

## Protect, Advocate, and Work for Our Field

By Tanni L. Anthony

At the recent CAER Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet, Dr. Dean Tuttle encouraged the attendees to protect, advocate, and work for our field. This is not a simple sentiment. The field of educating learners who are blind/visually impaired, while not a new vocation, is a small field in numbers. There are fewer than 90 teachers certified in the area of visual impairment (TVI) in Colorado. The field of Orientation and Mobility is a young field; just about 60 years old from its inception. We have about 50 plus personnel licensed as certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS) working in Colorado public schools.

Colorado continues to stay ahead, for the most part, of the national TVI and COMS shortage that exists in most states. This is due for a couple of reasons: first, we have a university training program right in our state (the University of Northern Colorado) and second, TVIs can be hired on a temporary authorization. The latter means that someone going to school to be a TVI can be hired in this capacity. But we still need to stay vigilant of protecting, advocating, and working for our field. It is not enough just to have hired personnel.

We need to continue to: recruit new personnel to the fields of educating students who are blind/visually impaired and orientation and mobility; support VI paraeducators to pursue a TVI degree / COMS certification; educate school personnel about the roles of a TVI and a COMS; link with adults who are blind/visually impaired or deafblind and bring their wisdom to our teaching practices, to maintain professional memberships; be proactive to stay current in by subscribing to and reading journals and books in these fields (and other fields); be a AER / CAER board member and division officer; maintain professional certifications; write a journal article; participate in a research study or be a field reviewer; and be open (and brave) to provide presentations in your schools / regions / state / and nationally. Other tasks may be to work with traffic control engineers to advocate for traffic control, volunteers to create special instructional materials ... the list could be very long.

But it also means taking care of YOU so you are ready to come back in the fall. This means doing what refuels you— pleasure books, mountain hikes, vacationing ... whatever restores the calm from an exceptionally busy school year. Thanks to each of you for protecting, advocating, and working for our shared profession(s) this past school year. Enjoy these upcoming summer days!

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!**

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

**May 2010**

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# Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

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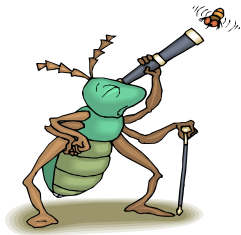
In at least one area of my life, I feel that I have finally grown up (we won't address the other areas where adulthood is still out of reach). And that area is technology platforms. For years and years, I was IBM compatible platform exclusively. And for the most part, I felt that because of the variety of choices of hardware and software for persons who are blind and visually impaired, the IBM compatible platform was the best choice.

Recently I purchased a Mac Mini, an iPod Touch and an iPad. All three have built-in accessibility that is very impressive. With accessibility as a component of the operating system instead of an add-on, it is conceivable that programmers who use the Apple API will produce software that will be accessible to persons who are blind and visually impaired. Wouldn't that be a wonderful change: software off the shelf or downloaded from the web will be useable right at the start without the need to create scripts or costly upgrades!

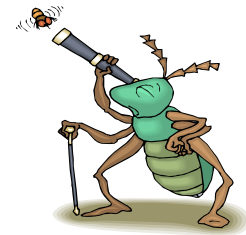
Programmers, for the most part, are very independent individualists. Therefore, there will be plenty of them who will write their software off the API grid which will likely make it inaccessible. However, I would like us, as a community, to try to encourage the software programmers and companies to seriously consider following the Apple Programming Interface so people who are blind and visually impaired will be able to use their products on an equal basis with their sighted peers.

So the growing up part means that I no longer say that only one platform is the platform we should use for our students. Instead, we should look at what will work best for each individual student and go with that, whether it is PC, Mac, Linux, Unix, Dec, Sun Sparc, etc. If it will server the needs of the student in the best possible way, then let's go with it.

Have a great summer!



# LOW VISION NEWS



## Southern LVE Clinic #2

Donice Fennimore

The final CDE Low Vision Evaluation Clinic for the 2009-2010 school year was held March 5, 2010 at the School for the Deaf and the Blind, in the School for the Blind.

There were six students evaluated and four administrative units represented at the clinic. Thanks to the following TVIs for bringing their students: Holly Guinan, EP 8 (Ellicott); Chloann Woolley, Ute Pass BOCES (Woodland Park); Kathy Gallina, (South Central BOCES); and Jamie Lugo, Alexandra Bradstreet and Karen Ortega-Sedlar all from CSDB.

This has been an exciting year for the low vision clinics and the team hopes that those TVIs who brought students, the students themselves and the parents all feel that they left with a better understanding of low vision and the importance of low vision devices.

We are sure the clinics next year will be as productive as this year's and we are looking forward to them. The team would like to thank everyone who helped organize the regional clinics and to all those who make the clinics a reality for our Colorado students with low vision.

## The CDE Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Schedule

### Proposed Clinic Schedule for School Year 2010-2011

Region	Dates	Location	Site Coordinators
Southern	September 9-10, 2010	CSDB in Colorado Springs	Judy Mumford
Western	September 24-25, 2010	Grand Junction	Sarah Sonnier
Metro	To be Determined	To be Determined	Nancy Knight
Northern	To Be Determined	Brighton School District	Wendy Stoltman
Southern	March 4, 2011	CSDB in Colorado Springs	Judy Mumford

## Low Vision Clinic Evaluations - We Need Your Input!!

Post-clinic evaluations have been mailed out to the participating families / students and teachers of students with visual impairments in each of the regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinic this school year. The purpose of the evaluations is to determine what worked and what could be improved for future clinics. The results are tallied and shared with the low vision team of Dr. Tom Theune, Jim Olson, and Donice Fennimore. The comments pertinent to hosting the clinics will be shared with our site coordinators.

If you participated in any of this year's clinics, please take time to complete and return the evaluation form. For those of you who brought more than one student to the clinic, you will be asked to fill out a form per student.

*Thanks so much for your time and feedback!!*

# 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 (NFB) Jernigan Institute, offered its first Science Academy program for elementary students. Once again NFB is 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. 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.

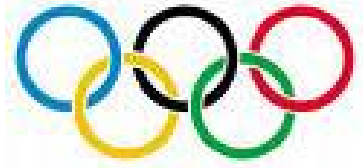
A registration fee of \$150 will be charged for each accepted student and parent/chaperone pair. The cost of travel, room, board, and program materials will be covered by the NFB Jernigan Institute for all student and parent/chaperone pairs.

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

**303-778-1130 x222 or [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)**

## The 2010 Winter Games Have Ended!!!

Both in Vancouver and Estes Park! What a great weekend we had at the YMCA Conference Center. With lots of illness this year, we ended up with 43 participants at our Olympic Winter Games and we learned lots of trivia and valuable information about the sports, like Colorado's Lindsey Vonn and her medals!



Our events included sledding (not Bobsledding or Skeleton races, but a lot of fun), ice skating (not figure, hockey, or speed, although there was a great game of broom ball, human curling, and our own Kaitlin and Mike skating pair, who performed a graceful dance "on the ice" literally), snowshoeing is a great sport and we hope they will include it in the coming years (All groups completed their trail in record time!) In addition, we had swimming, roller skating, games and karaoke

We had Colorado blue sky, no wind and 45 degree temperatures on Saturday, followed by light snow for our sledding enjoyment. With a storm on the way, we did our shopping, had lunch, celebrated our participation, received our medals, and returned home.

Special thanks to our awesome staff: Dannyel Adams, Deb Carlisle, Lori Hall, Cheryl Leidich, Kaitlin Lombardi, Chris Maynard, Bill Muir, Mike Plansker, Trina Boyd-Pratt, Dan Spigarelli, Tyrone Threats, Loretta Finnigan-Nelson, and our Saturday volunteers. We could never make this happen without them! *Thanks to Elaine Karns for submitting this article and her work at the CO games!*



## TASH Conference Comes to Denver!!

Just in case you have not heard, TASH will host its big annual conference in Denver next December (8-11). TASH is an international association of people with disabilities, their family members, other advocates, and professionals fighting for a society in which inclusion of all people in all aspects of society is the norm. TASH is an organization of

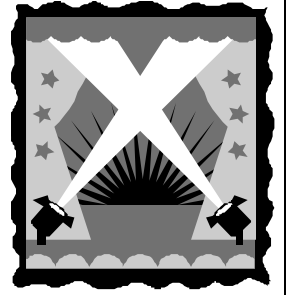
members concerned with human dignity, civil rights, education, and independence for all individuals with disabilities. We have over thirty chapters and members from thirty-four different countries and territories. Since our inception over twenty-five years ago, TASH has gained international acclaim for our uncompromising stand against separatism, stigmatization, abuse and neglect. We actively promote the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life. TASH believes that no one with a disability should be forced to live, work, or learn in a segregated setting; that all individuals deserve the right to direct their own lives. TASH's mission is to eliminate physical and social obstacles that prevent equity, diversity, and quality of life.

TASH is a civil rights organization for, and of, people with mental disability, autism, cerebral palsy, physical disabilities and other conditions that make full integration a challenge.

<http://www.tash.org/2010tash/ConferenceProgram.htm>



# Spotlight on



## Diabetic Retinopathy

Information retrieved from: <https://health.google.com/health/ref/Diabetic+retinopathy>  
and from [http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=103442](http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page_id=103442)

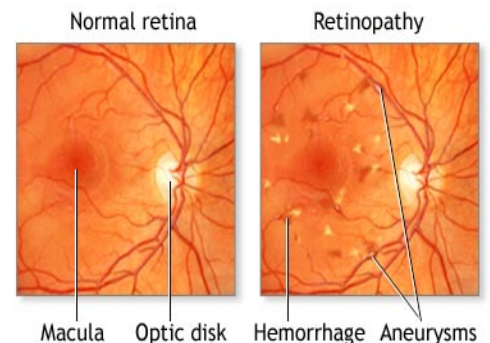
**What is Diabetes?** Type 1 Diabetes often develops in children, adolescents, and young adults, so it's sometimes called "juvenile diabetes." Type 2 Diabetes is the most common form of diabetes.

A healthy pancreas produces insulin, a hormone that the body uses to change glucose in the blood into energy. Glucose in the blood comes from the food and drink a person consumes. A person with type 1 diabetes doesn't produce any insulin. Without insulin, the glucose builds up in the blood, causing high blood sugar, or hyperglycemia. Blood sugar levels that are too high and untreated for long periods of time can lead to ketoacidosis, a very serious condition. Very high blood sugars for an extended period of time can eventually lead to coma and death.

**What is Diabetic Retinopathy?** This is damage to the eye's retina that occurs with long-term diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in working-age Americans.

Having more severe diabetes for a longer period of time increases the chance of getting retinopathy. Retinopathy is also more likely to occur earlier and be more severe if a person's diabetes has been poorly controlled. Almost everyone who has had diabetes for more than 30 years will show signs of diabetic retinopathy.

**What Causes This Condition?** Diabetic retinopathy is caused by damage to blood vessels of the retina. The retina is the layer of tissue at the back of the inner eye. It changes light and images that enter the eye into nerve signals that are sent to the brain. There are two types, or stages of retinopathy: non-proliferative or proliferative.



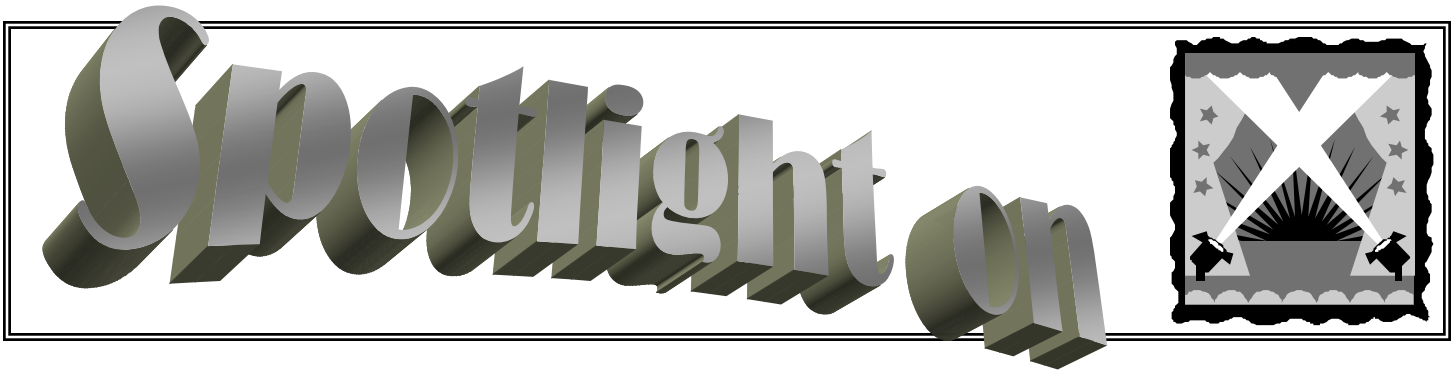
- Non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy develops first. Blood vessels in the eye become larger in certain spots (called microaneurysms). Blood vessels may also become blocked. There may be small amounts of bleeding (retinal hemorrhages), and fluid may leak into the retina. This can lead to noticeable problems with your eyesight.
- Proliferative retinopathy is the more advanced and severe form of the disease. New blood vessels start to grow in the eye. These new vessels are fragile and can bleed (hemorrhage). Small scars develop, both on the retina and in other parts of the eye (the vitreous). The end result is vision loss, as well as other problems.

