

How is LCA treated? There is currently no treatment for LCA. LCA is primarily a genetic disorder and the most promising research right now involves gene discovery and gene therapy. Researchers have discovered nine genes that cause LCA so far, but they believe there are many more. To learn more about the known genes that cause LCA, visit the Foundation for Retinal Research web site at <http://tfrr.org/index.php?m=19&PHPSESSID=edaf92021de3b19214a5f501726a1f47#6>

Routine examinations by an ophthalmologist are recommended to diagnose/treat other eye problems and prescribe glasses if necessary. Low vision aids may be utilized to maximize vision function. Educational programs and support agencies for the visually impaired (and family) are important. A certified teacher of students with visual impairments and a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist will be key members of the educational team.

Resources

The Foundation for Retinal Research is the leading organization funding LCA research. The url is <http://www.tfrr.org/index.php?m=19&PHPSESSID=7b15cac17c2c98e1a8954d64e0354faf> Their *What is LCA* page is very informative.



Colorado Has Three Authorized Users for NIMAS Files through NIMAC

NIMAS is the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard, established under sections 612(a)(23)(A) and 674(e)(4) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. NIMAS means the standard established by the Secretary of Education to be used in the preparation of electronic files suitable and used solely for efficient conversion into specialized formats for students who are blind/visually impaired or print disabled. NIMAS files will be housed in the National Instructional Materials Center (NIMAC), which is located at the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, KY. Publishers of Colorado textbooks are required as of July 19, 2006, per language within the Colorado administrative unit purchase-agreement contracts with book publishers, to submit NIMAS files of their textbooks to NIMAC. Without these source files, Colorado will not have access to the requested alternative-format textbooks in a NIMAS format.

As of July 2009, the State of Colorado has three designated authorized users who may access NIMAS source files from the NIMAC: (1) The Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC), (2) Bookshare, and (3) Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D). The three entities are the only designated authorized users of the NIMAC for Colorado. The CIMC, Bookshare, and RFB&D can download the NIMAS files housed with NIMAC. These files will then be used to prepare screen enlargement, braille, digitized text, and audio books for use by qualified students.

The CIMC is the only Colorado designated authorized user of NIMAS files for braille textbooks for students who are visually disabled. Colorado has a long and established history of ordering braille textbooks for students who have a visual disability. Teachers certified in the area of visual impairment order the needed books from the CIMC in the spring of each school year for the following school year. Orders can be made throughout the school year as new students are enrolled or new books are needed.

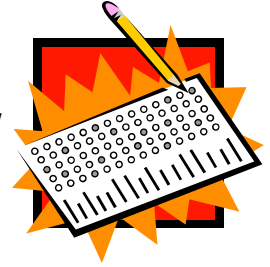
RFB&D is the only Colorado designated authorized user of NIMAS for human-recorded audio books for students who are blind/visually impaired or print disabled. RFB&D also produces a student-ready version of the NIMAS file synchronized with synthetic speech, complete with the images provided by the publisher in the NIMAS file. These electronic text and audio books can be read on a computer using specialized software available through RFB&D. Most software and hardware already in use in schools for reading RFB&D audio only books will also play the NIMAS titles.

Bookshare is the only Colorado designated authorized user of NIMAS files for digitized textbooks for students who are print disabled. The books can be read on a computer using text-to-text speech or the ability to see a word at the same time. They are also available as digital braille should the certified teacher of students with visual impairments and/or certified administrative unit brailist deem this an appropriate format for a given book for a given student. Braille Ready Format files should not be ordered through Bookshare unless the person who is ordering the book is a CO certified teacher of students with visual impairments and/or a Colorado administrative unit brailist. This policy is to ensure that the individual receiving the file has the needed full braille competency to ensure that the braille product is of high quality.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/NIMAS.asp> or contact Tanni Anthony, the CO NIMAC Coordinator at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

NONSTANDARD ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CSAP TESTS

By now all standard large print (18 point type) or braille CSAP tests should have been ordered through the District Assessment Coordinators. The window is still open, however, to request nonstandard accommodations. These are accommodations that are recorded on a student's IEP and full implemented, but not automatically allowable for a state assessment.



Examples of nonstandard accommodations that have been requested in the past for students who are blind/visually impaired have included black and white tests, tests on a certain color of paper, and/or larger than 18 point font. To make a request, please download the needed form at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/accommodations.html>



All vision related nonstandard accommodation forms come to me for review. Please be defensible with your requests for tests over 18 point. There should be documentation via the Learning Media Assessment and in the child's IEP that a font larger than 18 point is used on for daily instruction.



