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**WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!**

**A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers  
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired  
August—September 2010**

## Mind the Gap

By Tanni L. Anthony



For those folks who have traveled in the UK or other countries that have had ties with Britain, you will have seen firsthand signs that read “Mind the Gap.” “Mind the Gap” is a warning to train passengers to remind them of the sometimes significant gap between the train door and the station platform. It was first introduced in 1969 by the London Underground rapid transit system

The “Mind the Gap” phrase has some great lessons for current day education. There are many gaps to mind—and to be mindful of as we approach this new school year. We need to pay attention to where there are gaps and whether we need to work harder to actually close gaps that may reduce accessibility, opportunity, and achievement for our students.

Let’s *Mind the Gap* of when a student needs technology to truly access the general education curriculum; when braille books and instructional materials need to be on the student’s desk the same day and time as the print books and materials ready-to-go for sighted peers, when communication systems need to be in place and actively implemented for a student who cannot use his or her voice to talk to friends, teachers, family members, and all others encountered throughout a day, when a mobility lesson will keep a student safe crossing a street or navigating down a busy school hallway, and for available jobs and solid vocational skill sets for students looking for summer or post-school work.

This newsletter features information about many of the activities that will be offered throughout this school year to assist students, parents, and service providers. Be sure to check out what is happening in Colorado that will be of benefit to YOU as we all work together to mind the gap!

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

School Year 2010-11

Compiled By Tanni Anthony  
State Consultant on Blindness/Visual Impairment, Colorado Department of Education

## Legend for Acronyms:

**CDE ESLU**= Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Leadership Unit

**CIMC** = Colorado Instructional Materials Center

**COMS** = Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist

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

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

**TVI** = teacher certified in visual impairment

We have a lot of good things happening over the course of the upcoming school year. The following activities are not exclusive to all that may be happening across the state. If there is an activity that was missed on this list, please be in touch with Tanni to post it in future editions of the newsletter.

**Adult Role Model Team** (CSDB Outreach Funds): The Adult Blind and Visually Impaired Role Model Team's purpose is to provide students who are blind or visually impaired, their parents and teachers the opportunity to meet successful blind and visually impaired adult role models. To openly and frankly discuss, from personal experience topics related to low vision, vision loss and blindness. Team members share their experiences, triumphant and otherwise, on topics ranging from low vision aids and high-tech devices to overcoming denial and when and how to seek support. Discussion topics have included careers, social interaction, drivers' licenses, organizations, resources, orientation/mobility, daily living skills and all sorts of other frenzied topics that can and do come up. If you think a Role Model Team member might make a positive difference for your student(s), please email Donna Keale at [Dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:Dkeale@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2251.

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

**Braille-Format Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) Test Review** (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): TVIs have had the opportunity to meet with the CDE Assessment Unit and the CSAP publisher to review the large print and braille CSAP tests each year since June 2004. Thanks to the feedback of many of you, we had helpful data to draft "theme recommendations" for improvement to future CSAP tests.

Funds have been reserved to review the 2010-11 braille tests BEFORE they are sent to Colorado. Sarah Sonnier, Nancy Cozart, and Tanni Anthony will return to Boston's National Braille Press in early December for a fifth year of onsite test review. They will meet with the tactile graphics experts and the test publisher over a two-day period.

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

**CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment** (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): The key professional development activity for TVIs during this school year will be the *Science Matters: Science Instruction for Students who are Blind Visually Impaired*. The course will be taught by Dr. Tiffany Wild, Cary Supalo, and April Hill. The course is specifically for Colorado TVIs working with school age students who are blind/visually impaired. The dates of the training, which will be held in Denver, are September 30 – October 2, 2010. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6681.

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

**Colorado Center for the Blind Summer Activities** Each summer, the CCB offers programs to students who are blind/visually impaired. During summer 2010, they offered programs for elementary, middle, and secondary-aged students. For more information, please contact Bret Batron at [batron@cocenter.org](mailto:batron@cocenter.org)

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

**CIMC Brailist Scholarships** (Sponsored by the CIMC) The CIMC is offering three \$200 scholarships to help certified Library of Congress brailists from Colorado attend the fall 2010 National Braille Association Professional Development Conference to be held October 7-9, 2010 in Raleigh, North Carolina. Scholarship recipients are asked to share the conference information with other Colorado brailists. Conference information is posted at [www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org). For more information, contact Jim Olson at [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2195.

**CSDB Internship Placements** (CSDB Sponsored). CSDB offers an educational setting with a diverse student population for university students completing their graduate training in vision to obtain internship or student teaching credits. Contact: Carol Hilty CSDB Superintendent at [chilty@csdb.org](mailto:chilty@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2102.

**CSDB Lending Library** (Sponsored by CSDB): The library provides materials and information in a variety of formats for students who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired, as well as their parents and those who work with them. Most items may be borrowed as long as you have filled out the library's community use form. The libraries are open Monday—Friday during the school year from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please call before coming in person to either library. For more information, please contact Amanda Batteiger at [abatteiger@csdb.org](mailto:abatteiger@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2205/2206 or the CSDB website at [www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org)

**CSDB Short Courses** (Sponsored by CSDB): CSDB will offer short term placements to focus on the Expanded Core Curriculum during this school year. The three-day courses that will begin on a Thursday afternoon and run through Saturday afternoon. Check out dates and a description of short-courses for the 2010-11 school year in future editions of *WHOT* and the CSDB website ([www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org)). If you have questions, contact Donna Keale at [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2251.

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

**CSDB Touch Museum** (Sponsored by CSDB): The CSDB Touch Museum reopened with the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. Some specimens are available for loan within the state of Colorado. Sharon Boyd, the manager of the Touch Museum, can be reached at [sharon\\_boyd\\_co@msn.com](mailto:sharon_boyd_co@msn.com) or (719) 592-9193.

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

**Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project (also called the Colorado Deafblind Project)** (Funded by the federal Office of Special Education Projects, housed at CDE ESLU): The project is entering its third year of a new five-year grant cycle. There are currently 135 children and youth, age birth through 21 years, who have combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness) in Colorado. Free technical assistance is provided the families and service providers of children and youth with combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness). The project hosts an annual Summer Institute, which focuses key assessment of and intervention / instructional strategies for children and youth who are deafblind and/or who have significant support needs. The project has a newsletter, *VIBRATIONS*, which is disseminated three times over the course of a school year. The project website has over 80 fact sheets (in English and Spanish) on information specific to deafblindness. The library is open to parents and professionals and is stocked with great resources, including about 75 items specific to visual impairment. The library's inventory is listed on the website, where there also is a downloaded book-loan order form. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6681, Gina Quintana at [Quintana\\_g@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Quintana_g@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6605 or and/or go the project's newly updated webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Deafblind.asp>

**Co TVI COMS listserv** (operated through CDE ESLU): This listserv is exclusively for Colorado TVIs and COMSs working in Colorado administrative units. It is a venue for professionals to share information, ask questions, and gather information. Persons wishing to be added to the listserv should contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)

**Family Learning Retreat 2011** (CSDB Outreach Funds): The weekend retreat is for families who have a child who is deaf/ hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deafblind. The retreat is a great opportunity for families to meet other families and share their stories, have fun, make friends, and learn together. More information about the Family Learning Retreat will be posted in future *WHOT* newsletters and on the CSDB website ([www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org)).

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

**Low Vision Evaluation Clinics** (CDE ESLU Set Aside and CSDB in kind funds): The Low Vision Evaluation Team is once again funded for five regional clinics. The clinic team consists of an optometrist specializing in low vision services and a certified low vision therapist /TVI. We are currently investigating who might be the new clinic coordinator. Jim Olson will currently be responsible for clinic paperwork, including getting the reports out the door, and will be the contact person for setting up each clinic. The dates of the 2010-11 clinics are posted within this newsletter, as are the local site coordinators for each clinic (who have the clinic paperwork). For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6681.

**National Braille Challenge:** (Sponsored by CSDB) The Colorado regional contest will again be held at CSDB. Students may also compete individually in their home school with their TVI administering the tests. Students compete in various categories such as spelling, reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs. The date for this event is February 4, 2011. Contact Bertha Guerrero at CSDB for more information at [bguerrero@csdb.org](mailto:bguerrero@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2204. Visit [www.brailleinstitute.org](http://www.brailleinstitute.org) and find pages on the NBC for more information.

**TVI Mentor Project** (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): This will be the eighth year of the mentor project! The goal is to provide mentoring assistance to students enrolled in the UNC Visual Impairment Program, as well as new TVIs

and/or COMSs in Colorado administrative units. Each participant will be paired with a mentor teacher currently working in Colorado. Mentors will receive a \$500 annual stipend for their time and commitment to mentoring over a full school year. If you would like to be a mentor or would like to have a mentor, please contact Tanni Anthony at [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6681.

**Psychological Assessments and Consultation** (CSDB staff) Psychological assessments (cognitive and social-emotional) provided to school districts by Ellen Trapp, Ed. S., school psychologist to assist school districts in developing appropriate educational services and supports for students with vision losses. There is a fee for this service. Contact: Laura Douglas at [ldouglas@csdb.org](mailto:ldouglas@csdb.org) at (719) 578-2110.