ADAM.

**What are the Visual Symptoms?** Most often, diabetic retinopathy has no symptoms until the damage to your eyes is severe. Symptoms of diabetic retinopathy include:

- Blurred vision and gradual vision loss
- Shadows or missing areas of vision
- Floaters
- Difficulty seeing at nighttime

Many people with early diabetic retinopathy have no symptoms before major bleeding occurs in the eye. This is



why everyone with diabetes should have regular eye exams. Other visual problems that may develop are:

- Macular edema -- the macula is the area of the retina that provides sharp vision straight in front of you. If fluid leaks into this area, vision becomes more blurry.
- Retinal detachment -- scarring may cause part of the retina to pull away from the back of the eyeball.
- Glaucoma -- increased pressure in the eye is called glaucoma. If not treated, it can lead to blindness.
- Cataracts -- A cataract is a cloudy area in the lens of the eye.

**What are Treatments to Diabetic Retinopathy?** The following are very important for preventing diabetic retinopathy: (a) Tight control of blood sugar (glucose), blood pressure, and cholesterol and (b) not smoking. People with nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy may not need treatment. However, they should be closely followed-up by an eye doctor trained to treat diabetic retinopathy. Treatment usually does not reverse damage that has already occurred, but it can help keep the disease from getting worse. Once a doctor notices new blood vessels growing in the individual's retina (neovascularization) or the individual develops macular edema, treatment is usually needed. Several procedures or surgeries are the main treatment for diabetic retinopathy.

Laser eye surgery creates small burns in the retina where there are abnormal blood vessels. This process is called photocoagulation. It is used to keep vessels from leaking or to get rid of abnormal, fragile vessels.

- Focal laser photocoagulation is used to treat macular edema.
- Scatter laser treatment or panretinal photocoagulation treats a large area of your retina. Often two or more sessions are needed.

A surgical procedure called vitrectomy is used when there is bleeding (hemorrhage) into the eye. It may also be used to repair a retinal detachment.

Drugs that prevent abnormal blood vessels from growing, and corticosteroids injected into the eyeball are being investigated as new treatments for diabetic retinopathy.

### **Resources:**

**Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF):** JDRF is the worldwide leader for research to cure type 1 diabetes. It sets the global agenda for diabetes research, and is the largest charitable funder and advocate of diabetes science worldwide. Contact: 26 Broadway, New York, New York 10004, 800-533-CURE (2873), E-mail: [info@jdrf.org](mailto:info@jdrf.org), Web Address: [http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=103442](http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page_id=103442)

All students with type 1 Diabetes (juvenile diabetes) need a strong support network at school to help them properly manage their type 1 diabetes on a daily basis. Cultivating good relationships with school staff is key. JDRF has developed a new resource to support and empower families as they communicate with school staff throughout the year.

To request JDRF's School Advisory Toolkit:

[http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.viewPage&page\\_id=7A645925-1279-CFD5-A71730D087DFCE8C](http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.viewPage&page_id=7A645925-1279-CFD5-A71730D087DFCE8C)

# Expanded Core Curriculum

*Reprinted with permission from the Perkins's School for the Blind Insights eNews newsletter. ([www.Perkins.org](http://www.Perkins.org))*

Every student is expected to leave high school with a strong grasp of “core” subjects like math, language arts, science, and history.

But in order to master these subjects, and to eventually live and work independently, students who are blind or visually impaired must learn an additional set of skills known as the “expanded core curriculum.” Essential life skills including social interaction, independent living, career education, and communication modes such as braille, must be taught alongside basic academics.

For a student who is blind, learning about world geography from books is not enough. That student must also learn orientation and mobility skills and practice using a white cane for safe, independent travel. The expanded core curriculum empowers students with disabilities to access their education and make their own choices throughout life.

Students participate in adapted sports in gym class.

As superintendent of Perkins' Educational Programs, Dorinda Rife watches students practice the skills of the expanded core curriculum (ECC) every day. Whether they are socializing and learning to handle money in the student store, finding their own way to classrooms across campus, or playing adapted sports in gym class, students are building a foundation for success in life at Perkins and beyond.

“If students do not have these skills in place, they cannot become productive, independent adults,” says Rife, who began her career teaching students with visual impairments in public schools.

While sighted children use visual experiences throughout their lives to learn concepts casually or incidentally, students who are visually impaired with or without additional disabilities cannot rely on sensory observations. The foundational skills they need for daily life in school, at home, and in the community, must be strategically taught and integrated into all aspects of their education.

The ECC areas include: compensatory skills, including communication modes (adaptations needed for students to access core subjects such as braille, sign language, or tactile symbols); orientation and mobility; social interaction skills; independent living skills; recreation and leisure skills; career education; assistive technology; sensory efficiency skills; and self-determination. [Read descriptions of the nine ECC components.](#)

Rife explained how one activity can be used to practice several components in the expanded core curriculum. To prepare lunch, students must plan the meal, shop for ingredients, and help out in the kitchen with everything from chopping carrots to cleaning dishes. The assignment requires students to practice orientation and mobility, independent living skills including handling money and cooking, reading recipes in braille, social interaction, and self-determination.

“It takes a lot of practice for our students to integrate these skills into their bodies and minds,” explained Rife, adding that students with disabilities must learn by doing rather than being told how to perform an activity. “Our students, just like any students, need safe chances to practice and fail and to then try again and be successful.”

From her own experience, Rife knows the challenges of addressing expanded core curriculum in public schools with time constraints and the pressure of preparing students for high stakes academic testing. She advises parents to work closely with teachers of the visually impaired to ensure ECC skills



such as the use of assistive technology, career education, and independent living, are well incorporated into their child's individual education plan (IEP).

An Outreach student practices cooking skills.

Through [Perkins Outreach Services](#), public school students can participate in weekend, vacation, and summer programs providing training and reinforcement in various ECC areas. By taking a succession of summer courses through Outreach, Rife said, students can build vital ECC skills while working towards a higher level of independence.

In the [Elementary Summer Programs](#), "Steps Toward Independence," students stay on Perkins' campus for a week of socializing with peers; community exploration; ECC skills training such as cooking, braille and technology, and home and personal management; and adapted recreation activities including music, crafts, and horseback riding.

"There has to be a balance between book smarts and life smarts," says Outreach Services Director Beth Caruso, adding that the program's goal is to encourage families in carrying over these skills at home and in school.

Parents are constantly surprised, Caruso observes, by the level of independence their children are able to achieve when given the chance to do things for themselves in a safe and fun environment.

Families have busy schedules, and parents can get in the habit of doing things for their children rather than taking the time to step back and let them try. Caruso outlined time saving strategies such as advising parents to sit down with their child on Sunday night to choose outfits for the week, creating more time to let their child independently dress for school in the mornings.

"We have pretty high expectations for kids," Caruso explained. "What we are doing is helping parents to do one less thing so that their kids can do one more."

Self care skills help students live independently.

In the three-week ["Dealing with the Present ... While Preparing for the Future"](#) summer program, students gain more intensive skills training with a focus on opportunities to improve self-esteem. During the five-week ["Sampling the World of Work Program"](#) students get on the job experience while sharing an apartment and learning to balance the responsibilities of work and home life.

Programs like those provided by Perkins Outreach Services can be vital resources for parents, says Susan LaVenture, Executive Director of the [National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments \(NAPVI\)](#).

"Although academics are important, these skills are what make a person successful in life," said LaVenture, who recently conducted a NAPVI training for parents on the expanded core curriculum.

LaVenture stressed the importance of educating parents about the expanded core curriculum to help them advocate for educational resources.

"The parent often ends up being a resource or an informant to the school," LaVenture explained.

Sometimes parents of children with visual impairments, including those with additional disabilities, do not have expectations that their children will be able to do things like play sports or cook their own meal. Once they realize how everything from recreational activities to household chores can be adapted, parents can begin encouraging their children to do more independently.

"It's important for parents to know that their children can develop in all of these areas and that they

can have active, productive lives,” LaVenture said.

A teacher of students with visual impairments can help parents make simple and practical adaptations at home such as organizing the kitchen area and using braille labels on household items, LaVenture said. By making adaptations that allow children with disabilities to practice everyday tasks independently, parents help their children build confidence in their own abilities.

After 28 years of experience teaching and working as an administrator, Dorinda Rife believes strongly in empowering students with disabilities to make their own decisions. Self-determination refers to students recognizing their own abilities and becoming their own advocates.

“You are determining who you are and what you do,” Rife concludes. “All of this is about giving students choices in what to do with their lives.” *(Editor’s Note: Many of us know Dorinda from her days in CO—it is great to see how she continues to contribute to our field!)*

## **The Nine Components of the Expanded Core Curriculum**

**Compensatory and functional academic skills, including communication modes** - Compensatory skills involve the adaptations necessary for accessing the core curriculum, which can include: braille, tactile symbols, sign language, and recorded materials.

**Orientation and Mobility** - Skills to orient children who are visually impaired to their surroundings and travel skills to enable them to move independently and safely in the environment.

**Social Interaction Skills** - Since nearly all social skills are learned by observation of the environment and people, this is an area where students with vision loss need careful, conscious and explicit instruction.

**Independent Living Skills** - This area includes the tasks and functions people perform in daily life to optimize their independence - skills such as personal hygiene, food preparation, money management, and household chores.

**Recreation & Leisure Skills** - Skills to ensure students' enjoyment of physical and leisure-time activities, including making choices about how to spend leisure time.

**Career Education** - Students with vision loss benefit most from an experiential learning approach. Structured visits to community sites and discussions with people who perform various jobs, enable them to understand concepts and specific skills that are needed to be successful in those jobs. Considering the national rate of unemployment or underemployment of working-age adults who are blind is 70% -75%, this area needs attention throughout the school years to help students with vision loss develop marketable job skills.

**Assistive Technology** - Assistive technology is a powerful tool that can enable students with vision loss to overcome some traditional barriers to independence and employment.

**Sensory Efficiency Skills** - Skills that help students use the senses – including any functional vision, hearing, touch, smell, and taste – to access skills related to literacy and concept development.



**The Colorado Chapter of the Association of the Education**

**CELEBRATION with CAER**

The CAER Annual Meeting was held April 30, 2010, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Anchor Center for Blind Children. The board would like to thank all of you who attended and the Anchor Center for sharing their facility again with us. The majority of the banquet went to honoring this year's (and one of last) award recipients. The awards given were:



**President's Award 2009- Sheryl Herlevich**

**Gary Schmidt Award 2010- Shelley Moats**

**President's Award 2010-Gwen Carroll**

**Lifetime Achievement Award 2010 -Debbie Ellis**



As part of the awards ceremony, CAER in conjunction with UNC and CDE were proud to recognize **Dr. Dean Tuttle** for his recent induction into the **APH Hall of Fame**. Congratulations Dean!

The new officers and board members were also slated and nominated for the 2010-2011 school year. The officers are as follows:

**President- Mike Plansker**

**President Elect- Heather Parsons**

**Past President- Samantha Hoffman**

**Secretary- Sally Burch**

**Treasurer- Deb Carlisle**

Please consider getting more involved with CAER by joining the board or a committee. Board meetings are posted on the website as well as contact information for the board members. Thanks to everyone who attended. For more information about CAER, please go to their webpage at <http://co.aerbvi.org/>.