**The last day to submit a Nonstandard Accommodation Form is
December 15, 2009.**

PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS

February 25-27, 2010 in Colorado Springs

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

**For more information and to apply for the conference online or
download an application go to:**

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

Resources and Materials

AUDIO INFORMATION NETWORK OF COLORADO



Until the formation of AINC, Colorado was one of only 10 states in the country, which did not have a reading service for its blind, visually impaired and print handicapped citizens. The Audio Information Network of Colorado (AINC) provides access to ink print materials not otherwise available to Colorado's blind, visually impaired and print disabled residents.

Established by David Dawson, Executive Director of AINC, as a private non-profit corporation in 1990, AINC (then known as Radio Reading Service of the Rockies, or RRSR) went on the air on October 21st, 1991. AINC has been broadcasting continuously ever since with the valuable assistance of over 350 statewide volunteers managed from the Boulder studio. AINC broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week..

AINC utilizes remote and local area volunteers who currently read from over 75 newspapers that cover the four main regions across the State of Colorado. AINC also reads various magazines, newsletters and original material not available from another resource. In addition to the newspapers and other publications read, AINC daily reads a variety of public service announcements from jurisdictional, arts, educational and non-profit entities. Calendars of events, grocery and retail ads and employment opportunity news provide some of the day-to-day practical information that AINC listeners have come to depend upon.

**All AINC services are provided at no cost to listeners. For more information:
Boulder Office and Studio, 2200 Central Avenue, Suite A, Boulder, CO 80301, (303) 786-7777**

Colorado Talking Book Library

The Talking Book Library is a free service to Coloradans of all ages who are unable to read standard print material due to visual, physical or learning disabilities whether permanent or temporary. CTBL provides recorded, braille and large-print books and magazines as well as a small collection of descriptive videos.

Director Debbi MacLeod announced that, "Digital is finally here. Students will be getting the new machines soon for their home accounts but not their school accounts." School accounts will receive the new machines after all individual patrons have received their new machines. The CO Talking Book Library staff anticipate that this will take about 2-3 years. For more information, call a Reader Advisor at 303-727-9277 or email ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us The toll free number in Colorado for the Talking Book Library is 800-685-2136. For more information, please go to their website at <http://www.myctbl.org>





TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

National Federation of the Blind 2010 Scholarship Program

Each year at its national convention in July, the NFB gives a broad array of thirty scholarships to recognize achievement by blind scholars. All applicants for these scholarships:

- ◆ must be legally blind (go to <http://www.nfb.org/images/nfb/documents/pdf/Confirmation%20of%20Legal%20Blindness.pdf>) in both eyes, and
- ◆ must be residing in the United States, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico, and
- ◆ must be pursuing or planning to pursue a full-time, postsecondary course of study in a degree program at a United States institution in the 2010 scholastic year, except that one scholarship may be given to a person employed full-time while attending school part-time, and
- ◆ must participate in the entire NFB national convention and in all scheduled scholarship program activities.

In addition to a scholarship, each winner will receive assistance to attend the 2010 National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention in July, providing an excellent opportunity for high level networking with active blind persons in many, many different professions and occupations.

**2010 Deadline: Scholarship applications and documents
must be e-mailed or postmarked no later than March 31, 2010.**

For more information and/or the application materials, please go to: http://www.nfb.org/nfb/scholarship_program.asp

All questions should be directed to the Chairman. E-mail is preferred.

Mr. Anil Lewis, Chairman - NFB Scholarship Committee
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND *at Jernigan Place*
200 East Wells Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
Office: (410) 659-9314, extension 2415
E-mail: scholarships@nfb.org





THE SEE THE FUTURE FUND

Scholarships for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Application **now available** for the 2010 SEE THE FUTURE Fund Scholarships

Updated application information is now available on-line for the 2010 “Education for Life” Scholarships.

Go to www.seethefuture.org

Click on: “Education for Life” Scholarships

Click on: “Application Information” to access an updated form

Kane-SEE THE FUTURE “Full-Ride Tuition” Scholarships

The SEE THE FUTURE Fund is excited and pleased to announce a partnership with the Kane Family Foundation. The Kane Foundation is offering two merit-based “full-ride tuition” scholarships to visually impaired or blind students who meet the SEE THE FUTURE Fund criteria. The scholarship will also cover usual and customary fees and \$1,500 in books per school year. The scholarship does NOT cover room & board expenses.

Students who are interested in becoming a Kane-SEE THE FUTURE scholar must submit a completed SEE THE FUTURE application by the March 1, 2010 deadline. All applicants will be considered for the Kane scholarship if they meet the STF criteria along with the following:

Acceptance to CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, or CU-Colorado Springs.