**Snow Shoe Weekend** (sponsored by TVIs and CSDB staff!): The 11th Annual Snowshoe Weekend is February 25-27<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. This event has been successful over the years thanks to the teachers who graciously volunteer their time and the School for the Blind staff at CSDB. Our many thanks to Rocky Mountain National Park for providing educational programs and volunteers during sledding activities and the YMCA of the Rockies for providing housing and food! Very special thanks to Lou Tutt for recognizing the value of this adventure and always securing the necessary funding!! Anyone interested in this exciting outdoor opportunity should contact Mike Plansker, [mike.e.plansker@adams12.org](mailto:mike.e.plansker@adams12.org) or (303) 870 7649.

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

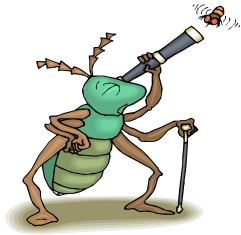
**Technology Consultation** (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): Bonnie Snyder has been hired to provide 28 days of free consultation across the state. Bonnie can meet with TVIs on an individual or a small group basis. She is also available for phone or email consultation. Be watching for a May 2011 mini course on technology. Contact: Bonnie at [BonnieLS21@gmail.com](mailto:BonnieLS21@gmail.com) or (719) 322-3854.

**Vision Coalition:** (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): The Vision Coalition is a statewide advisory committee on the educational activities for students who are blind/visually impaired, support activities for their parents, and professional development activities specific to their service providers. Members include: Tanni Anthony (CDE ESLU), Paula Conroy (UNC), Nancy Cozart (Metro region), Laverne Dell (Voc Rehab), Kay Ferrell (National Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities), Charlotte Javier (Anchor Center for Blind Children), Jamie Lugo (School for the Blind – CSDB), Bill Muir (CAER), Judy Mumford (Southern Region), Jim Olson (CIMC), Angela Sims (Western region), and Wendy Stoltman (Northern Region). The VC meets three times a school year. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6681.

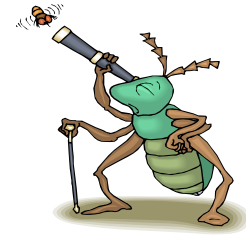
**What's Happening Out There Newsletter** (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): This newsletter started about 16-plus years ago when folks across the state talked about a lack of communication continuity. It has mostly been a labor of love internal to CDE, but there are some great folks who actively contribute to each edition or from time-to-time. Please consider being one of them – there is always room to brag on the accomplishments of a colleague, post an announcement, or to share an article. The newsletter is sent out to CO parents of children and youth who are blind/visually impaired, TVIs, COMS, braillists, and VI paraeducators. It is also posted on the CDE Blindness/Low Vision website for others to download. The following editions are planned for this school year: August/September 2010, October 2010, November/December 2010, January/February 2011, March/April 2011, and May 2011. For more information, please contact Tanni at [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6681.

**Workshop on Syndrome of Optic Nerve Hypoplasia:** (CDE ESLU Set Aside Funds): A one-day workshop will be planned during the course of school-year 2010-11 on the topic of children with the diagnosis of Septo Optic Dysplasia or Optic Nerve Hypoplasia. The training will be open to Colorado TVIs and parents of children with this diagnosis. For more information, please contact Tanni at [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6681.





# LOW VISION NEWS



## 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	November 10-12, 2010	Anchor Center, Denver	Nancy Knight
Northern	February 17-18, 2011	Brighton	Wendy Stoltman
Southern	March 4, 2011	CSDB in Colorado Springs	Judy Mumford

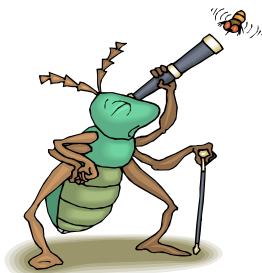
The Site Coordinators have the needed paperwork for the low vision clinics. Please work directly with the person assigned to your region. The paperwork is also posted at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/>

## THE TOP FIVE REASONS

### Why You Should Bring Your Student to the 2010-11 Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

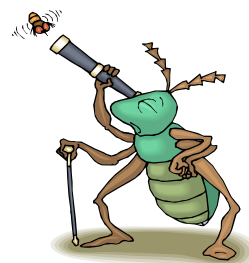
5. **Devices in action** - Your student and family will be able to watch the low vision team use many of the devices you have been trying to get him or her to use for a long time.
4. **Be on the cutting edge** - You can try out some of the latest technology for the student with low vision including Enhanced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

# LOW VISION NEWS



## LARGE PRINT: TO BE OR NOT TO BE

By Tanni Anthony and Jim Olson



We are fortunate to live in a time of technology where there are many accessibility options for students who are blind/visually impaired. The educational teams of these learners should base the selection of learning and literacy media upon defensible assessment data. Large print may certainly be an option for many students, as may be prescribed magnification devices, screen reading enlargement software programs, digitized text, and/or braille.

As teachers of students with visual impairments complete Learning Media Assessments, they determine what learning and literacy media is appropriate for their students who are blind/visually impaired. For many students, large print may be a valid option for assessment and instructional materials. Like all other media choices, there is a need for defensible data to ensure that large print is a viable learning tool. The decision should be data-driven, not simply teacher / parent preference or because someone believes that a book can be easily ordered in large print whether it is needed or not. Large print should not be a substitute for a broken or lost magnification device. Included in the data collection process, should be information about the (sustained) reading efficiency of a student with different fonts and font size. The answer of the title of this article is that if a student needs large print, as demonstrated through appropriate assessment and instructional documentation, large print “is to be.”

If a student will benefit from large print texts, the Colorado Instructional Materials Center will be happy to source large print textbooks from their current in-house inventory, as well as nationwide on the listserv of other instructional materials centers across the country who loan items between states. Currently the CIMC will purchase large print APH texts with federal quota funds, if they are available. The CIMC will not, however, incur costs in dollars and/or staff time to produce large print books onsite. The decision was made with the input of the special education directors who met in March and May 2008 at the directors' forum meetings.

Does this mean that a Colorado student cannot receive a textbook in large print? No, it does not. It may be found through the CIMC sources or it may be produced within the local administrative unit. Many people may be unaware that many of these textbooks were created in the past using extensive CIMC staff time and copy machines. This responsibility is now placed on the administrative unit or the state operated program who provides the educational services for a student who is blind/visually impaired.

The CIMC has developed information to provide guidance on how to enlarge a book to a specific font size using a copy machine (see information at the end of this article). The copying

of a single copy in large print format does not violate copyright law when the book is used for educational purposes exclusively by persons who are blind or have other disabilities.

*Section 306 of the Copyright Act, 121(d)(3) of Title 17, United States Code, defines specialized formats to include braille, audio, or digital text which is exclusively for use by persons who are blind or have other disabilities. Section 306 of the Copyright Act was amended by IDEA 2004 and print instructional materials now include large-print formats when such materials are distributed exclusively for use by persons who are blind or have other disabilities.*

Our goal is to ensure that our students have access to all the materials of their sighted peers. Large print textbooks may well be one avenue of accessibility.

Questions about the CIMC's role specific to large print texts, should be directed to Jim Olson at [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2195. Questions about Learning Media Assessments should be directed to Tanni Anthony at [Anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or (303) 866-6681.

## **Guidelines for Large Print Reproduction**

Fourteen to 18 point font is considered large print although 18-point is usually the requested font. All large print reproduction at CIMC was done on a copy machine capable of utilizing 11" x 17 paper.

- It is much easier to reproduce a book if you are able to remove the binding.
- It is up to the administrative unit to decide if the book will be single sided pages or double sided.
- To begin the process of enlargement a good zoom magnification setting is 150%. The zoom is adjusted as needed to reach the desired enlargement, keeping in mind you will usually need at least ½" margin for the binding. Remember the page may need to be adjusted off of center on the copier to accommodate the margins needed for binding.
- A Self-Help Vision Chart is available from Large Print Reproduction Services (LRS). They can be reached at: 800-255-5002. This is a print copy of font sizes that will help you determine if the font is the desired size.

You may contact the CIMC with further questions:

Debbie Haberkorn, (719) 578-2120, [dhaberkorn@csdb.org](mailto:dhaberkorn@csdb.org)





# Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

BonnieLS21@gmail.com

The 2010-2011 school year has arrived! In the area of assistive technology, there are constant changes and improvements, and we owe it to our students to stay up with these changes and improvements in order to provide them with the best possible tools they can have to succeed in the K-12 environment and be prepared for higher education and employment.



This year, through my column, I would like to focus on the following technology tools:

- iPod Touch
- iPhone
- iPad
- Skype (for teachers as well as for students)
- DAISY technology (using DAISY reading tools and creation tools)
- Freeware
- Shareware



In addition, it might be a good idea for those of you who are interested, to set aside **May 14, 2011** for the **UCCS GMI Crossover Technology Symposium for the Blind and Visually Impaired**.



If you have a particular technology topic that you would like to receive more information about, please email me and let me know what it is and I will do the best I can to provide you with the information you need.

Have a wonderful 2010-2011 school year and don't forget, I am available to come to you to provide technology assistance for you and your students.