# Resources and Materials

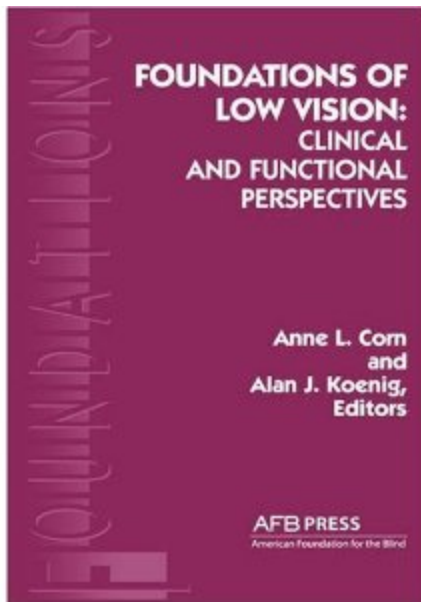


## **Parents Guide to Judo**

**Enhancing Confidence and Independence for  
Blind and Visually Impaired**

BY RON C. PECK, CFO & CO-FOUNDER OF THE  
BLIND JUDO FOUNDATION

Interested in the martial arts? Read Ron Peck's new book, *Parents Guide to Judo* from the Blind Judo Foundation at [www.aph.org/pe/ParentsGuidetoJudo.pdf](http://www.aph.org/pe/ParentsGuidetoJudo.pdf)



## **New Edition of *Foundations of Low Vision* Dedicated to Alan Koenig**

Drs. Anne L. Corn and Jane N. Erin, editors of the newly released second edition of *Foundations of Low Vision: Clinical and Functional Perspectives*, have dedicated the new edition to Dr. Alan J. Koenig, co-editor of the 1996 first edition of the book. When Dr. Koenig began work on the second edition, he envisioned a comprehensive and up-to-date text that would help professionals provide people with visual impairments with the best opportunity to achieve their potential.

**The NEW, second edition of *Foundations of Low Vision* is available for order now in the AFB Press online bookstore at [afbpress@afb.net](mailto:afbpress@afb.net)**

## **Book Port Plus Tutorial on You Tube**

Nebraska student, Chase, provides the first in a series of YouTube tutorials on the new Book Port Plus. This is a great way to learn more about this important new tool.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BraillePlus>

# Resources and Materials

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND–AUDIO DESCRIPTION PROJECT and the  
DESCRIBED AND CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM announce the  
***SECOND ANNUAL YOUNG DESCRIBED FILM CRITIC CONTEST!!***

A “Listening Is Learning” Initiative

Kids love movies. If you’re a young person who can’t see or can’t see well, audio description provides access to all the visual images of the movies that your sighted peers enjoy.

Some films in movie theaters and certain DVDs have description available; many of those DVDs and the older VHS tapes with description can be borrowed at public libraries or state libraries for the blind.

The ***YOUNG DESCRIBED FILM CRITIC Contest*** wants you to experience these films and the description soundtracks and tell us about them!

Young people with a visual impairment have a chance to win prizes for themselves AND recognition for their schools. And--a chance to hold the awesome title: Young Described Film Critic of the Year!

All you need to do for a chance to win is to write, type or record your own film review of any described movie. Keep it short: 250 words maximum.

There are three age categories: Sophomore (ages 7 to 10), Junior (ages 11 to 14), and Senior (ages 15 to 18). You can enter as many times as you like!

The top nominees in each age category will be invited to an Awards Ceremony at the American Council of the Blind 2010 convention in Phoenix, AZ on July 14, 2010. Special guest award presenters will be in attendance and while the prizes are still to be determined, we know you won’t be disappointed!

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Friday, June 11, 2010**

To enter send your written entry in regular or large print or Braille via email or postal mail (Submissions from outside the United States are fine.) to: ACB-Young Described Film Critic, 2200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 650, Arlington, VA 22201 USA, email: [jsnyder@acb.org](mailto:jsnyder@acb.org), phone: 202 467-5083. You will need to include these details: Name, Address, Phone, Email, Age category: Sophomore (ages 7 to 10), Junior (ages 11 to 14), or Senior (ages 15 to 18), Name of school and class, School address and phone number, and don’t forget to attach your review!

For “Top Tips for Writing the Ultimate Film Review,” visit:

[http://listeningislearning.org/get-involved\\_events-and-contests.html](http://listeningislearning.org/get-involved_events-and-contests.html)





# Resources and Materials



Pennsylvania Training & Technical Assistance Network

PaTTAN is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Education working in partnership with families and local education agencies to support programs and services to improve student learning and achievement



## AER LIFT CONFERENCE

Go to the link below and then select the "Exploring Careers in the Field of Visual Impairment" video.

**Training Title:** Exploring Careers in the Field of Visual Impairment  
**Description:** Exploring Careers in the Field of Visual Impairment  
**Interest Area(s):** Visual Impairment/Blind

<http://www.pattan.net/StreamingMedia.aspx?ContentLocation=/teachlead/BlindVisualImpairment.aspx>

## THIRD Edition of *Foundations of Orientation and Mobility* is now underway!!

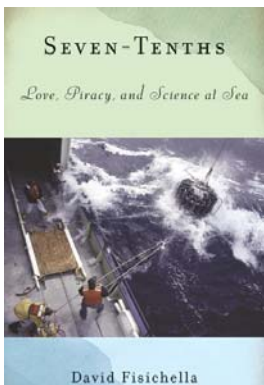
The third edition of *Foundations of Orientation and Mobility* is nearing completion and is expected to be released in June of 2010. This two volume set is being edited by William Wiener, Richard Welsh and Bruce Blasch. Keep tabs on the book by going to the AFB Press Bookstore site at [afbpress@afb.net](mailto:afbpress@afb.net).



## Memoir Tells of the Work of a Blind Oceanographer

*Seven-Tenths: Love, Piracy, and Science at Sea*, by David Fischella, is a memoir that describes how the author met and came to work for Amy Bower, and oceanographer with macular degeneration who spends most of her life at sea. The pair meet at a reception and at the Carroll Center for the Blind and several months later they embark on a research cruise to the Arabian Sea and fall in love. The 229-page paperback book is available for a cost of \$15.95.

For more information contact: Leapfrog Press, PO Box 2110, Teaticket, MA 02536; Email: [leapfrog@leapfrogpress.com](mailto:leapfrog@leapfrogpress.com); Web: [www.leapfrogpress.com](http://www.leapfrogpress.com)





**PARENT SEMINAR DAY!** On Saturday, July 3, the **National Organization of Parents of Blind Children** will hold its annual all day seminar for parents and educators. The seminar will be held in Dallas, TX.

**Here's a sampling of the workshops planned for parents:**

- ***The Blind Student in Science Class*** - Tools and techniques are available to include blind students in all aspects of science class, from elementary through AP courses.
- ***Braille Reading Rates*** - Can Braille readers compete? What does the research really show? This workshop will include Braille reading demonstrations and information on how your child can become a Braille reading speed demon!
- ***Let Your Child Grow Up*** - When is the right time to begin stepping back as a parent? When is your child really ready for more independence?
- ***ABC and 1, 2, 3*** - How to create an atmosphere that encourages the development of early literacy and number understanding in the young child in the home and at school.
- ***I Survived Math Class*** - Strategies and tips for ensuring that your child learns, keeps up with, and even learns to love math. Instructor: TBA; panel of blind students
- ***Social Skills*** - This workshop will explore strategies for fostering the development of age-appropriate social skills in the young blind child.
- ***Low Vision: Focus on Success*** - Sometimes it feels as if the low-vision child is caught between two worlds. This workshop will explore the reality of having low vision and will offer ways to ensure that the child is prepared with techniques and tools for success in school, at home, and in social life.
- ***Get Your Child Going*** - How can you get your child moving and exploring the world? Explore ways to enhance and promote independent movement in the young or delayed child.
- ***Technology*** - What technology do blind kids need and when? Come learn what technology is available and hear from students on how they employ it. Instructor: Richard Holloway, parent; blind students
- ***Behavior: From Control to Support in Five Easy Lessons*** - This workshop will focus on problem behavior in blind and vision-impaired children and how parents and teachers can use the positive behavior support approach to support the child's behavior and encourage self-determination.

**AND FOR THE KIDS...**

- ***Diggin' into Science*** - Children will participate in interesting and exciting hands-on science activities involving instant snow, glaciers, magnets, UFO ball chains, Alka Seltzer rockets, and volcanoes.
- ***Make-a-Book*** (ages five to ten, in NFB Camp) - Children will work with writers from the NFB Writers Division to create beautiful story or poetry books to take home and forever remember Dallas 2010.
- ***NFB Junior Youth Track and Youth Track Sessions*** - For youth ages 11 to 14 and 14 to 18.

**RESERVATION DETAILS:** The Hilton Anatole Hotel is located at 2201 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75207. Make your room reservation by calling (214) 761-7500 (not the toll free number as those operators won't be able to give you the convention rates). The 2010 room rates are: singles, doubles, and twins \$62; and triples and quads \$67 a night, plus a 15 percent sales tax. The hotel will hold the convention block of rooms until June 1, 2010 so get your reservation in soon.

# DOTS OF INTEREST

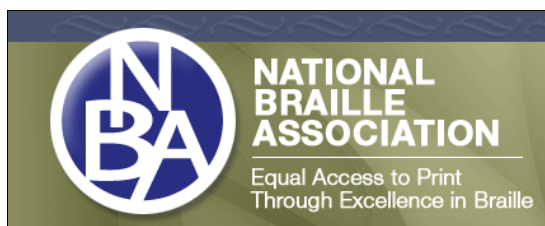


## Study on Tactual Learners

Dr. Tina Herzberg, University of South Carolina Upstate, and Dr. L. Penny Rosenblum, University of Arizona, are seeking individuals who prepare math materials for tactual learners in preschool through grade 12 to participate in a research study. The purpose of the study is to learn about the background of participants, the ways in which they prepare math materials for tactual learners, and the accuracy of the materials prepared. Potential participants in the study include: teachers of students with visual impairments, paraprofessionals, braillists, transcribers, and others who prepare math materials for tactual learners. Participants must have prepared math materials for tactual learners during the 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and/or 2009-2010 school years.

If you are interested in participating, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/s/WPS5JCD](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WPS5JCD) and read the letter of invitation. After giving your consent to participate in the study, you will complete an online demographic survey, select a worksheet to braille and mail to the researchers, and complete the online transcription survey.

You may contact the research coordinators as follows: Dr. Herzberg at 864-503-5572 or by e-mail at [therzberg@uscupstate.edu](mailto:therzberg@uscupstate.edu), or Dr. Rosenblum at 520-621-1223 or by e-mail at [rosenblu@u.arizona.edu](mailto:rosenblu@u.arizona.edu)



**Braille Resource** The National Braille Association (NBA) recognizes how difficult it is to learn and/or retain everything there is to know about braille. How

should I format the text of a certain kind of document? Where can I find the rule explaining how to...? How would you braille this e-mail address? Should this image be a tactile graphic, and if so, what are your recommendations? *Ask An Expert* is a forum that allows transcribers and educators to discuss the complexities of formatting braille so it is consistent and provides the greatest possible benefit to students. Visit [www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org) and check out the *Ask An Expert* site.

# DOTS OF INTEREST



## BRAILLE READING PALS CLUB

The Braille Reading Pals Club (for children from infancy through age seven) is a great way for parents and children to enjoy reading together. Club members will receive a print/Braille book, a stuffed animal “reading pal,” Braille activity sheets sent every three months, a monthly newsletter and a Braille birthday card on that special day. The program begins April 1, 2010. For more information or to get registered for the program contact Treva Olivero: [tolivero@nfb.org](mailto:tolivero@nfb.org) or phone 410-659-9314 extension 2295.

## STUDYING PLANET EARTH

Just released! *Touch the Earth: A Multimedia Book About the Earth's Biomes*. This new large print/Braille and tactile image book created in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is designed for junior high and high school students to supplement their learning about the different ecosystems of the Earth's continents. Copies of the book can be purchased through the NFB Independence Market by calling (410) 659-9314, extension 2216, or go to [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org) and enter ecommerce in the search box. Books are \$20 and include two instructional DVDs and a print/Braille tactile poster map. **12 Amazing Tricks** - A Braille book of magic tricks by Anna Dresner. Kids will love amazing their friends with these twelve magic tricks that use items found around the house. Performing tricks for family and friends will also help polish their presentation skills, and boost self-confidence. Includes tricks such as the jumping coin trick, the rising crayon trick, deceptive ice and “think of a card”. \$5.00 From National Braille Press [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org) 800-548-7323

## WIKKI-STIX™

Wikki Stix™ are colorful waxy strings available at toy and crafts stores which have been a favorite with kids for many years. A little like pipe cleaners in that they are bendable, Wikki-Stix™ have the advantage of sticking to each other or to other objects. Parents and teachers of blind children have found that Wikki-Stix™ work well for creating tactile illustrations of shapes, among other things. Here is a recipe for making your own Wikki-Stix™ like product.