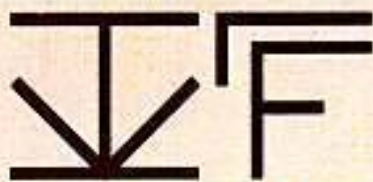
Un-weighted high school GPA: 3.40 or higher (through senior year).

Achieve an A or a B in at least one AP (Advanced Placement) or IB (International Baccalaureate) course during junior or senior year. If a school district does not offer AP or IB courses, the student must address this in their application. If an applicant is graduating from the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, that student must achieve an A or B in at least one AP class from a local high school.

Achieve an ACT composite score of 25 (80th percentile) or above.

Up to two Kane-SEE THE FUTURE scholars may be selected each year by the SEE THE FUTURE Fund’s Selection Committee.

Please Be Advised: At this time, all Kane – SEE THE FUTURE recipients **must** attend CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, or CU-Colorado Springs. We recommend that eligible and interested students apply and have acceptance to one of the CU schools.



Kane Family Foundation
“Independence Through Education”

The National Braille Challenge

is Coming!!

Do you believe that this is going to be our 7th regional contest of the national Braille Challenge? Did you know that at least 6 of our contestants have moved up into the top 1/3 nationally of students competing in their category? Did you know that the Bad News Bulldog Band recently learned “Wipeout” and a Michael Jackson song?

Mark your calendars: Friday, February 5th, 2010

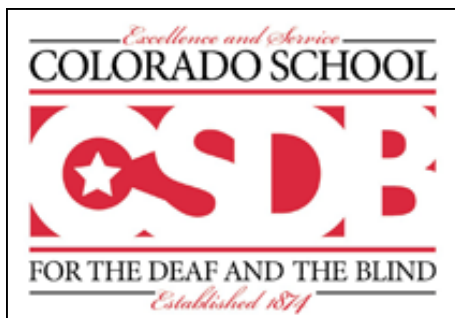
- WHO:** All Braille students in Colorado
- WHAT:** The Colorado regional contest of The National Braille Challenge
- WHERE:** The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind in Colorado Springs
- WHEN:** Friday, February 5th, 2010 (We have a snow date if needed—Feb. 19, 2010) The contest runs from about 8:30 AM until 2:30 PM; lunch is included!
- WHY:** To compete in a Braille contest, maybe win some prizes, meet old and new friends, listen to the Bad News Bulldog Band, and to celebrate Braille literacy!
- COST:** \$0

Remember, if you can't come to CSDB, your student can still take the Challenge in your home district—call me.

SO, please talk to our Braille masters and see if they are willing to test their Braille skills on February 5th.

Call or email me with the names of students you want to register—I will then send you a registration/permission form.

I NEED YOU TO CONTACT ME BY DECEMBER 17TH SO I CAN ORDER THE TESTS FROM THE BRAILLE INSTITUTE.



You can register later than the 17th, and we will order some extra tests, but not that many, so please let me know if you are planning to come!

Call or email with your questions or to register:
Randy Witte, CSDB

(719) 578-2204 • rwwitte@csdb.org

DOTS OF INTEREST



Items for the Young Child from National Braille Press



The following items can be purchased through the National Braille Press. For one-stop shopping for their items in braille, which include greeting cards, games, equipment, and books, please go to everythingbraille.com or phone number is 1-800-548-7323.

Illustrated Alphabet Flash Cards: Set of 26 white plastic 7" by 7" cards, fastened by a removable ring. In the upper corner of each card is a pair of short parallel lines that form a track leading to the alphabet letter represented in braille. At the center of each card is a tactile illustration of an item that begins with that letter of the alphabet. Cost is \$22.

Sadie Can Count: a full-color tactile counting book from Sensational Books by Colorado author Ann Cunningham. The book provides an opportunity to count up to ten using tactile pictures. Cost is \$25.

Pathfinder Mazes: A set of 11 unique tactile finger puzzles from CAL that progress from easy to advanced grooved paths that bump into dead-ends or brick walls OR a path from beginning to end. Cost is \$15.

Touch and Learn: Tactile Activity Book: A set of 22 raised-line drawings that represent an object or setting, relational games, and tracking games. Cost is \$28.

Book Club Books: There are many braille books to select from and geared from ages four through 10. For available, please call 1-800-548-7323.