## JOSHUA HERBST, 11



As told to Diane Kawalski

On my ninth birthday I had all these vision tests done and I was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa cone-rod dystrophy. In my left eye, what a normal person sees at 200 feet I see at 20 feet. In my right eye it's what other people see at 400 feet I see at 20 feet. I don't recognize faces, I can't read too small of a print or see distance or see in the dark. The disease is currently incurable, and glasses can't correct my eyesight because it's too severe. People think I can't do as much as others, when I can do things just as efficiently as other people, but using different methods. A lot of people see the disadvantages of going blind, but there are a lot of advantages. You don't need your eyes to know you're alive. It's not what you see, it's what you believe. I may not be able to see as well as others but I still know things are there because I see through my heart not my eyes. I just want people to realize I'm like them, just a little different but, everyone's different.

### THROUGH HIS EYES

Herbst has taken many steps in adapting to his blindness. "I know braille like the back of my hand, and I'm pretty efficient mobility wise and don't have to use a cane. People ask me what I can see a lot, because when people see someone who's different than them they have a desire to know what it's like from their perspective."



JUST SAY IT.  
TELL THE TRUTH.  
TALK TO ME.

Theme Magazine 65

This is reprinted (with permission) page from the Academy 20 yearbook and depicts a high school junior in Academy 20 school district. Josh and his family wanted to share this page with all of you!



## **SPOTLIGHT ON RETINOBLASTOMA**

*Information retrieved from: <https://health.google.com/health/ref/Retinoblastoma>  
and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retinoblastoma>*

### **What is Retinoblastoma?**

Retinoblastoma is a malignant tumor (cancer) of the retina (part of the eye) that generally affects children under the age of six. It is most commonly diagnosed in children aged one to two years. One or both eyes may be affected. A visible whiteness in the pupil may be present. Blindness can occur in the affected eye. The eyes may appear crossed. The tumor can spread to the eye socket through the optic nerve. It may also spread to other parts of the body. Retinoblastoma is rare and affects approximately 1 in 15,000 live births.

In about two-thirds of cases, only one eye is affected (unilateral retinoblastoma); in the other third, tumors develop in both eyes (bilateral retinoblastoma). The number and size of tumors on each eye may vary. In certain cases, the pineal gland is also affected (trilateral retinoblastoma). The position, size and quantity of tumors are considered when choosing the type of treatment for the disease.

### **What are the Causes of Retinoblastoma?**

Retinoblastoma occurs when a cell of the growing retina develops a mutation, causing it to grow out of control and become cancerous. There are two forms of the disease; a genetic, heritable form and a non-genetic, non-heritable form. Approximately 55% of children with retinoblastoma have the non-genetic form. If there is no history of the disease within the family, the disease is labeled "sporadic", but this does not necessarily indicate that it is the non-genetic form.

### **What are the Symptoms?**

The following are symptoms of retinoblastoma:

- A white glow in the eye that is often seen in photographs taken with a flash; instead of the typical "red eye" from the flash, the pupil may appear white or distorted.
- White spots in the pupil
- Crossed eyes
- A red, painful eye
- Poor vision
- The iris (colored part of the eye) may be a different color in each eye.

# Spotlight on

## How is a Diagnosis Made?

The tests for a diagnosis include:

- An examination of the eye with dilation of the pupil
- A CT scan or MRI of the head to evaluate tumor and possible spread
- An ultrasound of the eye (head and eye echoencephalogram)

## What are Treatments for Retinoblastoma?

Treatment options depend upon the size and location of the tumor. Small tumors may be treated by laser surgery. Radiation and chemotherapy may be needed, if the tumor has spread beyond the eye. The eye may need to be removed if the tumor does not respond to other treatments.

## Resources:

- *A Parent's Guide to Retinoblastoma:* <http://retinoblastoma.com/retinoblastoma/frame1.htm>
- *National Cancer Institute:* [http://www.cancer.gov/cancer\\_information/cancer\\_type/retinoblastoma/](http://www.cancer.gov/cancer_information/cancer_type/retinoblastoma/)
- *Retinoblastoma International:* <http://www.retinoblastoma.net/>

## Materials that Help to Explain Retinoblastoma:



**My Fake Eye:** Full color photographs and a clear, calm, matter-of-fact presentation make this book a very useful and comforting tool for the child, parents and siblings of children who have had or will be having an eye enucleated.

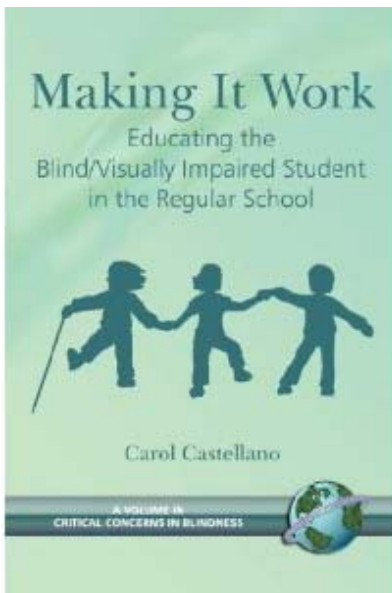
Available from the Institute for Families at <http://www.instituteforfamilies.org/>



**Emma and the GobbletyGoos** is a children's audio book that was designed to raise funds and awareness for the childhood eye cancer retinoblastoma. The audio book was written and illustrated by composer and writer Gordon Goodman.

CDs will be sold for \$16.98 and are available online from [LML Music](http://www.lmlmusic.com/artist.php?id=26) (<http://www.lmlmusic.com/artist.php?id=26>) or by phone at 1-888-856-9202.

# Resources and Materials



## *Making It Work: Educating the Blind/Visually Impaired Student in the Regular School*

by Carol Castellanos

The book is designed to be a guide for how to make the general school education a successful experience for blind/visually impaired children. Available through the NFB Independence Market: [www.nfb.org](http://www.nfb.org) or 410-659-9314. This book is available through the CO Services for Children and Youth with combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project. The loan form can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/dbResources.asp>

### 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>

## Colorado Center

FOR THE BLIND

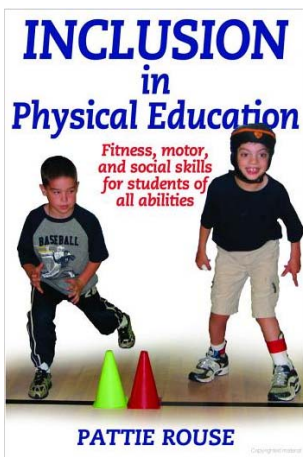
## OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Colorado Center for the Blind Opportunities Fair on Thursday, **September 9 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.** Dozens of service providers and retailers to the blind and low vision community will be displaying their goods and services. There will be demonstrations and the chance to get your hands on the latest technology. The day will include a luncheon, speakers, and seminars for parents and professionals. The Opportunities Fair will take place at the Doubletree Hotel, 3203 Quebec St. Denver 80207. For more information contact Brent Batron, Youth Services Coordinator at the Colorado Center for the Blind: 303-778-1130 ext 222 or [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org). Registration (including the luncheon) is \$15 per person or 25 for two. Please register by September 1, 2010.

# Resources and Materials

## New Handbooks and Eligibility Applications for Certification

The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) recently posted revised certification handbooks and eligibility applications on its web site located at [www.acvrep.org](http://www.acvrep.org). The new handbooks and applications reflect recent revisions to certification eligibility criteria and the implementation of online testing. For more information contact: Garrett Holm, president, ACVREP, 3333 North Campbell Ave, Suite 2, Tucson AZ 85719, phone (520) 887-6816.



### Guide on Inclusion in Physical Education

*Inclusion in Physical Education* by Pattie Rouse is a reference and games book for physical education teachers. The guide is filled with inclusion strategies that focus on developing the physical and social skills and fitness of students with disabilities. The book offers a chapter on inclusion for students with conditions including visual impairment. The 168-page paperback book is available for \$20. For more information contact: Human Kinetics, PO Box 5076, Champaign IL 61825-5076, phone (800) 747-4457, email [info@hkusa.com](mailto:info@hkusa.com), web [www.humankinetics.com](http://www.humankinetics.com).

## AFB CAREERCONNECT®

### College-Ready Challenge:

### Listen to the Fast-Paced New "Game Show" from AFB CareerConnect

Is your teenager prepared for college? Encourage your child to listen and play along as two high school students who are visually impaired compete to find out if they are "college ready." Find out a few differences between high school and college.

Listen to "College-Ready Challenge"!

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=7&TopicID=268&SubTopicID=156&DocumentID=5248>

# Continuing Education Credits Now Available for Readers of the *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness* through ACVREP



The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) and the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) have announced a new partnership that will benefit professionals in the visual impairment field. On July 1, the *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness* (*JVIB*) began offering continuing education units (CEUs) for professional recertification by ACVREP. *JVIB*, the international journal of record in the visual impairment field, is published monthly by AFB Press. Each month, busy professionals will have the opportunity to choose from selected articles in *JVIB* to earn CEUs on their own time.

The new arrangement with *JVIB* will provide ACVREP certificants and journal subscribers and readers with an expanded opportunity to accrue continuing education credits in an easily accessible and affordable way. ACVREP certificants will receive a discount on their *JVIB* subscription as well as on associated CEU fees.

For more information about ACVREP, go to [www.acvrep.org](http://www.acvrep.org).

To subscribe to *JVIB*, go to [www.afb.org/jvib](http://www.afb.org/jvib).