### Materials:

- One large, empty coffee can
- Paraffin wax
- Toilet seal (beeswax seal, available at hardware stores)
- Crayons—if you want colored stix
- String
- Wax Paper

### Process:

Put equal amounts of paraffin wax and toilet seal wax in the coffee can. Place can in a pot of warm water and heat until wax is melted. Use a pencil sharpener or grater to create crayon shavings and stir shavings into melted wax to achieve desired color. When all is melted and mixed, dip pieces of string in the mixture and lay them out to dry on wax paper. Keep the wax warm as you work or it will harden. Once the strings have cooled you can bend, shape and use just as you would the original Wikki-Stix™.

# DOTS OF INTEREST



## TOUCH OF GENIUS PRIZE

National Braille Press invites you to apply for a \$20,000 award to honor those innovating in the field of tactile literacy. This prize was developed to inspire an innovator to continue the promotion of braille literacy for blind and deaf-blind people worldwide.

The Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation, provided through support from National Braille Press and The Gibney Family Foundation, will be granted to a group or individual for a new educational method, a new tactile literacy product, or a new technological advance in tactile literacy. It may be awarded for a completed project or anticipated concept that shows viability and will improve opportunities for blind people.

Applications must be received by **May 24, 2010**. For more information, and to download the application, please visit [www.touchofgeniusprize.org](http://www.touchofgeniusprize.org).



**Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education**

*Improving Education for Individuals with Visual Impairments.*

## SUSTAINING BRAILLE PROFICIENCY and the NERCVE Online Brailier

NERCVE, in an ongoing effort to support teachers of the visually impaired, is pleased to offer two web based curriculums for "Sustaining Braille Proficiency". These independent, self-paced studies are designed to address the ongoing needs of dedicated professionals to refresh and maintain skills with the Literary and Nemeth Codes. Both modules feature the exciting new NERCVE Online Drill and Practice Brailier, which allows six-key braille entry through the computer's keyboard with immediate feedback assuring accuracy.

**Available on-demand for 3 month intervals**

**Multimedia review presentations**

**All course materials are provided online**

**Latest literary Braille Code updates**

**20 Professional Development Points (PDPs)**

or

**2 Credits Continuing Education Credit (CEUs)**

**Learn more and register online at [www.nercve.org](http://www.nercve.org)**

**Cost \$195**



## Summer 2010 AER Conference Registration

The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired announces that registration is open for the AER International Conference 2010 featuring the Orientation and Mobility Division Conference within a Conference. The dates are set for July 21-25 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

### What you can expect:

- \* More than 200 hours of educational programming
- \* Pre-Conference MacFarland Seminar on Traumatic Brain Injury
- \* Post-Conference Workshop: Obstacle Avoidance
- \* All-important networking with colleagues
- \* AER Exhibit Hall showcasing the latest products and services
- \* Southern Hospitality at its best in beautiful Little Rock, Arkansas

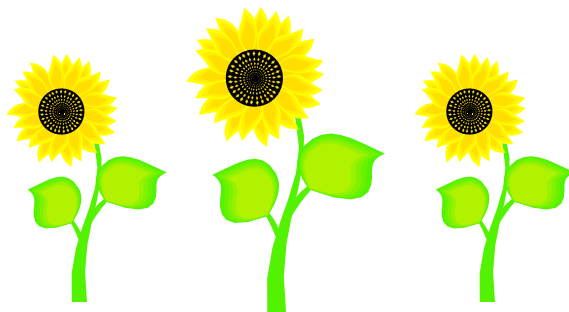
### General and Breakout Sessions will feature experts addressing:

Administration, Aging, Education Curriculum, Infant and Preschool, Information and Technology, Itinerant Personnel, Low Vision Rehabilitation, Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind, Orientation & Mobility, Personnel Preparation, Psychosocial Services, Rehab Counseling, Employment & BEP Services, Vision Rehabilitation Therapy

### Accommodations

The Peabody Little Rock is offering an attractive nightly rate. RESERVATIONS: Online at [www.peabodylittlerock.com](http://www.peabodylittlerock.com); Telephone 1-800-PEABODY (800-732-2639) or 501-906-4000. Use group code 290157 when making reservations. **Register online today at [www.aerbvi.org/2010conference](http://www.aerbvi.org/2010conference).**

**More Information:** [www.aerbvi.org/2010conference](http://www.aerbvi.org/2010conference) **Questions?** [conference@aerbvi.org](mailto:conference@aerbvi.org)





## 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!

TVI = teacher certified in the area of visual impairment. COMS = certified orientation and mobility specialist

### Metro Region Jobs for School Year 2010-2011

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1 FTE): Please visit [www.DPSK12.org](http://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](mailto:christine.lrsik@state.co.us)
- ✓ **Rehabilitation Counselor I - Mobility (Rehab Teacher/O&M)** Denver - Open Competitive - Residency Waiver - Revised and Re-announced Please email: [christine.lrsik@state.co.us](mailto: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](mailto:annmarie.jansen@adams12.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (.5 FTE): Contact Callan Clark at [Callan\\_Clark@englewood.k12.co.us](mailto:Callan_Clark@englewood.k12.co.us) or 303-806-2011
- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (.5 FTE): Denver Public Schools position. Contact Cheryl Leidich at 303-324-9591 or [Cheryl\\_Leidich@DPSK12.org](mailto:Cheryl_Leidich@DPSK12.org)
- ✓ **Paraeducator Positions Specific to Students with Visual Impairments:** Denver Public Schools position. Contact Cheryl Leidich at 303-324-9591 or [Cheryl\\_Leidich@DPSK12.org](mailto:Cheryl_Leidich@DPSK12.org)

### Southern Region Jobs for School Year 2010-2011

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1. FTE): Contact Kim Lovelace at [LOVELKM@D11.ORG](mailto:LOVELKM@D11.ORG) in El Paso 11 District in Colorado Springs for more information
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (.1 FTE or five hours a week for 2010-2011): Contact Debi Blackwell of Canon City Schools at [BLACKWD@canoncityschools.org](mailto:BLACKWD@canoncityschools.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI - Itinerant Services / Braille Instruction** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz of CSDB at [clutz@csbd.org](mailto:clutz@csbd.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI - On-the-Job Training (OJT) / Daily Living Skills (DLS)** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz of CSDB at [clutz@csbd.org](mailto:clutz@csbd.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI - Elementary Education** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz at [clutz@csbd.org](mailto:clutz@csbd.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI - English / Language Arts; Science; Mathematics; Social Studies** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz of CSDB at [clutz@csbd.org](mailto:clutz@csbd.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI - Certified Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Specialist** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz of CSDB at [clutz@csbd.org](mailto:clutz@csbd.org) for more information

### Mountain Region Jobs for School Year 2010-2011

- ✓ **TVI/COMS - (1 FTE)** - Mountain BOCES in Eagle and Garfield County. Must be eligible for Colorado Licensure. Contact Joy Yudnich at [joyy@mtnboces.org](mailto:joyy@mtnboces.org)



# Calendar of Events

2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

- May 15** **AT Symposium Crossover Applications for the Visually Impaired**  
 Contact: Bonnie Snyder at [BonnieLS21@gmail.com](mailto:BonnieLS21@gmail.com)
- June 4 - 6** **CSDB Family Learning Retreat - CSDB, CO Springs**  
 Contact: Diane Covington at [dcovington@csdb.org](mailto:dcovington@csdb.org)
- June 6 - 11** **CSDB Sports Education Camp - CSDB, CO Springs**  
 Contact: Diane Covington at [dcovington@csdb.org](mailto:dcovington@csdb.org)
- June 7 - June 18** **Colorado Center for the Blind “Confidence Camp” Elementary School Program**  
 Contact: 303-778-1130, 1-800-401-4632, or [ccb@cocenter.org](mailto:ccb@cocenter.org)
- June 10** **CSDB Board of Trustees Meeting - CSDB, CO Springs**  
 Contact: Susan Pfaffenhauser at [spfaffenhauser@csdb.org](mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.org)
- June 12 - August 7** **Colorado Center for the Blind “Summer for Success” High School Program**  
 Contact: 303-778-1130, 1-800-401-4632, or [ccb@cocenter.org](mailto:ccb@cocenter.org)
- June 12 - August 7** **Colorado Center for the Blind “Earn and Learn” High School Program**  
 Contact: 303-778-1130, 1-800-401-4632, or [ccb@cocenter.org](mailto:ccb@cocenter.org)
- June 14 - 15** **Colorado Assistive Technology Symposium - Denver**  
 Visit: Colorado AT Project at [www.uchsc.edu/atp](http://www.uchsc.edu/atp)
- June 28-30** **Summer Institute on Deafblindness/ SSN - Denver**  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony — [anthony\\_t@state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@state.co.us)
- June 23 - 25** **First Session of the VIISA Infant/Toddler Course - Anchor Center in Denver**  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony — [anthony\\_t@state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@state.co.us)
- June 27 - 30** **International Society for Technology in Education - Denver Convention Center, CO**  
 Visit: <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/2010/>
- July 3 - 8** **National Federation of the Blind National Convention - Dallas, TX**  
 Visit: [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org)
- July 19 - Aug 7** **Colorado Center for the Blind “Initiation to Independence” Middle School Program**  
 Contact: 303-778-1130, 1-800-401-4632, or [ccb@cocenter.org](mailto:ccb@cocenter.org)
- July 20 - 25** **AER International Conference - Little Rock, AR**  
 Visit: [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)

## More Calendar of Events

2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010

- July 28 - August 1**                      **2010 Junior Science Academy** - Baltimore, MD  
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x222 or [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)
- August 4 - 8**                              **2010 Junior Science Academy** - Baltimore, MD  
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x222 or [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)
- August 9 - 13**                            **World ICEVI Conference**— Jomtein, Thailand  
Visit: [www.icevi.org](http://www.icevi.org)
- August 18 - 29**                         **Second Session of the VIISA Infant/Toddler Course** - Anchor Center in Denver  
Contact: Tanni Anthony — [anthony\\_t@state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@state.co.us)
- September 2**                            **Vision Coalition**—Denver  
Contact Tanni Anthony—[anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- December 8 - 9**                        TASH Conference - Denver, CO  
Visit: <http://www.tash.org/2010tash/ConferenceProgram.htm>

2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011

- January 3 - 31**                         **2010 - 2011 CELApro Testing Window Grades K-12**  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- February 2**                                **2010 - 2011 CELApro Schedule Pick-up Materials Deadline Grades K-12**  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- February 2 - March 25**                **2010 - 2011 CSAPA Testing Window for Grades 3 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science**  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- February 4**                                **2010 - 2011 CELApro Final Pick-up Materials Deadline Grades K-12**  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- February 4**                                **National Braille Challenge** - CSDB, Colorado Springs  
Contact: Lou Tutt at [ltutt@csdb.org](mailto:ltutt@csdb.org)
- February 7 - February 18**              **2010 - 2011 CSAP Early Testing Window Grade 3 Reading & Lectura**  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- February 22 - March 4**                **2010 - 2011 CSAP Regular Testing Window Grade 3 Reading & Lectura**  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- March 7 - April 8**                        **2010 - 2011 CSAP Early Testing Window for Grade 3 Writing, Math, Escritura, Grades 4 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grade 4 Lectura & Escritura, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science**  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)

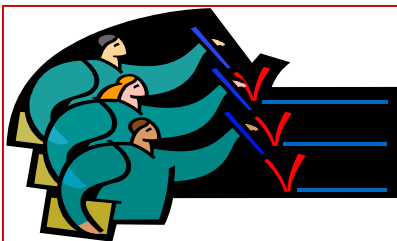
## More Calendar of Events

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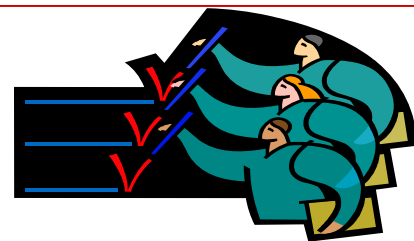
- March 9** 2010 - 2011 CSAP Schedule Pick-up Materials Deadline Gr. 3 Reading & Lectura  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- March 11** 2010 - 2011 CSAP Final Pick-up Materials Deadline Gr. 3 Reading & Lectura  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- March 14 - April 15** 2010 - 2011 CSAP Regular Testing Window for Grade 3 Writing, Math, Escritura,  
Grades 4 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grade 4 Lectura & Escritura, Grades 5, 8  
& 10 Science Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- April 1 - 29** 11th Grade Alternate Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Assessment Window  
Visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSAPA.asp>
- April 6** 2010 - 2011 CSAPA Schedule Pick-up Materials Deadline for Grades 3 - 10  
Reading, Writing, Math, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- April 8** 2010 - 2011 CSAPA Final Pick-up Materials Deadline for Grades 3 - 10  
Reading, Writing, Math, Grades 5, 8 & 10 Science  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- April 20** 2010-2011 CSAP Pick-up Materials Deadline Grade 3 Writing, Math, Escritura,  
Grades 4 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grade 4 Lectura & Escritura, Grades 5, 8  
& 10 Science Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- April 22** 2010-2011 CSAP Final Materials Deadline Grade 3 Writing, Math, Escritura,  
Grades 4 - 10 Reading, Writing, Math, Grade 4 Lectura & Escritura, Grades 5, 8  
& 10 Science Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- April 27** Colorado ACT Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-2011](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-2011)
- May 1 - 6** 11th Grade Alternate Reading, Writing, Math, and Science Data Entry on ADE  
Visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSAPA.asp>
- May 11** Colorado ACT Make-up Date  
Visit: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess\\_window.html#2010-](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/assess_window.html#2010-)