ReadBooks! Because Braille Matters

Any family who has a child ages birth through seven years who is blind is entitled to receive one free braille literacy bag. This ReadBooks! is sponsored through the National Braille Press. This national braille literacy program is designed to encourage families to read print/braille books together. Working with Seedlings Braille Books for children, as well as educators and early intervention professionals, they have distributed bags to over 8,500 families across the country! Each bag contains: (1) an age-appropriate print/braille book for three age groups (birth – age three; 4-5, and 6-7 in English or Spanish); (2) a braille primer entitled *Just Enough to Know Better*; (3) *Because Books Matter*, which is a guide for parents on how and why to read books with their young child; (4) *Because Pictures Matter a guide to tactile graphics*; (5) a DVD that demonstrates the importance of braille; and (6) a gift coupon redeemable for another print/braille book or set of large print/braille playing cards. To find out more, go to www.nbp.org and click on ReadBooks.

Childrens' Braille Book Club

The National Braille Press features an Our Children's Braille Book Club, which features a new print/braille children's picture book every month for preschoolers through third grade. The books contain the regular print book and pictures with corresponding braille on transparent pages. Book selections are priced between \$4.95 and \$16.95. There are two ways to join. Option 1 involves enrolling in the club free of charge by sending your name and address. With free membership, the individual will receive monthly flyers that describe each month's book and price. There is no obligation to buy, the individual only orders the books he or she wants. Option 2 involves purchasing an annual subscription to the club for \$100. The subscription results in 12 print/braille books over the course of a year. For more information, call 1-800-548-7323.

DOTS OF INTEREST



FREE CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN BRAILLE

Temple Beth El Braille Bindery offers children's books in Braille free to qualified school organizations, libraries, and blind schools. This is usually conditional upon a paper exchange of tractor-feeder paper that is equal to book lengths. A master list of books is available online at www.tbonline.org. For a nominal cost, the Bindery also offers concept books containing letters, circles, rectangles, and shaped of various objects made of a variety of fabrics.

These books for early readers assist them with the cognitive problems, helping them "see" the world by using their fingers. A sample concept book is available on request. You can order or obtain more information by contacting Ilene Sawyer at 248-788-0358 or by emailing Barbara Mandelbaum at asmandell@sbglobal.net.



LITERACY &
INDEPENDENCE
FOR CHILDREN
& ADULTS



Braille Art™
The Art You Touch....



Braille Art Featuring:

The Braille Scripture Collection: www.BrailleScripture.com

The American Driven Collection: www.AmericanDriven.com

Braille Art Mission

To promote widespread awareness of braille through the creation and distribution of our unique collections of original photos and paintings that are combined with written text and braille. Our Braille Art is for both sighted and non-sighted individuals to experience, read, and enjoy.

To generate revenue, to establish scholarships for persons wanting to learn to be braille transcriber, as well as to continue the promotion of braille and its value in the education, careers, and personal lives of those who are blind.

www.BrailleArt.com

info@brailleart.com

402-672-0107



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 Specialists. 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 or 2010-2011

TVI = teacher certified in the area of visual impairment.

COMS = certified orientation and mobility specialist

Metro Region

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (1 FTE): Please visit www.DPSK12.org to apply for this Denver Public School's position.
- ✓ **Rehabilitation Counselor I - Vision (Rehab Teacher/Vision)** Please email: christine.lrsik@state.co.us
- ✓ **Rehabilitation Counselor I - Mobility (Rehab Teacher/O&M)** Denver and Grand Junction - Open Competitive - Residency Waiver - Revised and Re-announced Please email: christine.lrsik@state.co.us
- ✓ **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 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@canoncitieschools.org for more information





Calendar of Events

2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009 2009

- 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
- December 14** Early Assessment Window for CELApro
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)

2010 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 8** Vision Coalition
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- January 9** Open House for Youth Programs (younger kids) - Colorado Center for the Blind
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org
- January 13** Southern TVI Meeting - CSDB/CIMC (New APH product "In Focus") - CO Springs
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- January 14** CSDB Board of Trustees Meeting - CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Susan Pfaffenhauser at spfaffenhauser@csdb.org
- January 23** Open House for Youth Programs (older kids) - Colorado Center for the Blind
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org
- January 29** Northern Region TVI meeting - Loveland, CO
Contact: Jan Wood at woodj@thompson.k12.co.us
- 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 5** Braille Challenge - CSDB in Colorado Springs
Contact: Randy Witte at rwitte@csdb.org