To review a Question and Answer document on this topic, go to: <http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=54&DocumentID=5264>



# ORIENTATION & MOBILITY ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

## CALL FOR PAPERS!!

*JVIB* Special Issue - A Celebration of Orientation & Mobility

**Deadline for Submissions: January 31, 2011**

**Projected Publication Date: October 2011**

As the 50th anniversary of the first university preparation program for orientation and mobility (O&M) practitioners approaches, the *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB)* invites papers that examine research and practice on mobility. Since the end of World War II, the built landscape has undergone dramatic changes. As the world around us has become ever more fast-paced and complicated, the practice of imparting O&M instruction to people who are blind or visually impaired becomes all the more challenging. Fifty years after the first university programs began training O&M practitioners, these professionals now serve a heterogeneous population of children to adults, people who are totally blind or those with low vision, including individuals with multiple disabilities.

**Guidelines for contributors** are generally printed in each issue of *JVIB*, and are also available from AFB Press, American Foundation for the Blind: [www.afb.org/jvib\\_guidelines.asp](http://www.afb.org/jvib_guidelines.asp); phone (212) 502-7651; email [press@afb.net](mailto:press@afb.net).



## CAER Board Members for 2010-2011

The CAER Board members and their roles include: Mike Plansker (President), Heather Parson (President-Elect), Samantha Hoffman (Past-President), Deb Carlisle (Treasurer), Sally Eldridge (Secretary), Barb Galgano (Membership and Recruitment Chair), Paula Conroy, Bill Muir, Kathryn Botsford, and Nancy Cozart. The first CAER Board meeting will be on **September 22,**

**2010.** Be watching for more CAER updates and announcements in future newsletter editions.



# DOTS OF INTEREST



## The National Reading Media Assessment:

### A Future of Literacy for Blind and Visually Impaired Children

In October 2008 and January 2009, a group of teachers of blind and visually impaired students, university professors, parents, and researchers gathered at the National Center for the Blind in Baltimore, Maryland, to begin work on a new assessment that paves the way for the achievement of literacy. They began to develop an accurate, easy-to-use tool that will clearly identify the reading medium or media of blind and visually-impaired children. This tool will determine whether each child who is assessed should be taught Braille, print, or both.

After studying and comparing existing assessments, the following areas of need were identified: high expectations, standardization, specificity, realization of the importance of future need, and time efficiency for the evaluator.

The National Reading Media Assessment will address these needs by integrating the following central concepts:

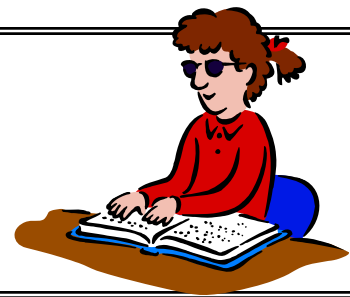
1. Expectations for literacy will be the same as they are for sighted peers.
2. Assessment conditions will be standardized.
3. The assessment will answer the specific question of which reading medium should be taught.
4. The assessment will take future need into account.
5. The assessment will make the assessment process less time-consuming and more concise for TVIs.

In June they completed the second stage of field testing, and are now engaged in the third pilot test for the purpose of validation. They are looking for TVIs to assess low vision/visually impaired children in each of the following categories: pre-reader/pre-k, grades k-12, and children of all ages with cognitive disabilities. Please refer to the attached chart for target numbers for this study of children by category. Past data indicate that each assessment takes between one and two and a half hours to complete. If you are a teacher of blind and visually impaired students and would like to participate as an evaluator, or if you would like information on how your school district or school for the blind can become a collaborator in this important initiative, please contact:

Jessica Bachicha, Project Coordinator  
Department of Affiliate Action  
National Federation of the Blind at Jernigan Place  
200 East Wells Street, Baltimore, MD 21230  
Tel: (410) 659-9314 ext. 2529  
E-mail: [jbachicha@nfb.org](mailto:jbachicha@nfb.org)

A joint project: Department of Affiliate Action, National Federation of the Blind, and the Professional Development & Research Institute on Blindness, Louisiana Tech University

# DOTS OF INTEREST



## New Fact Sheet from Braille Authority of North America (BANA)

BANA recently posted on its website a new fact sheet, *Size and Spacing of Braille*, making it available as a web page and in electronic files suitable for downloading into print and braille. *Size and Spacing of Braille* includes standards for braille embossed on paper as well as standards for braille signage. It was provided to assist those seeking information about the technical aspects of the production of braille in either capacity.

BANA also offers other position papers, fact sheets, and guidelines on their website, including:

- A Brailist's Pledge of Professional Ethics
- The Use of the Braille Slate and Stylus
- Capitalization Style for the Word "braille"
- Braille is NOT a Language
- Terminology: Contracted and Uncontracted Braille
- Eight-dot Braille
- Guidelines for Brailing Business Cards
- Promising Practices for the Transcription of Textbooks for Grades K-3



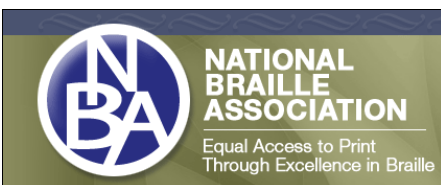
Visit the BANA website at [www.brailleauthority.org](http://www.brailleauthority.org) for this and other resource information.

## Handy Resource

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) has a new feature on their web site that takes you to a handy guide to braille code instruction materials and official braille codebooks they offer. The list includes official Braille Authority of North America (BANA) and National Library Service (NLS) codebooks. The list is on the left side of the [shop.aph.org](http://shop.aph.org) home page, just below the navigation box.

## Foreign Language Braille Code Information and Resources

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA), the National Braille Association (NBA), and other experts have addressed how foreign language materials should be prepared. NBA publishes the *Interim Manual for Foreign Language Braille Transcribing, 2002* that is designed to provide guidelines for transcribing foreign language materials. It is based on the BANA publication, *Braille Formats: Principles of Print to Braille Transcription*. There is also basic information on the AFB Braille Bug website about foreign language braille. Go to [www.afb.org/braillebug/foreign\\_language\\_braille.asp](http://www.afb.org/braillebug/foreign_language_braille.asp) for a simple introduction to symbols in Spanish braille.



Another reference is the NBA Ask An Expert site. The NBA Foreign Language Braille Committee Chair monitors that link for questions at [www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org)

# DOTS OF INTEREST



## The Size of Braille Books

In the United States and Canada, the standard for size and spacing of braille embossed on paper is put forth in "Braille Books and Pamphlets" from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress. The primary goal for producing braille is to create it so the dots of each cell are easily discernible by touch and high enough to be easily distinguished from the background.

Braille Plus, Inc. is a company in Salem, Oregon that converts print documents into alternate formats. Their web site ([www.brailleplus.net](http://www.brailleplus.net)) has a few articles about braille, accessible formats, and tactile graphics. The article, "Why is Braille So Big?" offers a response to the question many people ask when they realize a 10-page print document may be as many as 25-30 braille pages.

Even with the contractions allowed in English braille, the standard braille cell takes more space on the page than print characters. Braille paper is generally 3 inches wider than standard paper, and still, there is only enough room for forty cells and 25 lines of braille. Braille transcribers learn formatting that dictates the use of every available space and line, and to dispense with bold, italics, underlining, and other "eye candy" that appears in print if it serves no purpose for the braille reader.

A recent topic posted on a listserv of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind or Visually Impaired provided discussion of how to help students manage their voluminous collection textbooks. (Contact [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) for details on subscribing to the listserv.) Among the ideas posted were: use super-sized backpacks or roller bags; request a closet, extra locker, or multiple locations to store materials between classes; leave materials in the location in which they are used most often; ask a friend to carry extra books; teach the student to hire, train, schedule, use, and (if necessary) fire a reader/study partner, someone in the same class who might earn extra credit for such duties; use a library-type cart to shelve books that stay in the classroom; and brainstorm with the student to identify solutions that will work best for him or her.

(Editor's Note: This information can be found at:

<http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=6&TopicID=19&DocumentID=5256>)



Check out  
[www.braillebookstore.com](http://www.braillebookstore.com)  
to find toys, games, housewares, low vision products, greeting cards, Braille books and more.

# DOTS OF INTEREST



## *National Braille Association ANNOUNCES*

*Professional Development Conference*

*October 7-9, 2010 in Raleigh, North Carolina*

This fall's Professional Development Conference will take place over three days. This conference offers two courses, both intensely focused on a particular area of braille transcription.

You will choose to attend ONE of the following:

***Braille Formats: All About All the Rules OR  
Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics***

Each course will focus on the same topic for all three days. The presenters are all nationally recognized experts in their respective disciplines. A detailed schedule of each course can be found on the NBA website [www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org).



## **FEEDBACK NEEDED ON NEW BRAILLE CODE**

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) is seeking feedback on the NUBS experimental braille code which combines literary, scientific and math notation into one unified code. Braille readers, teachers, and transcribers are needed to read a sampler of the NUBS code and answer specific questions about their reading experience. Anyone who can read and write braille, regardless of their age or experience, is encouraged to participate in this project. Samplers are available in both hard-copy braille and simulated braille. If you are interested in assisting with this evaluation, please contact Judy Dixon by one of the following methods: e-mailing [Brailleauthority@gmail.com](mailto:Brailleauthority@gmail.com); calling (202) 707-0722; or sending either a braille or print letter to Judy Dixon, 1805 N. Oakland St., Arlington, VA 22207. When you make contact, let Judy know your name, address, and preference for embossed braille or simulated braille. All participants will be notified of how to access the evaluation results once the project is complete.