**CHECK IT OUT!**



## **2011 National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities Deadlines**

The mission of the National Consortium in Sensory Disabilities is to increase, through specialized doctoral training, the number and quality of leadership personnel competent in the areas of higher education and research to improve education services for infants, children and youth who have sensory disabilities (deafness/hard of hearing, blindness/low vision, and deafblindness) including those with multiple disabilities. The following announcement for the 2nd cohort deadline dates has been sent published on the NLCSD website:

### **2011 NLCSD FELLOWSHIP DEADLINES**

The below dates are the NLCSD Fellowship Deadlines for the 2011 Cohort which will begin Doctoral Studies in the Fall of 2011

Applications Open: May, 2010 to December, 2010

**Applications Close: December 31, 2010**

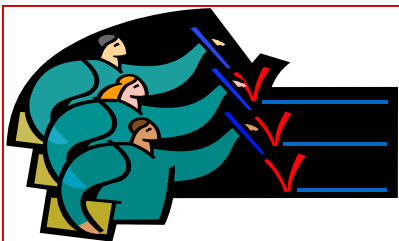
Administrative Review Complete: January 31, 2011

Panel Review ends: February 28, 2011

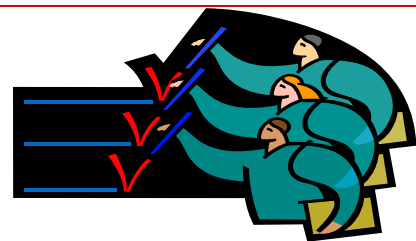
Awards announced: March 15, 2011

News and Announcements [http://www.salus.edu/nlcsd/news\\_announcements.html](http://www.salus.edu/nlcsd/news_announcements.html)

Application Process [http://www.salus.edu/nlcsd/application\\_process.html](http://www.salus.edu/nlcsd/application_process.html)



**CHECK IT OUT!**



## **New Response to Intervention (RTI) Position Statement**

Response to Intervention (RTI) has become a familiar acronym. However, because RTI is an emerging practice, there are a number of issues around its definition and implementation for young children in early care and education. Currently, there is little information or guidance related to RTI in early childhood for educators, administrators, teacher educators, families, policy makers, and researchers.

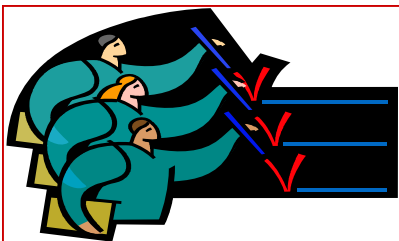
Three national organizations will address critical issues about RTI in early childhood in a jointly developed position statement. The Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the National Head Start Association (NHSA) will work together over the next two years to develop this guidance. The National Professional Development Center on Inclusion (NPDCI) will contribute staff time and resources to facilitate the development of the joint position statement.

For additional information about this work, contact Camille Catlett, NPDCI, at [catlett@mail.fpg.unc.edu](mailto:catlett@mail.fpg.unc.edu).

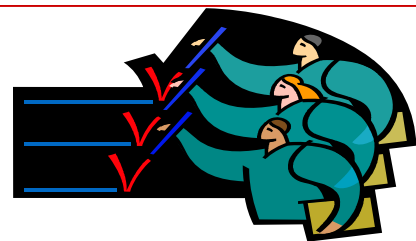
### **Recruiting Youth with Visual Impairments to Help with Study**

In the field of occupational therapy, there is little information from youth with visual impairments regarding their experiences. The focus of this study is students with visual impairments who are 10-14 years old. Since both play and social engagement are within the realm of occupational therapy, the researchers conducting this study expect that the input received will aid practitioners by providing information and insights into the perspectives of students with visual impairments on play and social participation. Interested students and parents should visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/S/DMQMT6D> for a short parent survey. The interview phase of this study is March 22-April 23, 2010. For more information, contact Jennifer Davis, Korina Lew or Laura Fairley at [OTVIResearch@googlegroups.com](mailto:OTVIResearch@googlegroups.com)

Jennifer, Korina and Laura are graduate students at San Jose State University. They are working with Anthony Fletcher, Associate Director and Chief Operations Officer at Lighthouse for the Blind in San Francisco.



# CHECK IT OUT!



## You Can Contribute Articles to APH's Fred's Head Blog!

Have you visited "Fred's Head from the American Printing House for the Blind lately? If not, check out their award-winning blog at [www.fredshead.info](http://www.fredshead.info) You'll discover a wealth of searchable information on a wide variety of blindness-related topics. Articles are posted every business day by Michael McCarty, APH's Social Media Coordinator.

APH continues to develop Fred's Head and expand our social media presence on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. APH invites you to contribute an article to share your knowledge with thousands of readers. The audience for Fred's Head is broad, and includes students, parents, adults, and professionals. They will publish your name in by-line for your article.

You can write articles for any of 178 subject areas (scroll toward the bottom of the blog page to see the full list). Some subjects include: Adjusting to Blindness, Assistive Technology, Braille Books, Employment, Exercise, Family life, Household Hints, Job Searching, Low Vision, Note-Taking, Organizing, Orientation & Mobility, Transportation. You might also have an existing article you would allow APH to republish.

To learn more about APH's Fred's Head blog and how you can contribute, contact Michael McCarty at [mmccarty@aph.org](mailto:mmccarty@aph.org), follow Fred's Head on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/fredshead](http://www.twitter.com/fredshead), or call 502-899-2396.

## SUMMER CAMP News on the APH PE Website!

Information on the 2010 Sports Camps is now available. Seasonal camp dates start as early as April and continue into October. Find one near you and register early. [www.aph.org/pe/camps.html](http://www.aph.org/pe/camps.html)

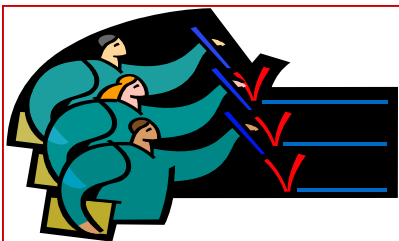


### **Survey on Woodcock-Johnson III: Tests of Achievement--Braille Adaptation**

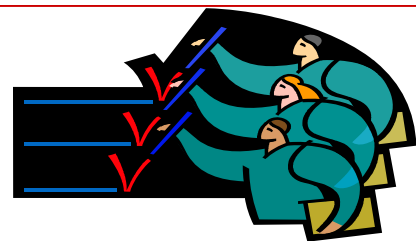
The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) happy to now have the *Woodcock-Johnson III: Tests of Achievement - Braille Adaptation (WJ III ACH Braille)* available for use in assessing the academic achievement and language development of students and clients who read braille. Initial

The APH needs your help in making this product even better. If you have already administered the braille test or know someone who has, please get them involved by filling out a short survey on braille features of the *WJ ACH Braille*.

Contact Barbara Henderson, Test & Assessment Project Leader at [bhenderson@aph.org](mailto:bhenderson@aph.org) and she will send you an electronic copy.



# CHECK IT OUT!



## RUNNING TO STAY FIT

Blind and visually impaired young people, like everyone else, often search for ways to stay active and physically fit. Running is a great alternative, but questions often arise as to how the blind runner can participate. The U.S. Paralympics and the U.S. Association of Blind Athletes is working to make track and field sports accessible to young blind athletes. “Basics of Guide Running for Track & Field and Trail” is a video designed to train sighted guides in the techniques for co-running. With some simple modifications blind and visually impaired athletes can be included in the sport of track and field. If your blind/visually impaired child is interested in running, you might like to know more about the techniques of guiding...and you can pass the information on to others. To request a copy of the video “Basics of Guide Running for Track & Field and Trail” e-mail [paralympicinfo@usoc.org](mailto:paralympicinfo@usoc.org).

## 2010 USABA SPORTS FESTIVAL AND MISSION VISION PROGRAM

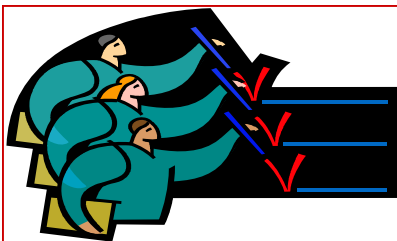
July 28-August 2, 2010 Colorado Springs

Do you know a young athlete who is looking for some competition?

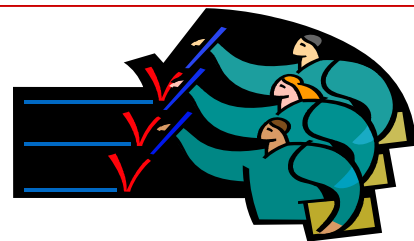
The U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) Sports Festival and Mission Vision program is providing athletes who are blind or visually impaired, from all over the United States a unique opportunity to participate in the Rocky Mountain State Games. Athletes will train, learn, refine their skills and compete alongside their sighted peers in various sports clinics instructed by USABA national coaches. Cycling, Judo, Wrestling, Powerlifting, Track and Field Events, Archery, and Bowling are among the sports included in the games. All participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or coach and must provide their own transportation to Colorado Springs. There is a program fee of \$175 per person to cover room and board for the five day event. For more information go to [www.usaba.org](http://www.usaba.org) or phone 719-630-0422. The deadline for application is June 1, 2010.

## SLEEP STUDY

Many totally blind children and adults have trouble sleeping. This is usually due to lack of light stimulation to the body's internal clock, located in a part of the brain called the hypothalamus. The Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon is seeking subjects for a study of sleep disorders among children and youth with no light perception. The purpose of this study is to learn more about body rhythms in blind children and young adults that keep them from falling asleep at the desired time or cause them difficulty staying alert during the desired waking hours. The researchers are looking for children, ages 5-8, and young adults, ages 17-20, with or without sleep problems, who are blind with **no light perception**. The study will involve a phone screening, a questionnaire about general health and sleep history, and the child/young adult will wear a wrist device to monitor periods of rest and activity. Occasional samples of saliva will need to be collected and sent to the lab. All expenses will be paid. For more information or to enroll in this study, please contact Stevie Hodge at [sleepplab@ohsu.edu](mailto:sleepplab@ohsu.edu) or 503-494-1402. This study has been endorsed by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children.



# CHECK IT OUT!



## ADVANCES IN HADLEY COURSE MATERIALS

Hadley School for the Blind is striving to keep up with advances in information access. They now offer 30 online courses including Introduction to Braille, Internet Basics, Parenting Children with Multiple Disabilities, Blindness Basics, and more. To keep up with the move from audio cassette to digital talking books, Hadley now offers 12 courses in DTB format that can be downloaded from their web site. Some of these courses include Business Writing, Typing and Keyboarding, and Container Gardening. Courses are also being made available on USB flash drives and National Library Service cartridges. For a complete list of Hadley's course offerings and available formats, visit [www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu) or call 1-800-323-4238.



## Online Courses, On Demand!

**Featuring O&M, Itinerant Teaching, Adult Services, Low Vision, Info & Technology, Deafblind, Vocational Rehab, and more topics!**

**Online Continuing Education Courses Featuring AER 2008 International Conference Presentations**

- Audio and power point presentations from the 2008 AER International Conference, plus handouts that may be downloaded
- Easy to earn continuing education credit
- 30-minute (.5 CE credits), 60-minute (1CE credit), 90-minute (1.5 CE credits), and 120-minute (2 CE credits) courses.
- Only \$25 per credit hour for members/\$50 for non-members (USD)
- For more information contact AER at 877-492-2708, 703-671-4500 or via email at [onlineCE@aerbvi.org](mailto:onlineCE@aerbvi.org)

**Click [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) to get started today!**



## ENVISION 2010

*EXCELLENCE IN ADVOCACY*

**September 22-25, 2010  
San Antonio, Texas**

Consider attending the multi-disciplinary low vision rehabilitation and research conference dedicated to improving the quality of low vision care through excellence in professional collaboration, advocacy, research and education. Earn continuing education credits, learn new skills and network with your colleagues.