More Calendar of Events

2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

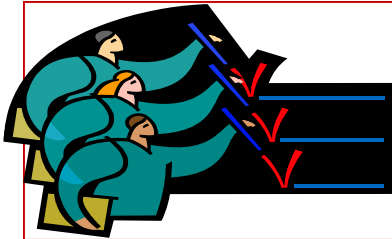
- February 11** **CSDB Board of Trustees Meeting** - CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Susan Pfaffenhauser at spfaffenhauser@csdb.org
- February 11** **Southern TVI Meeting** - CSDB/CIMC (Make'n'Take feat) - CO Springs
Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- February 11 - 13** **2010 Conference on Inclusive Education** - Denver CO
Visit: www.PEAKparent.org and click the "PEAK Conferences" link
- February 16 - 26** **Assessment Window for CSAP Grade 3 Reading and Lectura**
Contact: Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC)
- 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
- February 26-28** **Snow Shoe Weekend** - Estes Park
Contact: Elaine Karns — elkinco@aol.com
- 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
- March 11** **CSDB Board of Trustees Meeting** - CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Susan Pfaffenhauser at spfaffenhauser@csdb.org
- April 8** **CSDB Board of Trustees Meeting** - CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Susan Pfaffenhauser at spfaffenhauser@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)

More Calendar of Events

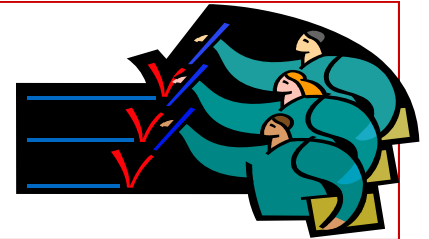
2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

- April 30** **Northern Region TVI meeting** - Loveland, CO
Contact: Jan Wood at woodj@thompson.k12.co.us
- 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 10** **CSDB Board of Trustees Meeting** - CSDB, CO Springs
Contact: Susan Pfaffenhauser at spfaffenhauser@csdb.org
- June 14 - 15** **Colorado Assistive Technology Symposium - TBD**
Visit: Colorado AT Project at www.uchsc.edu/atp
- June 27 - 30** **International Society for Technology in Education (formerly 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.aerbvi.org
- July 28 - August 1** **2010 Junior Science Academy** - Baltimore, MD
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org
- August 4 - 8** **2010 Junior Science Academy** - Baltimore, MD
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org
- August 9 - 13** **World ICEVI Conference**— Jomtein, Thailand
Visit: www.icevi.org





CHECK IT OUT!



Tactile Stickers Galore! Do You Want More?

In recent months, the American Printing House for the Blind has received teacher requests for additional tactile stickers similar to those available in the existing Feel n' Peel Sticker packages. Current packages include braille alphabet stickers, literary braille number stickers, point symbol stickers, reward statement stickers, smiley face stickers, tactile stars, and color name stickers. Assorted packages are available. If you would like to see additional types of stickers produced by APH, please send Karen Poppe an email describing the types of stickers that you feel are still needed. Send all ideas to kpoppe@aph.org.



Procedures and Accommodations Manuals

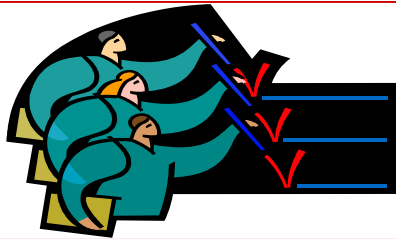
The following manuals are now posted on the Unit of Student Assessment Web site:

- ♦ 2009-2010 Procedures Manual for CSAP, CSAPA, and CELApro
- ♦ 2009-2010 Colorado Accommodations Manual
- ♦ 2009-2010 Colorado Accommodations Manual for English Language Learners

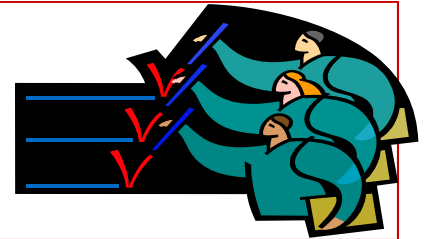
To access these manuals, please go to <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/publications.html>

Guidelines Needed: Appropriate Assessment of English Language Learners

Some years ago, Dr. Carol Allman, a consultant for Accessible Tests, drafted a document for the American Printing House for the Blind titled *Making Tests Accessible for Students with Visual Impairments: A Guide for Test Publishers, Test Developers, and State Assessment Personnel*. This document has been and continues to be extremely valuable as a training tool. Since the original document was released, it has been revised and updated to include information and guidelines regarding alternate assessments, uses of color for signage, graphics, text, tests and Power Point presentations, position papers on use of extended time and accommodations, and more. During this fiscal year, Accessible Tests staff has a goal of adding information and guidelines regarding appropriate assessment of English language learners who are also blind or visually impaired. If you would be interested in drafting guidelines for inclusion in the fifth edition of *Making Tests Accessible*, please contact Debbie Willis at dwillis@aph.org or call 502/899-2311 or 800/223-1839, ext. 311.



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.