**Application Now Available**  
**2011 SEE THE FUTURE Fund Scholarships**  
Updated application information is now available on-line for the 2011  
“Education for Life” Scholarships.

Application Deadline: March 1, 2011

1. Go to [www.seethefuture.org](http://www.seethefuture.org)
2. Click on: “Education for Life” Scholarships
3. Click on: “Application Information” to access an updated form

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

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

Students who are interested in becoming a Kane-SEE THE FUTURE scholar must submit a completed SEE THE FUTURE application by the **March 1, 2011** deadline. All applicants will be considered for the Kane scholarship if they meet the STF criteria along with the following:

1. **Acceptance to CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, or CU-Colorado Springs.**
2. **Un-weighted high school GPA: 3.40 or higher (through senior year).**
3. **Achieve an A or a B in at least one AP (Advanced Placement) or IB (International Baccalaureate) course during junior or senior year. If a school district does not offer AP or IB courses, the student must address this in their application. If an applicant is graduating from the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, that student must achieve an A or B in at least one AP class from a local high school.**
4. **Achieve an ACT composite score of 25 (80th percentile) or above.**

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

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



## **“Tools for Life” Program - Deadline Approaching**

***Application Deadline: October 15, 2010***

**The Need:** A student who is blind/visually impaired may be highly motivated and highly educated, but without the proper adaptive devices (tools) may not be able to perform to his or her highest level. Students who are blind/visually benefit from special “tools” to interact and compete with their sighted peers. Sometimes, however, families cannot afford these tools for their children due to their financial situation.

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

**To apply for a “Tools for Life” scholarship and to obtain more information, please go to:**

- ◆ [www.seethefuture.org](http://www.seethefuture.org)
- ◆ Click on “Tools for Life” scholarships
- ◆ Click on “Application Information”



**For more information please call Tom Theune, OD –  
Chairperson of the SEE THE FUTURE Fund at 719.471.3200 or email:  
[twtheune@prodigy.net](mailto:twtheune@prodigy.net).**



## IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for this 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** (.5 FTE): Please visit [www.DPSK12.org](http://www.DPSK12.org) to apply for this Denver Public School's position.
- ✓ **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)
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1 FTE): Cherry Creek Schools position: Please contact Dixie Periman at (720) 554-4250 or [dperiman@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:dperiman@cherrycreekschools.org)
- ✓ **Rehabilitation Counselor I - Vision (Rehab Teacher/Vision)** Please email: [christine.lrsik@state.co.us](mailto:christine.lrsik@state.co.us)
- ✓ **TVI** (limited contract work): Vanguard Charter School. For additional information, please contact Christie McGovern, Coordinator of Student Services, at [cmcgovern@vcsk8.org](mailto:cmcgovern@vcsk8.org) or (303) 691-2384.

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

- ✓ **TVI - Pre-School / Early Intervention Services** (current vacancy; 1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI - Elementary Education** (possible future vacancy for SY 2011-12; 1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information
- ✓ **TVI - English / Language Arts; Science; Mathematics; Social Studies** (possible future vacancy for SY 2011-12; 1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information

### Statewide

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (hourly contract work): Colorado Virtual Academy position. Flexible to your schedule. Contact Stacy Altman at 720-379-3985 or [saltman@covcs.org](mailto:saltman@covcs.org)



**SAVE THE DATES FOR THE FALL CONFERENCE—  
SEPTEMBER 30—OCTOBER 2, 2010.**

## SWAAAC and Assistive Technology Partners Trainings for School Year 2010-11

All trainings can be found at <http://www.assistivetechologypartners.org> (follow the education link to get to SWAAAC) or <http://www.swaaac.com/>, or call our office at 303-315-1280.

### SWAAAC trainings:

**Distance Education Training: SWAAAC 101** - This two-day program will include introductory training on AT assessment, implementation, data collection, legal considerations, IEP documentation and much more. It provides a great foundation for new SWAAAC team members and IEP teams. November 8 & 9, 2010 9:00am - 4:00pm

**Assistive Technology Institute: SWAAAC 202** - Day one of this institute will overview AT for communication, computer access, and a variety of educational supports. Day two will offer 2 tracks of in-depth training, one for Augmentative Alternative Communication and one for educational assistive technologies to support literacy. February 7 & 8, 2011 9:00am - 4:00pm

**Distance Education Training: Make and Take** - This full-day workshop offers participants opportunities to learn about, construct and take home inexpensive assistive technology projects. April 29, 2011 9:00am - 4:00pm

**SWAAAC Summer Symposium** - This three-day event will feature full day workshops June 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> and breakout sessions June 9<sup>th</sup>. This year's Symposium will explore implementation of assistive technologies across the curriculum. June 7 - 9, 2011 Adams 12 Conferencing Center

### Assistive Technology Partner's trainings:

**Your Phone and You: An Assistive Technology Toolkit in your Pocket** - September 17, 2010; 8:00-3:00 @ ATP office in Denver. Jim Sandstrum, MA, CCC-SLP presents a full day training on how to use web-based apps that turn a Smartphone into a portable assistive technology device.

**Boardmaker Plus v. 6 for Beginner and Intermediate Users** - September 20, 2010; 8:00-12:00 for Beginners and 1:00-5:00 for Intermediate Users; Hosted at the Shore Family Forum on the Anschutz Medical Campus. Dan Herlihy presents two, web-based, four-hour workshops in which he teaches how to create interactive educational activities that engage all students in accessible curriculum.

**Student Open House** - September 23, 2010; 3:00-4:15 and 4:15-5:30. Please RSVP by calling 303-315-1277. Professors and Instructors come join us as ATP hosts our first Student Open House in which we invite undergraduate and graduate classes to come tour our clinic, engage in AT device demonstrations and finally to participate in an interactive overview of Assistive Technology with a member of the ATP faculty.

**Classroom Suite 4: I & II** - October 4, 2010; 8:00-12:00 for Classroom Suite 4: I and 1:00-5:00 for Classroom Suite 4: II; Hosted at the Shore Family Forum on the Anschutz Medical Campus. Dan Herlihy joins us again in a web-based training on how to use Classroom Suite 4 to create customized learning activities for students with special needs. The morning session will teach basic skills while the afternoon session will delve into more complex features of Classroom Suite 4.

**Do-it-Yourself Toy and Game Modification** - November 16, 2010; 2:00-5:30 @ ATP offices in Denver Gavin Philips, M.S.E.E. presents a hands-on workshop during which you will have the opportunity to learn about, construct, and take home accessories that will make toys accessible to children with special needs. Participants will make a CD Switch and a battery interrupter for under \$10. You will then learn how to select which toys are easily adaptable so you can put your new skills to use.

**Wheelchair Seating for Postural Control and Function** - Spring 2011; Date and location To Be Announced. Kelly Waugh, PT, MAPT, ATP presents this 3 day course that covers the Principles, Assessment & Intervention of wheelchair seating. On the third day, she offers a hands on Seating Assessment Practicum in which participants work in small groups and complete a comprehensive seating assessment.





# Calendar of Events

2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010 2010

- September 9** **Colorado Center for the Blind Opportunities Fair** - Denver, CO  
 Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x 222 or [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)
- September 9 - 10** **Southern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic (Days 1 & 2)** - CSDB, Colorado Springs  
 Contact: Judy Mumford at [judy.mumford@asd20.org](mailto:judy.mumford@asd20.org)
- September 15** **Vision Coalition Meeting** - CO Talking Book Library, Denver, CO  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony (303) 866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- September 17** **Metro TVI Meeting** - Anchor Center for Blind Children, Denver, CO  
 Contact: Nancy Cozart at [ncozart@lps.k12.co.us](mailto:ncozart@lps.k12.co.us)
- September 24** **Northern TVI Regional Meeting**  
 Contact: Teresa Barone at [baronet@thompson.k12.co.us](mailto:baronet@thompson.k12.co.us) or 970-613-5564
- September 24 - 25** **Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - Grand Junction, CO  
 Contact: Sarah Sonnier at [ssonnier@mesa.k12.co.us](mailto:ssonnier@mesa.k12.co.us)
- September 27** **Southern Region TVI Meeting: MS Office Ribbon** - CSDB, Colorado Springs  
 Contact: Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- Sept 30 - Oct 2** **CDE State Conference on Visual Impairment** - Denver, CO  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- October 7 - 9** **National Braille Assn Fall Professional Development Conference** - Raleigh, NC  
 Visit: [www.nationalbraille.org](http://www.nationalbraille.org)
- October 14 - 16** **Annual Meeting of the American Printing House for the Blind** - Louisville, KY  
 Visit: [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)
- October 25** **Southern Region TVI Meeting: Making a DAISY Book** - CSDB, Colorado Springs  
 Contact: Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- October 29 - 31** **NFB of Colorado State Convention** - Boulder, CO  
 Contact: Lisa Bonderson at (303) 504-5979
- November 10 - 12** **Metro Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - Anchor Center, Denver, CO  
 Contact: Nancy Knight at [nknight@lps.k12.co.us](mailto:nknight@lps.k12.co.us)
- November 19** **5th Annual Common Sight, Common Vision Breakfast** - Colorado Springs, CO  
 Contact: Mark Lucas at [mlucas@usaba.org](mailto:mlucas@usaba.org) or (719) 630-0422