Submit program abstracts and register online. Register by July 9 and save \$100!

[www.envisionconference.org](http://www.envisionconference.org)



# SUMMER FUN AT THE COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND!



By Julie Hunter

It's been a long, cold winter, but believe it or not summer will be here before we know it. Here's what the Colorado Center for the Blind has in store for your kids:

## **DAY CAMP - Ages 5-9 for the elementary school set. (Transportation provided)**

DATE: **June 7-18**, 2010 - 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Fun activities will incorporate practice in such things as basic daily living skills, simple cooking and other household skills. Other highlights include recreational outings and putting on a play for parents. Hands on learning with blind role models

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP Ages 12-14**

DATE: **July 19-August 7** (Kids stay overnight with counselors and fellow campers.)

Highlights include:

- \*Travel to job sites to meet independent blind people at work.
- \*Supervised cane travel and adaptive skills training
- \*Experiences taking the bus, shopping for food, meal preparation.
- \*Confidence building recreational activities

## **EARN AND LEARN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM - Ages 15 and older**

(includes trip to NFB National Convention in Dallas)

DATE: **June 12-August 7**

Highlights include:

- \*Live in an apartment with a counselor and experience all that is entailed with independent living.
- \*Gain work experience with a half day job and get paid!
- \*Social and recreational activities such as going to a Rockies baseball game, technical rock climbing, river rafting and more.
- \*Training and assessment on the latest technology

## **COLLEGE PROGRAM - High School Graduates and Older**

(includes trip to NFB National Convention in Dallas)

DATE: **June 12-August 7**

Highlights include:

- \*Residential apartment living with counselors
- \*Work on developing the tools for success in college including note-taking skills, independent travel, working with readers, etc.
- \*Preview of campus living, working with disabled student services, socialization on campus and more

**For information please contact: Brent Batron, Youth Services Coordinator  
Colorado Center for the Blind, 2233 W. Shepperd Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120  
303-778-1130 ext. 222 or email [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)**



# Allen H. Stewart Lion's Camp

## A Wyoming Lion's Project

The Allen H. Stewart H. Lion's Camp was founded in 1922 and the began in 1946. The summer program features a camp atmosphere for students who are blind/visually impaired who are ages nine to 198 years old. Classes occur during the day with recreation and social activities offer in the evenings.

The camp is located in the trees of Casper Mountain in Wyoming at 8,000 feet elevation. The caps offers a beautiful outdoor setting and the opportunity to advance educational, recreational, and career skills for students based on the expanded Core Curriculum for Blind and Visually Impaired Students, Including Those with additional Disabilities. The Expanded Core Curriculum includes the following components: (a) Orientation and Mobility, (b) Social Interaction, (c) Independent Living, (d) Compensatory/ Access Skills, (e) Recreation and Leisure (including outdoor skills), (f) Career Education, (g) Assistive Technology, (h) Sensory Efficiency, and (i) Self-Determination. The ECC is addressed throughout the week during daily classes, recreational activities, meal and free times, and the social/personal management skills required in this dorm-style living environment. Students choose from a variety of classes which include: O&M, pottery, lapidary, music, adaptive physical education, woodworking, cooking, self-advocacy, career exploration, robotics, assistive technology, and adaptive recreation opportunities such as archery.

This summer's camp is July 10-17, 2010 and is open to Colorado students. For more information or an application, please contact Jill Gallegos at (307) 221-0175 or [gallesogs-ji2@gmail.com](mailto:gallesogs-ji2@gmail.com) or Terry Cometto at (307) 262-5092 or [tcometto@bresnan.net](mailto:tcometto@bresnan.net).

**Parents,**

**If your child is graduating this May—first, let accept our congratulations to him or her on this special day! We know it took a lot of work to get to this important day.**

**If this means your child is not longer in public school, could you please call or email Tanni so we can remove you from this newsletter mailing list.**

**Email—[anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) and phone—(303) 866-6681. Thanks so much!!**



## Family Learning Retreat 2010

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind  
33 North Institute Street  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903  
June 4-6, 2010

The Family Learning Retreat will be returning to the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind June 4-6, 2010. The weekend retreat is for any family with a child who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind. This is an opportunity for families to meet other families while networking, learning and having fun together.

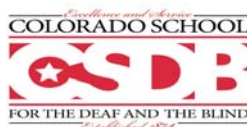
Parents /adults will attend training during the day, while children participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program. Check-in and dinner begins Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM followed by an opening session. The retreat ends by noon on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. Lodging will be available Friday and Saturday nights in the CSDB dormitories. Meals provided include Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast.

The cost of the Family Learning Retreat is only \$25 per adult and \$20.00 per child under the age of 18. Spanish and sign language interpreters will be provided upon request.

Parents will be responsible for providing any assisted feeding or medical procedure their child requires. A nurse will not be available during the Family Learning Retreat weekend.

Come and relax. Make new friends. Experience a valuable learning opportunity. Youth programming will be provided Saturday evening for parents to have time to relax!

Questions? Contact Diane Covington at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind at **(719) 578-2225**. For Spanish speaking participants, contact Gloria Romero **(719)-578-2288**.





# Vision Coalition Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2010

**Persons in Attendance:** Tanni Anthony, Paula Conroy, Nancy Cozart, Angela Sims, Cathy Smyth, Wendy Stoltman, Lou Tutt, and Chloann Woolley

**Persons Absent:** Kay Ferrell, Bill Muir, Jim Olson, and Julia Zanon

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our thanks to Cathy Smyth for her time with us as the Anchor Center for Blind Children / CSDB Infant/Toddler Program representative. Charlotte Javier will assume this role in the next school-year. Thanks also to Chloann Woolley for her Southern Region representation this past school-year. Judy Mumford will represent the Southern Region TVIs for the next school-year.
- Returning VC TVI representatives for the 2010-11 school-year include: Nancy Cozart (Metro Region), Wendy Stoltman (Northern Region), and Angela Sims (Western Region). Bill Muir will continue as the CAER rep.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Northern Region (Wendy Stoltman)

Thank you so much to the Low Vision Clinic evaluation team. Despite snow and cold weather, we had a great clinic! The teachers and families from our region send our sincere thanks to Dr. Theune, Jim and Donice. On Saturday afternoon, after a very emotional evaluation, we were provided with a delicious enchilada lunch from one of our families from Brighton!

Our last meeting was spent discussing Section 504, how RTI fits in and has been affecting the TVI's time. Some districts expect more intervention time than others. Our next meeting is on April 16 (same day as Vision Coalition) and Kevin Hughes is presenting.

We would like some clarification from Rehab about what qualifies students for Rehabilitation services. Does it make any difference for qualifying for services when a student has a 504 plan as opposed to an IEP?

*Discussion: Julia Zanon sent the following information about the above question: The short answer is that there is absolutely no difference to DVR whether a student is receiving public school services under an IEP or 504. What makes a person eligible for DVR services is whether they have a disability that results in barriers to training or employment. DVR looks at how the disability creates functional limitations in the areas of mobility, self care, communication, self direction, interpersonal skills, motor skills, work skills and work tolerance. A blind or vision impaired student is going to have for the most part, limitations in mobility and communication and often have limitations in work skills because they need specialized adaptations and training to be able to access a task.*

### Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

We had our final meeting of the school-year on Friday April 9<sup>th</sup>. It was held at Children's Hospital with guest speaker, Dr. Robert Enzenauer. We appreciated his time to meet with us. He went through prevalent eye conditions, provided handouts and answered questions we had regarding specifics of his presentation and about particular eye diseases. We briefly discussed coordination of information between the medical and educational fields for the benefit of families. We invited him to speak with metro area families next school-year (possibly with his colleague(s) at Children's Hospital). Dr. Enzenauer was very open to this idea! We also met Ginnie Kontnik who is the director of community relations. She is interested in following up with the metro TVIs on what we do and how to communicate more effectively with the eye departments in the Denver area.

We will continue next school-year having our meetings at Anchor Center (unless at a special location). The time for our meetings will be from 3:00-4:30. We will choose dates shortly via email. The first date will be in September 17, 2010. Topics to address are setting up a parent night with eye docs, caseload determinations, CO talking books, etc. Nancy Cozart will remain the coordinator for the metro meetings and be the Denver area representative on Vision Coalition.

### **Southern Region (Chloann Woolley)**

The Southern Vision TVIs met January 13<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup> since our last Vision Coalition Meeting. We have one more meeting planned on May 5<sup>th</sup> to wrap up the 09-10 school-year. Our biggest concerns for next year are to try to boost participation to include the distant areas of Douglas County and Pueblo in our region discussions and activities. We are hoping to include some video conferencing so that people can attend without the travel time. Our meetings this year varied from five to ten members in attendance depending on the month. It has also been recommended that we should meet on a consistent schedule since the varied days didn't help attendance this year. Next year, the Southern Vision TVIs will be represented by Judy Mumford at the Vision Coalition meetings. Thanks, Judy!

In January we saw some new APH products and discussed new forms from CIMC. Check out the CIMC website for changes and updates. We were able to see the new Math Builders, Early Literacy Trade Books and other products newly released. APH has provided students with visual impairments some great materials to access the general education curriculum. Bonnie Snyder shared the new Refresh Braille 18 and the Braille+ docking station with us and discussed the access of the iTouch/iPhone with the blind. Thanks, Bonnie! We also welcomed a new TVI from Pikes Peak BOCES – Wendy Unwin-Watson. Wendy will be covering the Fountain/Fort Carson area. PP BOCES will also be adding Fremont RE-2(Penrose, Florence) next school-year 2010-11.

In February, we had a Make n' Take with the activities shared at the Western Regional Early Intervention Conference in Colorado Springs, April '09 – tactile books and writing alternatives. Many school districts are using an online IEP system with the new state forms. Someone brought up the following question to the Vision Coalition: "My district has an on-line IEP. The Learning Media Plan is one of the available forms. My supervisor has asked me if I would like to put some phrases on the dropdown menu for that page. My initial reaction was no, because all students are different and the LMP should reflect that. I also don't want other people filling out that page when they may not know what is appropriate for a particular student. What are TVI's thoughts on this issue?"

*Discussion on Above Question: The thinking was not to have drop-down fields on the form due to the above stated results.*

In March we had our one-day Low Vision Clinic extension from our earlier clinic in September. Thanks Low Vision Clinic Team for the extra day for new students who arrived late in the year!

During our April meeting, District 20 shared a video of a student who moved away, so the incoming school would know what the student was able to do and how and what expectations need to be for that student. Thanks, District 20! This sparked ideas on extending the Communication Portfolio concept that many folks in Colorado using to highlight the accommodations needed and used by students.

Reminders: May 7<sup>th</sup> Mike May at CSDB; Technology Symposium at UCCS on May 15; Sports Camp–CSDB in June.

### **Western Region (Angela Sims)**

The Western Slope TVIs tried to find a spring date that worked for a regional meeting but were unable to due to weather, testing, and other activities. We are looking at having a regional meeting in the fall when it may not be as hectic and the weather is more cooperative.

In Grand Junction during a recent IEP meeting we had a couple of questions come up and would like to know

what others in the state are doing: If a student's primary disability is multiple disability, do we also need to complete a vision disability form? Do we need vision as a secondary diagnosis or leave it off since multiple disabilities can include it? What are others doing?

*Discussion on Primary and Secondary Disability: This is not a state requirement, but many school district personnel include a secondary label on their IEP. It was felt that collecting the secondary label on learners with visual impairments is important.*

We have also had families express an interest in the ONH training. They have stated however, it would be a challenge to get to Denver to attend the training and would have to miss it if that was the only option. If it were available through a webcast more families on the Western Slope would benefit from the training. Barbara Adams took a student to the Braille Challenge for a second year. He was very excited to spend the night at CSDB, see some old friends, participate in the Challenge as a veteran, and have the opportunity to play drums with the CSDB band. Tracy Mosbarger has accepted the Vocational Rehabilitation position in Grand Junction. Congrats to Tracy on her new job.

### **CAER (Bill Muir)**

The major thing that CAER is working on during this spring season is the O&M conference and Annual Awards Banquet. We are very excited at the prospect of hosting our own Dr. Dean Tuttle at the banquet to let him know we agree whole heartedly with his being inducted into the APH Hall of Fame Leaders and Legends in the Blindness Field. We will have an opportunity to let him know how much we appreciate his work and influence on all of us. If we are very polite he may let us catch a glimpse of the plaque he received.