CDE Assessment Revision Website and Survey

The Colorado Department of Education has set up a website dedicated to the assessment revision process currently underway. There are several informative documents posted here, including the timeline for the revision work, the composition of the stakeholders group, a FAQ, and upcoming dates for the public tour.

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/asmtrev/home>

In addition, a survey link has been set up in order for CDE to get feedback on both the current assessment system, and what potential changes should be considered. Please don't hesitate to forward this information throughout your districts, as all public feedback is valued and needed.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=toFlv6eXOEmllyJO_2bXZklw_3d_3d

If you have any questions/comments about the assessment revision work, please send all emails to: Assessment_Review@cde.state.co.us



The National Federation of the Blind is accepting applications for the 2010 Dr. Jacob Bolotin Award Program. A total of

\$50,000 will go to individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions toward achieving full integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality. To apply, please go to http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Application_Information.asp for yourself or nominate some other

worthy person or organization before the April 15, 2010 deadline.

THE FIELD HONORS DR. DEAN TUTTLE

(We are so Very Proud!)

The American Printing House for the Blind hosts the site of the "Hall of Fame: Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field." It is designed to honor leaders in the field of blindness. The Hall of Fame includes "bas relief" (tactile) plaques of each inductee, as well as biographical information and artifacts

On Friday evening, October 15, 2009, the 43rd and 44th legends of the blindness field, Dr. Euclid Herie and Dr. Dean Tuttle, were inducted in to the Hall of Fame at the Hilton Seelbach Hotel as a part of APH's 141st Annual Meeting. The ceremony began with a video showing all 44 inductees followed by Hall Governing Board Chair Jim Deremeik who offered a brief history and

explanation of the Hall, ending with a plea to the field to support their Hall of Fame. Jim then recognized artist Andrew Dakin, bas relief sculptor of all 44 inductee plaques found in the Hall. Inducting Herie and Tuttle in to the Hall was Dr. Jane Erin (AZ) who serves on the Hall Board of Governors. Individuals who submitted letters of nomination include Drs. Phil Hatlen, Mike Bena, Eugene Sheehan (Den of UNC's College of Education), and Kay Ferrell.

Many of us in Colorado know Dr. Tuttle either personally or through his important professional teaching and writings. The following bio is listed on the APH website.

Dean Tuttle was born in 1936 in the Belgian Congo where his parents were medical missionaries. After graduating from high school in the

Congo, he completed his undergraduate work at Wheaton College, two masters degrees, one in educational administration and one in special education. In 1971 he earned his doctorate in a joint program between the University of California at Berkeley and San Francisco State University in Educational Psychology/Special Education. Dean and his older brother both lost their vision due to retinitis pigmentosa. He and his wife, Naomi, have three sons and five grandchildren.

After teaching mathematics and science in New Jersey and serving as an itinerant/resource teacher in California, in 1966 he was invited to be the principal of the California School for the Blind. In this capacity he led the school during its difficult but vital transformation into a school for children with multiple impairments.

In 1971, he began teaching special education at the University of Northern Colorado where he worked until his full retirement in 1994. Under his leadership the teacher preparation program became one of the most respected in the country, certifying teachers in orientation and mobility as well as in special educa-



Dean and his bas relief plaque



Naomi and Dean Tuttle, Bob Brasher

tion. Later a multiple disabilities component was added, offering a triple-competency option.

He is the co-author, with his wife, of the text, *Self-esteem and Adjusting with Blindness: the Process of Responding to Life's Demands*, now in its third edition. He was then asked to write a correspondence course for The Hadley School for the Blind based on this book. This classic landmark text is required reading in most programs which prepare professionals in the blindness field. Through his writings he has helped to clarify the psychosocial paradigms which impact on the relationship between disabilities and the development of self-esteem.

Dr. Tuttle served on many advisory boards for Hadley, US Department of Education, American Foundation for the Blind, American Printing House for the Blind and NAC. Many of his 38 publications have centered around the topics of self-esteem, family responses to a visual impairment and recreation for the visually impaired. His latest book is a tribute to his parents and their medical work in the Congo. Dean has been invited to give many major presentations in 29 different states, Canada, Australia, China and Israel.

Dr. Tuttle has received many honors, among which are the Migel Medal from AFB in 2000 and the Wings of Freedom from APH in 2004. Earlier he received the Scholar of the Year Award from the University of Northern Colorado in 1990, the Distinguished Service Award from CEC-DVI in 1991, and the Warren Bledsoe Outstanding Publication Award from AER in 1992 and the Hadley President's Service Award in 2004.