## More Calendar of Events

2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010    2010

- November 24**                      **LAST DAY to order a large print or braille CSAP test through your DAC**
- December 6**                      **Southern Region TVI Meeting: iPad +Voice Over software - CSDB, Colorado Springs**  
**Contact:** Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)

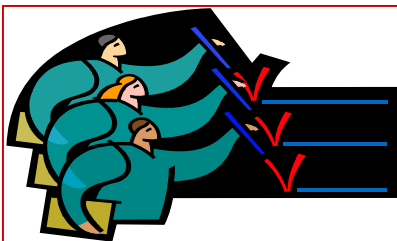
2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011

- December 8 - 9**                      **TASH Conference - Denver, CO**  
**Visit:** <http://www.tash.org/2010tash/ConferenceProgram.htm>
- 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)
- January 24**                      **Southern Region TVI Meeting: Child Find + TRE - CSDB, Colorado Springs**  
**Contact:** Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- January 28**                      **Northern TVI Regional Meeting**  
**Contact:** Teresa Barone at [baronet@thompson.k12.co.us](mailto:baronet@thompson.k12.co.us) or 970-613-5564
- 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**                      **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 17 - 18**                      **Northern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic - Brighton, CO**  
**Contact:** Wendy Stoltman at [wstoltman@sd27j.org](mailto:wstoltman@sd27j.org)
- 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)
- February 28**                      **Southern Region TVI Meeting: SWAAAC/TVI Interface - CSDB, Colorado Springs**  
**Contact:** Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- 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)
- March 4**                      **Southern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic (Day 3) - CSDB, Colorado Springs**  
**Contact:** Judy Mumford at [judy.mumford@asd20.org](mailto:judy.mumford@asd20.org)
- 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)

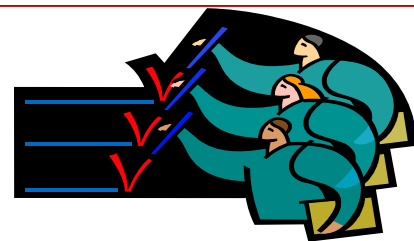
## More Calendar of Events

2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011

- March 10 - 13**                      **California Transcribers & Educators for the Blind & VI - Oakland, CA**  
 Visit: [www.ctevh.org](http://www.ctevh.org)
- 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: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSAPA.asp](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 11**                                      **Southern Region TVI Meeting: TBD - CSDB, Colorado Springs**  
 Contact: Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- 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 22**                                      **Northern TVI Regional Meeting**  
 Contact: Teresa Barone at [baronet@thompson.k12.co.us](mailto:baronet@thompson.k12.co.us) or 970-613-5564
- 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: [www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSAPA.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSAPA.asp)
- May 2**                                        **Southern Region TVI Meeting: New APH Products - CSDB, Colorado Springs**  
 Contact: Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- May 11**                                      **Colorado ACT Make-up Date**  
 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 14**                                      **UCCS GMI Crossover Technology Symposium—Colorado Springs**  
 Contact: Bonnie Snyder at [BonnieLS21@gmail.com](mailto:BonnieLS21@gmail.com)



**CHECK IT OUT!**



## **5th Annual Common Sight, Common Vision Breakfast**

**For our athletes, a loss of sight is never a loss of vision...**

**2010 Guest Speaker JEFF MITTMAN**

**Date:** Friday, November 19, 2010

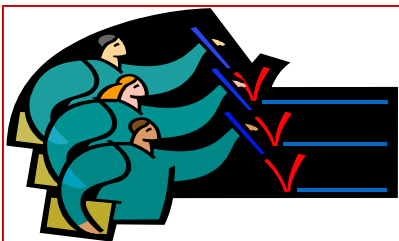
**Location:** Crowne Plaza Colorado Springs, 2886 S. Circle Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

**Questions:** Email us at [mlucas@usaba.org](mailto:mlucas@usaba.org), Call us at (719) 630-0422

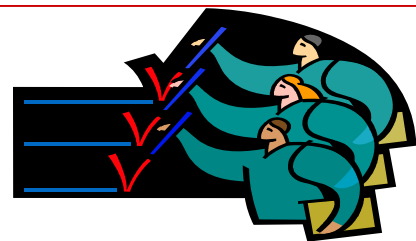
A native of Indianapolis, Jeffrey Mittman joined the United States Army as an infantryman on 26 July, 1989. After numerous deployments across the globe, Jeff was deployed to Iraq in 2005 as an advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior. In July of 2005, Jeff's team came under attack where an improvised explosive device exploded near his vehicle causing substantial injuries to Jeff, including the loss of his vision. His injuries were so severe that his survival was questionable, yet his strength, faith, and bravery brought him through.

Since that time, Jeff Mittman has endured more than 40 operations and spent the last four years recovering physically and emotionally. He has traveled the country to share the lessons he learned from these experiences with the world. Now, this 40-year-old decorated warrior, husband of 17 years, father of two, and outspoken military veteran will share his hope for the future-- both for himself and for other injured veterans around the country.

**Sponsorships are available by contacting Mark Lucas at [mlucas@usaba.org](mailto:mlucas@usaba.org) or (719) 630-0422.**



# CHECK IT OUT!



## New Q&A from OSEP on IEPs

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) has issued a revised Q&A document to provide States, State educational agencies (SEAs), local educational agencies (LEAs), parents, and other stakeholders with information regarding the IDEA requirements relating to individualized education programs (IEPs), evaluations, and reevaluations. *Questions and Answers on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)* (revised June 2010) is available online: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/iep-qa-2010.pdf>



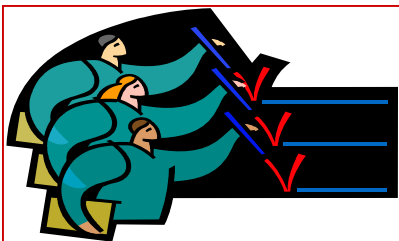
## Children's Stories on the Web

Here are two websites that involve someone reading a story to child. The first site is [www.smories.com](http://www.smories.com) and offers original stories for kids that are read by kids. The readers are 8-11 years old. The stories are unpublished writings. (If you have the creative writing bent, you may submit your own stories and poems!) There is a new story posted every day. This site originates in South Africa and at this time all the child readers have English accents, but they promise to have American readers in the future. The second site is [www.meegenius.com](http://www.meegenius.com) and has dozens of book titles. Click on a book and the pages turn as the words are read. The books represent classic children's stories for children 4-10 years of age. Although there's no substitute for cuddling up next to Mom or Dad to read a book, the computer substitute might come in handy from time to time.

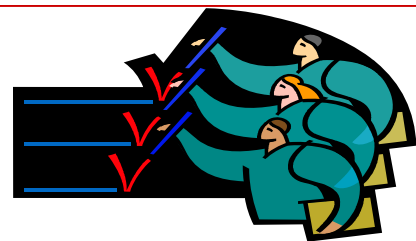
**NEW TALKING BOOK PLAYERS AVAILABLE** After much anticipation, the new Digital Talking Book Player from the National Library Service is now available through cooperating libraries around the country. The new players include built-in assistance at the touch of any button. As soon as you insert the digitally recorded book cartridge, the book begins. The NLS loans both the player and book cartridges for free to patrons who register as blind or visually impaired. To receive your digital books and player, contact your local library for the blind and physically handicapped. You can locate your closest library by either calling 1-888-NLS-READ or visiting [www.loc.gov/nls/find.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/find.html)



**ONLINE RESOURCE FOR EDUCATORS** My Dream Classroom is a new web site launched by Humanware in partnership with ReadHowYouWant. The site is designed to be an interactive tool where teachers can learn about various assistive technology and solutions that can enhance the learning independence of their students. The site is available at [www.humanware.com/mydreamclassroom.com](http://www.humanware.com/mydreamclassroom.com).



# CHECK IT OUT!



## The Hadley School for the Blind offers Free Webinars

Hadley is pleased to announce that nearly 50,000 downloads of Seminars@Hadley have taken place this past year. These free, online webinars cover a broad range of topics, including those that address the Expanded Core Curriculum. Some Seminars are even available for continuing education/ACVREP credit. Here are a few that might interest you and your students:

- College Bound: Are You Ready?
- Strategies for Effective Socializing Whether at Work or Play
- Sports, Recreation and Physical Activities for People who are Blind and Visually Impaired
- Connecting the Dots: Celebrating the Legacy of Louis Braille
- The Braille Literacy Crisis
- Staying Safe Online

Seminars@Hadley  
Presents



THE  
HADLEY SCHOOL  
FOR THE BLIND

To learn more and to access past seminars from the Hadley website, visit [www.hadley.edu](http://www.hadley.edu) and click on the Seminars@Hadley icon on the right hand side of the homepage.

## Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic® — Audio Textbooks Help Students with Visual and Learning Disabilities Achieve Academic Success

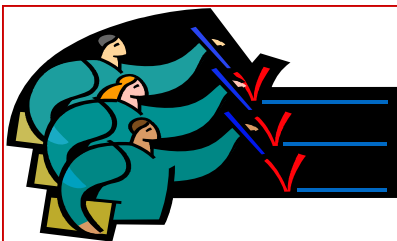
Since 1948, Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D)® has provided accessible educational materials to students who are blind, visually impaired, physically and learning disabled empowering them to achieve academic and professional success. While RFB&D was founded to help blinded World War II veterans attend college, today about 75% of our members have some type of learning disability such as dyslexia. RFB&D currently serves more than 270,000 K-12, college and graduate students, as well as veterans and working professionals.