Recently there have been a number of items, such as braille writers and CCTVs that have been made available for donation to people who are unable to obtain these tools for home use. CAER has established a committee to accept, inventory, repair and take applications for final placement of these items. We are in the process of establishing processes and paper trails to make sure that we track donations from beginning to end. We will be posting information on the CAER web-site as we get things formalized.

Each year we have openings on the board of CAER. We are always open to new ideas and people. If you want to make a difference you too can be on the board of CAER. Mention it to any one of the current members and you will be on the board so fast it will make your head spin. Then you get to hang out with all the cool people at the board meetings.

### **Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (Julia Zanon)**

Currently, Colorado DVR has been able to open the "most significant" category on the Order of Selection wait list which means for the most part, people who are blind who meet the criteria for "most Significant Disability" will not have to wait for services. In addition, our agency has been very careful with our budget this year and we should be able to continue to provide planned services for our clients without difficulty. This would be a good time to refer any high school juniors you have on your caseload to DVR for application. Please let me know if you are not sure who the counselor is in your area.

The rehabilitation counselors who serve blind individuals met in February to discuss the job outlook for blind/low vision individuals in Colorado. We discussed the quickly changing technology needs on the job with the constant upgrading of computer applications and the high cost of making these applications blind accessible. Despite the fact that there are federal requirements that electronic technology be accessible for all, it seems that very few developers actually pay attention to this. RFB and D now have free individual memberships so any college bound students should be registering for this service in preparation. Most of my clients have been requesting digital players which are easy to use and eliminate cassettes and CD's. They simply download the digital text book to their computer and then copy the file to the portable player. They can also play the book from their computer as long as they have a daisy application. Recently, I sent out a request for any TVI's who want some extra income to apply to be providers. There are certain areas of Colorado that are particularly



hurting for services, including the western slope and the northern region. Please contact me if I missed your message at [julia.zanon@state.co.us](mailto:julia.zanon@state.co.us) or 303-866-3562.

### **Anchor Center and CSDB Early Intervention News (Cathy Smyth)**

Anchor Center for Blind Children and the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project are excited to be working together to provide VIISA Infant/ Toddler training on June 23-25 and August 18-20 of this year. The course does include UNC credit. We have Early Interventionists from around the state, as well as TVIs and CHIP providers. There are still some openings left, so if you are at all interested, please contact Tanni Anthony as soon as possible.

Work continues on the Gerber Foundation Research project as we finish up our third and final year. We have evaluated over 25 students and will be reviewing data soon. It has been an exciting and educational process. Anchor Center is looking at establishing a Research program to be an ongoing part of our strategic plan goal of contributing to the field of Early Intervention for Students with Visual Impairments.

As CSDB continues with its strategic plan process, meetings for the Early Childhood plan will begin this upcoming Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Anchor Center is excited and honored to be a part of this process.

Spring is here and there are so many changes in the offing. Three babies will be arriving as the school-year wraps up, and we will be welcoming a new Development Director at Anchor Center for Blind Children. We will miss Sheila Galatowitsch deeply, but wish her well as she pursues exciting new horizons. Kristine Wolfe will be our new Development Director and we anticipate the new gifts she will bring to our crew.

This will be my last Vision Coalition meeting in my official role as Early Intervention representative. In the fall, Charlotte Javier will replace me and I hope she will enjoy this position as much as I have. Thank you so much for welcoming me and it has been a pleasure to serve with you all.

### **Colorado Instructional Material Center (Jim Olson)**

*Statewide Count of Learners Who Are Blind/VI:*

January 2010 Count Data:

**1,170** total registered students (0-21) on Jan. 4, 2010 count day. Of these, 1,157, 172 are infants and toddlers (150 registered with Anchor Center for Blind Children, 22 with the CSDB Infant/Toddler Program)

**854** meet the eligibility requirements for the Federal Quota count administered by the APH. This number is up 29 from last year's count day.

*Textbook Orders For 2010-2011:* Book orders for next year need to be submitted as soon as possible. Many of the vendors that the CIMC regularly uses have a waiting list for books in need of production. Sending an ink copy of a textbook will speed the ordering process up but TVIs may also call the CIMC (719-578-2196 or toll free 800-765-5951) with the ISBNs of your requested books to see if an ink print is needed or not.

As of 4-12-2010, the CIMC has received 297 total book orders for next school-year. Of these, 131 textbooks have been shipped complete to the requesting district. This leaves 166 outstanding orders to be filled. 2 of these have been shipped partially complete as the volumes have been produced by vendors. The CIMC is working on the production of 7 textbook orders in-house including one order for 59 small books for one administrative unit. The CIMC has written purchase orders for 81 textbooks that have already been transcribed into braille and are available for purchase from national vendors. 46 recently received orders are being sourced nationally.

Sixteen of the book orders have never been transcribed into braille and will need to be produced from an ink or electronic copy of the book. The AUs requesting these books have been notified that ink print copies of the textbooks need to be shipped to the CIMC so that we can send them to vendors to check for a price quote and whether or not they have the ability to accept the production order in time for August delivery of at least a por-

tion of the book. Please understand that an order cannot be processed until an ink copy of the book is in the hand of a vendor. The quicker we receive an ink copy of a book, the sooner the transcription process can begin.

*Return Of Electronic Products Requested:* All electronic APH items on loan to students and purchased with Federal Quota funds need to be returned to the CIMC at the end of the current school-year. Each of these devices can be returned to TVIs and their students for the start of the new school-year if a CIMC “APH Educational Materials” order form is received by the CIMC. If you want the exact same equipment returned to your district, please indicate the serial number of the device on your order form.

This includes the following equipment:

- Braille+ Mobile Manager (\$1,395.00) (APH 1-07450-01)
- Braille+ QWERTY Docking Station (\$600.00) (APH 1-07452-00)
- Refreshbraille 18 (\$1,695.00) (APH 1-07445-00)
- Book Port Plus (\$299.00) (APH 1-07191-00)
- Pac Mate (1 unit in CIMC inventory)
- Braille Note (1 unit in CIMC inventory)

The CIMC is planning on upgrading the software licensing agreements on the equipment over the summer of 2010 in preparation for the start of the new school-year. Order forms for APH equipment are available on the CIMC website by visiting [www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org) clicking on “programs”, “outreach”, “CIMC”, and then “docs and order forms”.

*CDE Braillewriter Inventory:* The Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) keeps an active inventory of all braillewriters owned by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). A statewide recall of all braillewriters was conducted in May and June of 2009. This allowed the CIMC to have all brailers cleaned and repaired. Two-thirds of the returned braillewriters arrived to the CIMC without protective dust covers. Documentation from braillewriter repair vendors cite this as the biggest reason for braillewriter failure. Several hundred new covers were ordered at a cost of \$29.99 each. New shipping boxes were also ordered at a cost of \$9.00 each. Please do not dispose of your braillewriter shipping boxes, keep them on hand for future mailings. Remember to insure your braillewriters when returning them to the CIMC or to a vendor for repair.

In lieu of a physical braillewriter recall at the end of this current 2009-2010 school-year, the CIMC will be sending electronic Excel spreadsheet documents to all district designated CIMC contacts for verification and confirmation of their physical braillewriter inventory in May 2010. Each spreadsheet will indicate the serial number, CIMC barcode number, student/TVI braillewriter is on loan to, and physical location of each braillewriter checked out to an administrative unit. Detailed written instructions will be published at a future date. Confirmed inventory spreadsheets will be returned to the CIMC.

The current CIMC procedure provides one braillewriter per certified teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI) in Colorado and up to two braillewriters per learner registered with the statewide CDE/CIMC VI registration database. One braillewriter may be checked out from the CIMC to the student for school use and one may be checked out for home use if the student does not currently own their own braillewriter. The CIMC does not currently provide braillewriters to paraprofessionals, parents, or persons interested in learning braille. The Perkins “Classic” braillewriter is no longer available for purchase using Federal Quota funds from the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). The “Perkins/APH Braille” is available using \$650 of Federal Quota funds. It may be found on page 120 of the current APH catalog. Order forms are available on the CIMC website.

### **CSDB – BVI Outreach (Laura Douglas)**

Dates to remember: Family Learning Retreat, June 4 – 6 and Sports Education Camp, June 6 – 11, 2010.

Both events are held on the campus of the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. Registration information can be found at: [www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org), go to the “events” tab and the home page.

### **CSDB – School for the Blind (Lou Tutt)**

As the school-year winds down, CSDB faces the reality that we will be saying goodbye to two very familiar faces. Mr. Randy Witte and Ms. Cathy Kearney will retire at the end of the 2009/2010 school-year. Between them, they have served the School for the Blind more than 60 years. They will be missed.

Enrollment, on the other hand, is bringing new faces on to campus all the time. We have two new preschoolers, two first graders, a second grader, and two eighth graders. This brings our total enrollment, preschool to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, to 54 learners.

Our staff and administration are focusing on creating the new three-year strategic plan. One of the major projects will be the Employability Program, which will combine the On the Job Training Program and the Bridges to Life (Transition) Program. There are nine students who are blind/visually impaired in the Bridges to Life Program. The two programs had several overlapping areas of focus and the combination will lead to better use of school resources.

Lou Tutt, Kathy Hegemann, and Leo Randolph from CSDB will be presenting at the upcoming AER Conference in Little Rock.

### **National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities (Kay Ferrell)**

NCSSD will sunset on June 30, 2010, as the money has run out. Our last Research in the Rockies (Research Summit on Braille Reading and Writing) will be June 10-12, 2010, at the Denver Marriott City Center. We have presenters from all over the world -- Ireland, New Zealand, Great Britain, Iceland, and India. The opening session on Thursday night features the Bad News Bulldog Band and Adrienne Ashe, an ethicist who teaches at Yeshiva University. A reception follows. The full conference price is \$199, but people can come on Thursday night for \$10.

### **UNC – (Paula Conroy)**

UNC congratulates our spring and summer Colorado graduates:

- *Spring 2010* - Mary Chambers, Peg Collins, and Melinda Holtz-graduates with honors!
- Shawn Sweet graduates with her Doctorate
- *Summer 2010* - Theresa Walters and Roberta Weidemeyer

We are coming to the close of another semester and would like to congratulate our graduates who have worked so hard to complete the program while currently working in our Colorado school districts. Special recognition went out to Melinda Holtz, a TVI in Denver Public Schools, for her 4.0 GPA and outstanding performance in practical application of content knowledge. She was honored at UNC's Honors Convocation on April 6th.

Enrollment continues to be high in the TVI and O&M programs with many students from Colorado. Current TVI's who would like to mentor practicum students should contact Paula at [paula.conroy@unco.edu](mailto:paula.conroy@unco.edu). This is a great way to usher in a new TVI to your district. The grant is now closed to out of state, non-wiche students. This is due to substantially increased tuition rates that will take place over the next few years. These students are welcome to apply, there is just no financial support available for tuition as in-state and Western Regional students were written in the grant as having priority in funding.

Kay Ferrell, Silvia Correa-Torres, and Paula Conroy will present in Little Rock at the International AER conference this summer. This should be an exciting (and warm) conference at the end of July.

## **Colorado Department of Education (Tanni Anthony)**

*Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project:* The project has finalized its annual census, concluding with a total of 144 learners with deafblindness. Thanks to everyone who participated in the count. The second *VIBRATIONS* newsletter of the year, which focused on the topic of secondary transition, was recently disseminated. The annual report for the second year of our five-year cycle was submitted to the federal government.

The 2010 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs has been finalized. The featured speaker will be Kathee Scoggin from the WA Sensory Disabilities Project. Ms. Scoggin will present on *Relationships, Roles, Results: 3 Rs for Building and Implementing Effective Programs*. It will be held in Denver and accommodate 100 participants. The registration forms are flying into CDE!

*Annual O&M Workshop:* The training is filled beyond capacity. The training will kick off with a presentation by Boulder Art and PE teacher Kirk Pfeffer on the topic of working with students who are blind/visually impaired in PE activities. Dona Sauerburger will present on *Street Crossings without Traffic Control, Working with Individuals who are Deafblind, and Cane Instruction*.

*VIISA Course on Infants and Toddlers who are Blind Visually Impaired or Deafblind:* The course will be offered at the Anchor Center for Blind Children, who are taking the lead role in offering the training. There are still openings for interested applicants.