Dean and his braille plaque



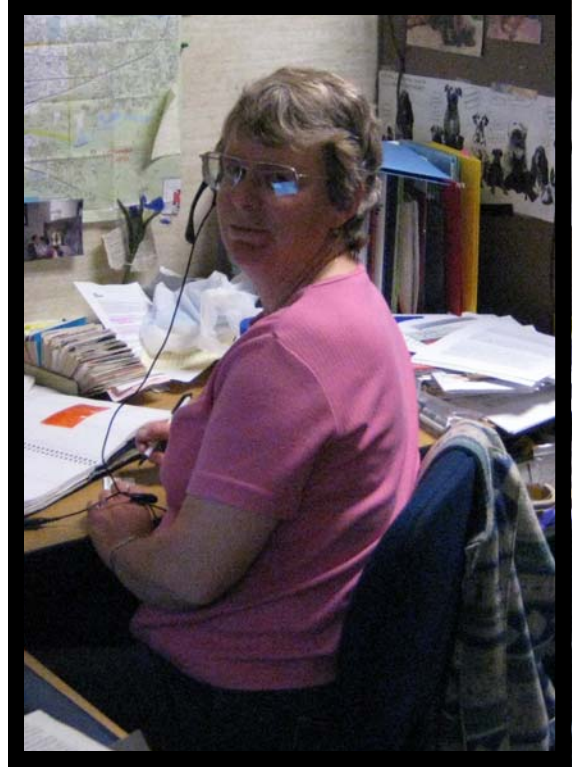
**Naomi and Dean Tuttle, Mike Bena, Phil Hatlen,
and Kay Ferrell**

Dr. Tuttle has been described as both a peer role model and mentor, with a calm and quiet demeanor, one who guided and challenged his students by mutually shared wisdom and insight. Some have received and passed on his advice, "Be curious about and pursue a variety of interests, cultivate and sharpen your God-given abilities and skills and enjoy the adventure of life."

Dr. Tuttle will be honored at our 2010 CAER Annual Banquet. Colorado extends its gratitude, love, and great pride to you, Dean. Both you and Naomi are our inspiration to be all we can be in our shared work on behalf of individuals who are blind/visually impaired.

Carol Inglis Starts a New Chapter!

Carol Inglis, DVR teacher of the visually impaired is retiring at the end of December from the Grand Junction office. Carol graduated from University of Northern Colorado in December 1987, with a Master of Arts in Orientation and Mobility. She began working for the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in March 1988 as a Rehab Teacher (as it was referred to then) and Orientation & Mobility Specialist. Carol has obtained her Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist credential. She has also been certified as a Rehabilitation Teacher and has received specialized training to assist guide dog users. She has been a long time board member for the Howard Fund.



Although Carol's office was listed as Grand Junction, she routinely traveled the entire Western Slope to provide services to people with visual impairments. With the thousands of miles she put on her vehicle during those years, she should have taken out stock in Big O Tires!

Over the years Carol established strong and effective working relationships with agencies, professionals and consumers of services in almost every Western Slope community from Craig to Cortez, and Fruita to Frisco. Over the past couple of years, Carol has been instrumental in organizing a series of Low Vision Open Houses throughout Western Colorado. These events allow people with visual impairments to receive information and referral services, explore assistive technology and meet with vendors in one location.

Carol worked with the high schools to assure that transitioning students were well served. The western slope teachers want to thank her for participating in their regional meetings and keeping the lines of communication open between the school system and DVR. She actively partnered with the colleges and post secondary schools within the region to assist with the O & M needs of on campus students. Carol received the Gary Schmidt Award this past Spring from CAER.

She plans to continue to work in the field through her own business, Second Sight, LLC. She will be active in CAER, O&M and continue some of her current outreach activities. We wish you the best of luck, Carol!