By providing audio textbooks to these students, RFB&D removes one of the most significant obstacles to their success in the classroom: *access to the printed word*. Students using RFB&D audiobooks can obtain the general educational curriculum at the same time as their peers. Our human narrated audiobooks contain descriptions of images, tables and graphs for complete accessibility and efficient study.

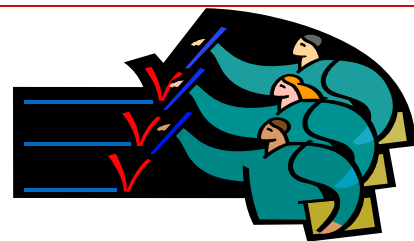
RFB&D's library of more than 61,000 digitally recorded textbooks and literature titles – delivered through internet downloads, various assistive technology devices and CD – is the largest of its kind in the world. We have the core textbooks and literature books from most major publishers for K-12 through post-graduate school. More than 5,400 volunteers nationwide help record and process the books and thousands of new titles are added annually.

Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, students with a certified print disability are eligible for a free Individual Membership allowing them to work on assignments at home as a supplement to their school's membership.

Institutional Memberships are available for schools and districts to provide accommodations for their students with IEP and 504 plans. Our customized programs can include memberships, equipment, training and support. To learn more contact Suzanne Jonsen, Director of Programs & Service at 303-906-6061 or [sjonsen@rfd.org](mailto:sjonsen@rfd.org). or visit [www.rfd.org](http://www.rfd.org).



# CHECK IT OUT!



## Colorado Talking Book Library

By Debbi MacLeod, Director

Digital has finally arrived at CTBL! All of our patrons have received their new machines and we are in the process of sending machines to our organizational accounts, which include the schools. All students should have received their player by now. We are sending students the advanced player that has additional navigation and page marking functions. Our goal is to send advanced players to the schools but at the current moment there are not enough. If you receive a standard player, when we get more advanced players we will trade them out.

With the advent of digital, books will now be available for download through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) program. The advantage of BARD over traditional delivery of library material is that BARD is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. No more waiting for your books to be delivered through the Post Office. And you will have access to over 18,000 book titles as well as audio magazines. For additional information please email [ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us](mailto:ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us) and we can send an overview email with details. Organizational accounts will be eligible for BARD.

To use BARD, you will need the following:

- A high-speed internet connection
- An e-mail address
- An NLS approved playback device which includes the NLS digital playback machine - see the list at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl/Digital/bard.htm>
- Knowledge of navigating the Web, filling out online forms, downloading large items and unzipping files

The new digital machine will also play DAISY format files. Students will need to register their machine with RFBD and get a code to install on the machine in order to play the files. CTBL has a step by step email that can be requested by the patron to facilitate this process.

Patrons love the new digital player and we have patrons signing up for BARD daily. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call CTBL at 303-727-9277 or 800-685-2136.

# New Faces in Colorado



## Or familiar faces in new places!

**MARY CHAMBERS** has been a brailist in Aurora Public Schools for ten years. She graduated in May from UNC and has accepted a TVI position in Aurora. Mary has a 22 year old son and a 19 year old daughter who bring sunshine and encouragement to her life. Mary is proud to enter such an important & interesting field. She welcomes any words of wisdom as she embarks on this journey.

**MORGAN TURNER** is a new TVI/COMS in El Paso 11; she is a CO native and a graduate of UNC (MA TVI and COMS). Morgan has worked as a teacher in Colorado for twenty years. Her family (husband, 8-year-old son, and twin 5-year-old daughters) moved to Colorado Springs to receive services for her visually impaired son. Her son inspired her to learn braille and become a TVI/COMS. She looks forward to working with colleagues and families in this community.

**LORRIANE ESTRADA** is a new paraprofessional to students with visual impairments in Adams 12. She will also be starting the UNC VI program this fall. Lorraine describes herself as a loyal and diehard Bronco fan who is always hoping for a Super Bowl victory!

**ANITA KELLEY** is the new .5 TVI with Adams 12. She is currently enrolled in the masters TVI program at the University of Northern Colorado. Anita has a license in elementary education and is NCLB certified in math. Her most recent position was teaching 6th-8th grade math. Anita is a native of Colorado, married and has three very talented children! She gardens, bikes, and loves spending time with friends and family.

**ROBERTA WIEDEMAYER** is a new TVI/COMS in Jefferson County School District. She has MA degree as a TVI from UNC. Previously she was a general educator for 9 years and a literacy interventionist for 2 years. Roberta reports that she spent 4 wonderful weeks this summer obtaining practicum hours at the Department of Voc Rehab mainly on O&M hours. On a personal note she has a wonderful 19 year old daughter and enjoys gardening and cooking in her off time.

**TARYN GALOW** is the new brailist in Aurora Public Schools. She has worked for APS for five years as a paraeducator. She is excited to be working in the VI Dept and hopes to learn braille music in the near future.

**BROOKE SANDEN** is the new TVI in Mountain BOCES! She is a graduate from Vanderbilt University and has been working in early childhood/special education in Eagle. She is thrilled to live and work in such a beautiful location.



**NICK PAGANI** is new to CSDB, as well as the Colorado area. He is going into his sixth year of teaching. Nick has been teaching students with visual impairments, as well as additional disabilities, for the last five years. He is originally from the Chicago land area and received his bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University.

**ELAINE BROWN** has been hired as a .5 FTE TVI with Douglas County Schools. She has been working as a brailist for 15 years with them and entered the Masters Program at UNC to become a TVI last year. In addition to continuing as a brailist, being a TVI and student, she teaches piano lessons! In her spare time, she loves being with her five children and seven grandchildren.

**CHRISTINE MOE** has two new roles in CO; one as a TVI for Northeast BOCES. She has been a TVI for 15 years. After graduating from the University of Oslo in Norway, she worked for 5 years as a TVI and O&M specialist in Oslo. She has also worked as an itinerant TVI in Seattle, WA. She has relocated to Colorado to pursue a PhD in Special Education at UNC, and is truly delighted to be able to continue working part time as a TVI in Northwest BOCES.

**MARSHA ROBERSON** taught for five years in home state Florida in a DHH program. She also taught DHH/VI for 20 years in the Atlanta School system. Marsha was a TVI in Weld District 6 for seven years. She is now semi-retired and contracting with Centennial BOCES. She loves to ski, board, hike and scuba dive. She also raise own honeybees and keep our family and friends supplied with honey!

**BERTHA AVILA GUERRERO** comes to CSDB with twenty-three years teaching experience from the TX public schools. Born and raised in El Paso, TX. She continued her education at Texas Tech University where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education. Currently she is a Doctoral student in Special Education with a specialization in visual impairment and blindness.

**DONICE FENNIMORE**, formerly of the CIMC, is the new TVI for the Pikes Peak BOCES. She is currently enrolled in the UNC training program specific to TVI and COMS coursework. Donice moved to CO from New Mexico 10 years ago. She served as Low Vision Clinic Coordinator for the past 5 years. Donice loves Guitar Hero and is a proud new owner of a beagle.

**JIM STRADER** is the new COMS as CSDB. Jim lived in Jacksonville, Illinois until he graduated from Webster University and immediately began studying for a Master's Degree in O&M for Children at Western Michigan University. After earning his MA, Jim joined CSDB for the 2010-2011 school year. He has just moved to Colorado Springs with his wife, Katy.

**GLENDA NASH BUSCARELLO**, will be working as a TVI / COMS with the Jefferson Country Team. Glenda has worked in the field of VI since 1980 after obtaining her MA degree from SFSU. Low vision has been a long time passion. She has recently worked as the Community College of Denver where to provided reasonable accommodations to students with all types of disabilities. She has four busy children with two in college.



# colorado connections

☞ One of the conference sponsors with the National Center on Severe & Sensory Disabilities at the University of Northern Colorado (thank you!), which was a co-sponsor of the pre-conference MacFarland Seminar, which was entitled *Brain Injury and Vision Loss: Medial Insights into our New Challenge*, with **Kay Ferrell** serving as the seminar chair. Colorado conference speakers included: **Leo Randolph** (*Don't Rearrange the Classroom*), **Silvia Correa Torres** (*Identifying the Needs of Families of Students with Visual Impairments who are from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds*), **Kathy Hegemann** (with **Lou Tutt** who was unable to attend the actual conference) (*Bridges to Life Program*), **Tanni Anthony** (*Teamwork: Meeting Multiple, Diverse Needs by Sharing and Learning; The Pyramid Model for Promoting Social and Emotional Development of Infants and Young Children with Focus on Learners who are Blind/Visually Impaired, and Response to Intervention: Including Students who are Blind/Visually Impaired into a National School Reform Movement*); and **Paula Conroy** (*Post High School Outcomes of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students with Visual Impairments: Implications for Student Instruction and Teacher Preparation*), **Mark Lucas** (*Integrating Children with Visual Impairments into Physical Education, Recreation, and Sports*), and **Kara Halley** (who co-presented with former CO TVI **Loana Mason**) (*Literacy for Learners with Significant Cognitive and Visual Impairments*).