*Low Vision Evaluation Clinics:* The evaluations are coming in from both parents and the TVIs who participated in the five regional clinics during this past school-year. They will be used to plan for next year's clinics. If you sent your evaluation in, thank you! If you have not yet done so, please do so we can include your input in the tallied results for this year's clinics.

We are working to set up our dates for the next school-year. Site coordinators for school-year 2010-11 will include: Sarah Sonnier (Western Region), Judy Mumford (Southern Region), Nancy Knight (metro region) and Wendy Stoltman (Northern Region).

*Braille Competency Testing:* Thanks to Lucia Hasty and Sarah Sonnier, we now have 15 renewal modules specific to Literary Braille. There are also a handful of surplus modules for individuals who want to take a module specific to Spanish, German, French, Geometry, and Chemistry. All TVIs still involved in the CDE Braille Competency process are encouraged to ensure they are updated on these procedures before taking the test and/or the braille renewal modules. All documents specific to the process are located on the CDE Blindness/Low Vision webpage:

Any outstanding noncompliance on initial braille testing and/or braille renewal will be cited by the end of the school-year, if it has not already happened. If there are questions about braille testing requirements and/or procedures, please be in touch with Tanni at [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us).

*Recruitment and Retention:* We have several job openings across the state. One in the west (Mountain BOCES), several in the south (CSDB, El Paso 11, Canon City), two in the metro (Englewood, Adams 12, Denver), and, perhaps, some contract work in the north. Please keep in touch with Tanni about any vacancies and/or positions that have been filled. Our recruitment season is NOW so it is important to have the most accurate job listings as possible. Many thanks for working as a state team to keep our positions filled! Colorado continues to be ahead of the curve on staying ahead of the national teacher shortage that is the situation in most states.

*TVI and COMS Licensing:* The license to be a TVI is a professional teaching license. A teacher-in-training can be employed as a TVI on a Temporary Teacher Eligibility (TTE) or a Special Educator Eligibility (SEE). For persons who work as a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist in a Colorado administrative unit, the process is different as they are no temporary authorizations for a related service provider. This means that if a person is in a personnel-prep program to become an O&M Specialist, they cannot be hired as an O&M Specialist until they have fully completed the program. If someone is hired as a TVI in-training and also is work-

ing on their O&M endorsement, this person must assume a very limited scope of O&M responsibilities. The O&M license is a separate license than the one for a teacher certified in the area of visual impairment. O&M is a special services license as it is a related service. It can only be applied for (a) upon the completion of the O&M endorsement program and (b) successful completion of the ACVREP O&M exam. If someone needs or has both sets of credentials, they will need to complete two different sets of paperwork and payments for each license. All TVIs must have a current license and all COMS must have current licenses. If there are any questions, please be in touch with Tanni.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **CDE Set Aside Budget 2010-11**

We have a lot to celebrate with the approved budgets for the next fiscal period, July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011. The following activities have been funded:

- CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment
- Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- Annual O&M Conference
- Braille Competency Testing / Renewal Modules
- Vision Coalition
- Technology Consultation
- TVI Mentors / Braille Mentors
- Day Training on Septo Optic Dysplasia (SOD)
- Braille Format State / Visual Bias Review of State Assessments

Thanks to the teamwork with Jim Olson and Dr. Laura Douglas, the CDE portion of CSDB Outreach Projects was also approved for:

- The CIMC (these funds are combined with AU assessment fees and CSDB in-kind fiscal contribution)
- Braille Transcriber Mentor Project
- Low Vision Evaluation Clinic (CSDB staff involved with the low vision evaluation clinics)

So there is a lot to look forward to for the next school-year. Tanni is hopeful to have the dates of the SOD training and the fall conference ready to go before the end of this school-year.

### **Bookshare:**

Tanni shared that Colorado currently has about 8% of the expected braille / print disability population of students signed up for Bookshare accounts. Many students who are blind/visually impaired do have a membership and use Bookshare products. There are continued concerns about braille quality and that Victor Reader Stream and the Classmate Reader are currently not able to open books that have an xml file larger than 3.5 megabytes. One person shared that students are not always fond of the computer voice on Bookshare products. Tanni encouraged TVIs to continue to let her know what is or is not working with Bookshare memberships / products. The Bookshare staff is asking for input.

### **Online Assessment and instruction Programs Document**

Wendy and Sarah Sonnier have worked to update the most recent draft of the *Online Assessment and Instruction Programs” Challenges for Students who are Blind/Visually impaired* document. Wendy asked for input

on the document. A few minor tweaks were made. The document will be sent to APH's Assessment Unit for their review and then shared with TVIs on the cotvi listserv.

**Eligibility Information**

There continues to be a number of questions on state eligibility as a student who has a visual disability. Tanni will prepare an article for the August-September *WHOT* newsletter.

**Example Transition Goals**

Chloann brought examples of transition goals on students with visual impairments. Tanni and Lou will review these goals; along with goals from CSDB transition plans to draft a series of examples of transition goals. This information will be shared at the fall meeting. One area to probe is how to prepare the goals for students who are severely health compromised.

**CSAPA**

There are concerns about the CSAPA with students who are blind/visually impaired. Some TVIs felt disrespectful giving the test to their students as there are not ways to fully accommodate a test that is picture dependent and there are no objects that can be used to represent the construct in the picture. Some of the topics are far out of the experiential range of the students. There are concerns that the test does not have questions that include all learners. There are questions about how word-dependent the test appears to be. Tanni was asked to bring these concerns to the CDE Unit of Student Assessment and ask for a forum to share the concerns.

**Direct / Indirect Examples**

Wendy has drafted examples of Indirect and Direct Services by a TVI and Indirect and Direct Services by a Certified O&M Specialist. The document will be shared with CO personnel to add to examples of these items that will influence service hours on a student's Individualized Education Program.

**Next Meeting Date: September 2, 2010**

Assignments for the September Meeting

<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
Tanni	Prepare article on TVI and O&M licensure for next newsletter.	August 2010
Tanni	Prepare and article on eligibility of students who are blind/visually impaired for next newsletter	August 2010
Tanni	Send Online Assessment document to APH and CO TVIs.	May 2010
Tanni, Lou, Wendy	Collect examples of model goals / objectives for transition IEPs of students with visual impairments	August 2010
Tanni, Wendy	Draft examples of indirect and direct services of TVIs and COMS on the state IEP forms.	August 2010
VC members	Submit updates to Tanni	August 30, 2010



# “Thanks for the Memories” – Saying Farewell to our Folks Retiring



**Randy Witte**

I came to Colorado and CSDB in 1978, working with Jerry Stewart as an English teacher. I soon was working with Dr. Grace Napier and Dr. Dean Tuttle at UNC, and my Braille tutor was Colorado Teacher of the Year (1983) Ms. Bambi Venetucci. I spent my first summer here going down to Tucson, taking classes at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Dean Tuttle had worked hard to establish a chapter of AER in Colorado, and I was elected to serve as our first chapter president, sharing duties with Mr. Chuck Stone from DVR. We put on a great conference with the VISERV organization in Breckenridge that first year of CAER’s existence. Soon years turned into decades, and in the 90’s I served a second 8-year term with CAER, first as a board member, then as President. Since then, I have pretty much been trying to put on the annual National Braille Challenge at CSDB. As I began the retirement process, in 2008 I was recognized by Governor Ritter for winning a STAR (State Top Achievement Recognition) Award for Outstanding Service. I have always been proud to work with our state’s amazing TVIs and feel that Colorado is among the nation’s leaders in our field.

*Editor’s Note: We thank Randy for all that he had contributed to Colorado students who are blind/visually impaired. Randy, you are truly one-of-a-kind and you will be missed beyond measure.*



Cathy with Austin Cole

**Cathy Kearney** obtained her MEd. in Special Education through Boston College graduating from the Peripatology program in August 1977. For two years she taught Orientation and Mobility to adventitiously blinded adults at the Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Richmond. In June of 1979, Cathy accepted a position with the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) and has taught children and young adults for the past 31 years.

During her years at CSDB she coached the Junior High Girls basketball team for 7 years, served on the Accountability committee, was a member of the Leadership committee for 2 years, worked with the summer enrichment program for 6 years, conducted numerous parent and community in-service trainings, mentored both new staff and student teachers, and has been a sponsor multiple times for both the junior and senior classes. Cathy’s career at

CSDB has allowed her the joy of challenging people to be as independent as possible. Her past seven years at the school have been especially blessed working under the supervision of Principal Lou Tutt. Her next pursuit is to investigate the possibility of being a Bed and Breakfast proprietor. In the immediate future, she is eagerly looking forward to traveling to coastal communities along the eastern seaboard conquering the putt-putt golf courses and sampling ice cream shops.

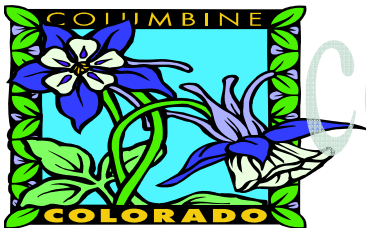
*Editor’s Note: We thank Cathy for 31 years of service in CO and wish her all the best with her dream of being a B and B owner and a traveler. Keep in touch, if you ever want any O&M contract work ... that could be easily arranged!*

**THE MIGHTY GWEN** Gwen Carroll may not be much bigger than most of her elementary students but her enormous heart makes up for her petite stature. She always takes a very special personal interest in her students not only during school hours but also by attending their many extracurricular events over the years. Students who graduated years ago, still call Gwen to get her advice and to update her about their lives.



Over the years Gwen has been observed sitting on the floor with little ones introducing tactile skills, to standing at intersections teaching safe crossing skills, to teaching daily living skills. She has probably taught more Jeffco employees First Aid than anyone else. Because Gwen has been in Jeffco over 25 years she knows just about everyone. We will miss her kindness, her graciousness, her insights, her knowledge and most of all, her sweet smile.

*Editor’s Note: Gwen, you are our example of a kind, caring TVI who really touches so many students’ lives. Thank you so very much. and congrats on your CAER President’s Award!!*



# colorado connections

- ☞ Thanks to the hard working folks on the Vision Coalition for school year 2009-2010: **Tanni Anthony** (CDE rep), **Paula Conroy** (UNC VI Program Rep), **Nancy Cozart** (Metro Region TVI rep), **Kay Ferrell** (National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities rep), **Bill Muir** (CAER Chapter rep), **Jim Olson** (CIMC rep), **Angela Sims** (Western Region TVI rep), **Cathy Smyth** (Anchor Center for Blind Children rep), **Wendy Stoltman** (Northern Region TVI rep), **Lou Tutt**, (Colorado School for the Blind rep), and **Chloann Woolley** (Southern Region TVI rep), and **Julia Zanon** (Colorado Division of Vocational Services rep).
- ☞ Hats Off to **Judy Wiepert** and **Samantha Hoffman** for earning CDE braille certificate renewal hours. Congrats to **Amber Rundle Kahn** and **Lorraine Hutcheson** for earning their CDE Renewal Braille Certificate. Thanks to braille proctors **Brenda Shepard** and **Julie Wetzstein**.
- ☞ Happy new baby to **Melissa** and **Darrell Shular!** Baby boy Bode arrived on Monday, March 21, 2010! He joins sister Grace in the Shular family.
- ☞ Hats off to **Diane Carpenter**, braillist in El Paso 11 School district for earning her Library of Congress Braille Certification. Thanks to mentor **Burt Haas!**
- ☞ Congratulations to **Barb Galgano**, who recently was awarded the Golden Heart Award in her school district. The Golden Heart Award is a prestigious award is for individuals who have "opened their hearts" to touch the life of a Cherry Creek student with special needs. Each person who wins this award has gone "above and beyond" to support Cherry Creek Special Education students. We are so proud of you, Barb!
- ☞ Saying Farewell to **Danielle Hillebrand**: **Jonna Beam** and **Wendy Stoltman** have had the great fortune of working beside Danielle McGrath Hillebrand in Brighton School District for the past 8 years. At the end of this school year she is returning to her home state of Minnesota. Danielle's expertise in the area of children with significant challenges, her common sense and her sense of humor will be greatly missed. Our loss is definitely Minnesota's gain!! We wish Danielle the best and count on her visiting Colorado often.



- ☞ Thanks so very much to our 2009-10 O&M Conference Planning Committee: **Tanni Anthony**, **Michelle Chacon**, **Barb Galgano**, **Ann Marie Jansen**, **Cheryl Leidich**, **Shelley Moats**, and **Mike Plansker**. You all are very appreciated!
- ☞ Congrats to **Janet Anderson** on her new job for the next school year as a early childhood special educator.
- ☞ Thanks to **everyone** for a truly great school year 2009-2010!!!

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