Information from Sarah Sonnier, Ron Miracle, and Heather Parsons



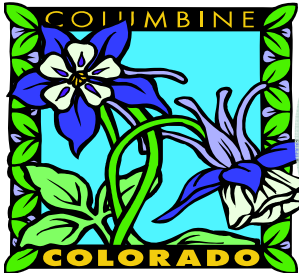
colorado connections

↪ The National Federal of the Blind of Colorado held their 55th annual conference on November 5-8. Several CO TVIs were involved in the conference. **Michelle Chacon** organized childcare/ activity program and provided several presentations. Michelle presented on IEP Workshop: *How to Get the Most out of Your Child's Individualized Education Program* (co-presented with **Kiki McGough**) and *Cane Travel for Parents: Hands-On Travel Techniques* (co-presented with Eric Wood), and a Communication Workshop: Exploring Techniques for Teaching Concepts and Tasks to Blind Children (co-presented by **Lucie Kiwimagi, Michelle Ruzich, Dianna Ruck, and Emily Jensen**). **Bonnie Snyder** and **Jim Olson** presented on *Adaptive Technology in the Classroom and at Home*. Bonnie came back on Saturday for more tech training. **Lou Tutt** presented on *Lucky Number Seven: A Report from the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind*. Also in attendance from CSDB were **Randy Witte, Loretta Finnegan, and Robin Theryoung**. CSDB also brought six of their students to the convention. **Tanni Anthony** presented on *Educating our Blind Youth: A Report from the CO Dept of Education*. A special highlight was *A Dot in this World: A Play Presented by the CCB Elementary Students*, which was co-directed by **Trina Boyd** and **Michelle Chacon**.

↪ **Jim Olson, Dr. Kay Ferrell, Naomi Tuttle, and Dr. Dean Tuttle** attended the recent American Printing House for the Blind Annual Meeting in Louisville. Jim is a Colorado ex-officio trustee and does CO mighty proud with his work to show case APH products across Colorado.

↪ Congratulations to **Donna Keale** of the CSDB Outreach Program for earning her CDE Certificate of Braille Competency. Thanks to **Lucia Hasty** for her proctoring efforts.

↪ A very special thank you to **Carol Love** for a random act of kindness. Between you and me, Carol, that was a very SWEET thing to do! Thanks, Tanni



colorado connections

Julie McCawley is a 16 year old junior at Westminster High School. Michelle Chacon is her TVI and Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Julie is visually impaired as a result of Stevens Johnson Syndrome, a severe adverse reaction to medication. Julie was honored to have lunch with **First Lady, Michelle Obama** on November 16th. Julie presented Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Ritter with Louis Braille commemorative coins on behalf of the National Federation of the Blind and promoted braille literacy in the public schools. This is a story that mentions Julie and her involvement in mentoring: www.coloradoan.com/article/20091117/NEWS01/911170327/-1/NEWSFRONT2/First-lady-puts-mentoring-on-menu



Colorado was well represented at the recent Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference, which was held in Costa Mesa, CA. **Drs. Kay Ferrell and Silva Correa-Torres** (with **Loana Mason**, formerly from Colorado) presented on *Research-Based Literacy Practices in Blindness and Visual Impairment*. **Chuck Farnsworth** presented on *The Cognitive Load Impacts of Assistive Technology Devices used by Sighted Teachers-in-Training During Literary Braille Instruction*. Dr. Madeline Milan presented on *Educating English Language Learners with Visual Impairments: What all Teachers Should Know*. Dr. Paula Conroy presented on *Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students with Visual Impairments Transitioning to Adulthood: What Teachers can do in School to Improve Student Outcomes*. **Trina Boyd Pratt, Judy Wiepert, Cheryl Leidich, and Sheryl Herlevich** also attended from Colorado.



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- ☞ A very special thank you to all the wonderful TVIs and braillists who came out to the recent State Conference on Visual Impairment. Despite inclement weather the Thursday night of conference, close to everyone who registered for the training was able to make it to the Friday and Saturday sessions. All of you ROCK! Thanks to our presenter **Dr. Derrick Smith** for his work with us on the topic of mathematics instruction for students who are blind/visually impaired. Thanks to **Jim Olson** for gathering and the CSDB crew for bringing a van-full of CIMC products specific to mathematics.
- ☞ THANK YOU to **Nancy Cozart** and **Janet Anderson** who spent a day completing an item analysis with Tanni reviewing the 2009 braille CSAP tests. The review involved the comments that were sent in last spring by TVIs who administered the braille CSAPs. In total, **20** TVIs turned in the item-analysis sheets. Thanks to the following people who took the time to submit this information: **Linda Campbell, Deb Carlisle, Gwen Carroll, Kathy Gallina, Barb Galgano, Amy Gunning, Elaine Karns, Shannon Martinez, Jan Megarry, Shelley Moats, Jerri Nelson, Sue Newhart, Mike Plansker, Jenevieve Scott, Angela Sims, Sarah Sonnier, Julie Wetzstein, Anita Wherry, Judy Wiepert, and Randy Witte.**
- ☞ Great Work! to **Amber Rundle Kahn, Melissa Shular, and Deb Carlisle** for earning clock hours for braille renewal modules. Thanks to proctors **Brenda Shepard** and **Lucia Hasty.**
- ☞ **Tanni Anthony** attended the first portion of the Canadian Vision Teachers Conference in Banff, Alberta. She co-presented a pre-conference session with Dr. Kevin Stewart. Our good friend Dr. Cay Holbrook sends her greetings to CO TVIs and COMSs.

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