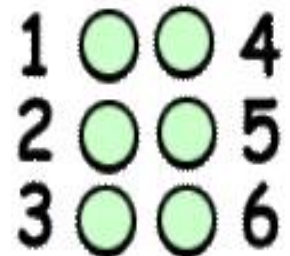
☞ Also a big congratulations to **Kitty Greeley**, daughter of **JC Greeley**, who earned the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award in the 2010 AER Journal Graduate Student Contest. The contest was for graduate students to submit a research-based essay/paper for review by the AER Journal reviewers. Her paper was entitled *Play Behaviors in Children with Visual Impairment*, which is a case study of two children, one who is blind and one with low vision, describes the play behaviors and social interactions of each child during free play in their inclusive preschool classrooms. Developmental assessments were conducted and observational data of both participants' play was collected over 8 weeks. Recorded behaviors were compared with previous literature regarding children with visual impairments' typical play behaviors and social interactions. The results support past research and reinforce the importance of play and social skills development in preschool age children with visual impairments. Colorado is so proud of you, Kitty!

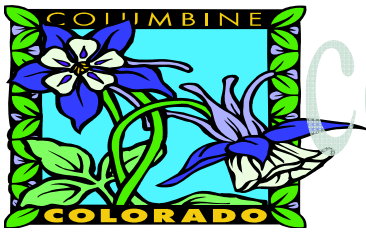




# colorado connections

- ☞ The International AER Conference was well represented by Colorado attendees. The conference, which was held in Little Rock, Arkansas on July 21-25 was attended by: **Tanni Anthony, Paula Conroy, Kay Ferrell, Amy Gunning, Kara Halley, Kathy Hegemann, Mark Lucas, Bill Muir, Heather Parsons, Leo Randolph, Silvia Correa Torres, and Rosario Zuniga.**
- ☞ By request and total editor approval, a big hat's off to **Louis Tutt** of CSDB's School for the Blind. We are fortunate that he found his way to Colorado so many years ago. For those of us who have been fortunate enough to attend national events, we have found his presence to be highly valued as a contributor and a great advocate for our profession. Lou was on the CEC National Board during its last term, which is a pretty impressive feat for a person representing a very small division in this big organization, and has been a tireless recruiter to our field. Lou, thanks for all you have given our field and our state. Just a quick note of thanks and appreciation.
- ☞ Great to see so many TVIs / COMSs / braillists at the 2010 Summer Institute on Deafblindness: **Tanni Anthony, Suzan Barlow, Alex Bradstreet, Mary Chambers, Michelle Chacon, Ann Gillmeister, Lorraine Hutcheson, Carol Jordan, Amber Rundle Kuhn, Jeannie Lei, Christine Maynard, Judy Mumford, Jerri Nelson, Sue Newhart, Wendy Schlageter, Wendy Stoltman, and Morgan Turner.**
- ☞ A big thank you to CSDB for hosting the 2010 Family Learning Retreat, which was held this past June. The planning committee which included **Diane Covington, Laura Douglas, Kathy Emter, Stefanie Morgan, Sara Kennedy, Ruth Mathers, Joseph Ryan, Kristin Huddleston, Shannon Cannizzaro, and Tanni Anthony.** The Family Learning Retreat is for families with children with sensory disabilities (deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deafblind). Over 120 people, including 31 families attended and the weekend was action-packing with learnings, networking, and good fun.
- ☞ A big thank you to the staff of the CIMC (**Jim Olson, Burt Haas, Tammy Bassett Pfaff, Debbie Haberkorn, and former staff Donice Fennimore**) for all their tireless work over the summer months to ensure that Colorado's braille students will start the school year with their braille textbooks in hand.

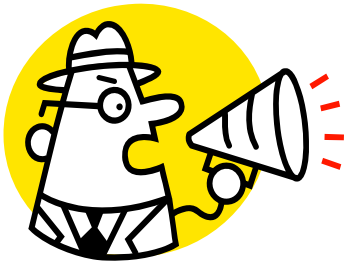




# colorado connections

- 🔊 Congratulations to our very own **Anchor Center for Blind Children** who received the Mildred Moyer Baynard Award at the 64th biennial Delta Gamma Convention for Outstanding Service to Children Who are Blind and Visually Impaired. The Convention was held in Denver in June with over 1,000 Delta Gammas in attendance.
- 🔊 **Ray McGeorge**, a long time advocate of improving services for people who are visually impaired, died on June 18, 2010. He broke many employment barriers and shattered stereotypes by demonstrating that a blind man could work successfully as a machinist in an age when blind people were often relegated to jobs in sheltered workshops. He graduated from CSDB and was a very important figure in the National Federation of the Blind. Ray established the NFB of Colorado in 1955 and served as president for many years and worked diligently throughout his life to make life better for blind people in Colorado. Ray was the man behind the scenes in working with his wife, **Diane McGeorge**, to build and expand the Colorado Center for the Blind. Most recently Ray acted as the leader of the Colorado Center for the Blind Senior Program. Our condolences to the McGeorge family.
- 🔊 Wedding bells congratulations to **Deb (Carlisle) Andrews** and her husband **Chris Andrews** on their June 6, 2010 wedding day.
- 🔊 A huge thank you to **JC Greeley** and **Cathy Smyth** of the Anchor Center for Blind Children for co-teaching the Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Blindness/ Visual Impairment or Deafblindness and Their Families course with **Tanni Anthony** over the months of June - August, 2010. There were over twenty participants with the following TVIs or TVIs-in-training: **Bev Cherry, Stephanie Labossiere, and Jeanne Lei.**
- 🔊 Congratulations to **Rachel Sullivan** of Aurora School District and **Jamie Lugo** of CSDB for earning their CDE Certificate of Braille Competency. Also congrats to **LeiLani Scott** of San Juan BOCES for earning her renewal certificate. Thanks to busy summer proctors: **Brenda Shepard, Lucia Hasty and Sarah Sonnier.**
- 🔊 Welcome new CAER Member **Leo Randolph!**

**WELCOME TO EVERYONE TO SCHOOL YEAR 2010-11!**



# Who Ya Gonna Call?

SCHOOL YEAR 2010-11

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

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

**Teresa Barone** (970) 613-5564 [baronet@thompson.k12.co.us](mailto:baronet@thompson.k12.co.us)

- Northern Region TVI Meetings

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

- CSDB's Library
- CSDB Family Literacy Packs

**Dinah Beams** at (303) 915-5935 or [dbeams@comcast.net](mailto:dbeams@comcast.net)

- CSDB CO Home Intervention Program (specific to 0-3 children who are DHH and Deafblind)

**Sharon Boyd** at (719) 592-9193 or [sharon\\_boyd\\_co@msn.com](mailto:sharon_boyd_co@msn.com)

- CSDB Touch Museum

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

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

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

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

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

- Colorado Center for the Blind



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

· Audio Information Network of Colorado

**Laverne Dell** at (303) 866-3562 or [Laverne.DELL@state.co.us](mailto:Laverne.DELL@state.co.us)

· Rep of Colorado Rehabilitation Services at Vision Coalition meetings

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

· CSDB Outreach Services (DHH and BVI)  
· CSDB Preschool Programs (DHH and BVI)

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

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

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

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

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

· Anchor Center for Blind Children

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

· Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

**Carol Hilty** at (719) 578-2102 or [chilty@csdb.org](mailto:chilty@csdb.org)

· CSDB Intern Placement

**Charlotta Javier** at (303) 377-9732 or [charlottejavier@comcast.net](mailto:charlottejavier@comcast.net)

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

**Suzanne Jonsen** at (303) 906-6061 or [sjonsen@rfd.org](mailto:sjonsen@rfd.org)

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

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

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

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

· Site Coordinator of the Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

**Jamie Lugo** at (719) 578-2201 or [jlugo@csdb.org](mailto:jlugo@csdb.org)

· Rep of School for the Blind at CSDB at Vision Coalition meetings

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

· Colorado Talking Book Library

**Bill Muir** at (970) 302-7761 or [BillMuirVid@aol.com](mailto:BillMuirVid@aol.com)

· Rep of CAER at Vision Coalition meetings

**Judy Mumford** at (719) 719 234-1360 or [judy.mumford@asd20.org](mailto:judy.mumford@asd20.org)

· Southern Region Rep at Vision Coalition Meetings

**August—September 2010**



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

- Western Region TVI Meetings

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

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

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

- CSDB Board of Trustees' meetings

**Michael Plansker** at (303) 870-7649 or [Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org](mailto:Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org)

- President of Colorado AER Chapter
- Coordinator of Annual Snowshoe Weekend

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

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

**Brenda Shepard** at (303) 340-0520 (x28539) or [brendas@ctech.aps.k12.co.us](mailto:brendas@ctech.aps.k12.co.us)

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

**Angela Sims** at (970) 254-5414 or [sims@mesa.k12.co.us](mailto:sims@mesa.k12.co.us)

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

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

- CDE Regional Technology Assistance

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

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

**Wendy Stoltman** at (303) 665-2932 or [wstoltman@sd27j.org](mailto:wstoltman@sd27j.org)

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

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

- Braille Challenge
- CSDB School for the Blind
- Close Up

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

- Questions about CSDB and enrollment

**Julie Wetzstein** at (303) 216-6124 or [jwetzste@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:jwetzste@jeffco.k12.co.us)

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

**Jan Wood** (970) 613-5564 [woodj@thompson.k12.co.us](mailto:woodj@thompson.k12.co.us)

- Northern Region TVI Meetings



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