

# I WISH THAT I LIVED IN YOUR STATE

By Tanni L. Anthony

A colleague in another state recently said to me, “I wished that I lived in your state!” when I was describing the recent ONH training. She lamented that Colorado always had so much going on with professional development and other activities, as compared (in her mind) to the offerings of her state. The grass often does seem greener on the other side, but this is a statement that often comes back to me when our TVIs/O&M Specialists move out-of-state. They often write back that they did not realize all that Colorado has to offer until they are in a new place. In my own travels – most recently halfway across the world, I have confirmed our own good fortune back here at home.

Our grass is pretty green as a result of so many dedicated parents, professionals, and agencies who work together in Colorado. Can we green up even more? Absolutely. But I would like to sign off on this last newsletter of the 2010-11 year with a statement of gratitude for all that we have built together and all that we have to look forward to in the next school year. This was a school year with five low vision clinics serving 42 students; four statewide blindness/visual impairment or deafblindness specific professional development trainings – including one that was specifically targeted for parents and #4, #5 and #6 trainings occurring in June with a summer institute and a regional early intervention conference; multiple parent / student offerings across agencies; and a pretty impressive summer calendar for more training and student opportunities.

My gratitude to my own agency, the Colorado Department of Education, for all it does to support informed educational practices across the State of Colorado and to our shared agencies / programs (Anchor Center for Blind Children, CSDB, CIMC, UNC, CAER, CO Center for the Blind, Voc Rehabilitation ...) for their services. Thank you also to you, the parents, and you, the TVI and/or O&M Specialists, for all that you do to support our shared learners.

So here is to our own green grass and our shared commitment to continue to plant new seeds of growth! My thanks that we all live in a great place called Colorado.

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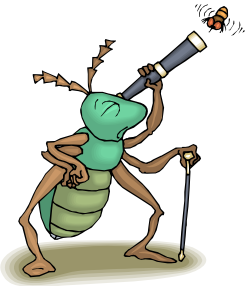
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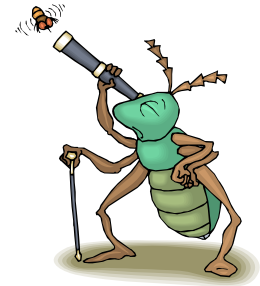
**WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!**

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

**May 2011**



# LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



## The CDE Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Schedule

### Proposed Clinic Schedule for School Year 2011-2012

REGION	DATES	PAPERWORK DEADLINE	SITE COORDINATOR
<b>Southern</b> (CSDB low vision room)	Th Sept 15, 2011 Fr Sept 16, 2011	Sept 1, 2011	Donice Fennimore
<b>Western Slope</b> (Grand Junction, Hawthorne Building)	Fri Sept 30, 2011 Sat Oct 01, 2011	Sept. 16, 2011	Sarah Sonnier Angela Sims
<b>Metro Denver</b> (Anchor Center for Blind Children)	Wed Nov 9, 2011 Th Nov 10, 2011 Fri Nov 11, 2011	Oct 20, 2011	Nancy Knight
<b>Northern</b> (Location to be determined)	Fri Feb 3, 2012	Jan 20, 2012	To Be Determined
<b>Southern</b> (CSDB low vision room)	Fri Mar 2, 2012	Feb 17, 2012	Donice Fennimore

## Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic 2010-11

Thanks to all of you who took the time and effort to bring your low vision students to the LVEC this past school year. We hope you found the clinic helpful in providing beneficial devices, services and strategies for your students. If you have not already turned in your evaluation of the clinic—please do so to Tanni at CDE.

We would especially like to thank the clinic’s regional coordinators:

Judy Mumford – Southern

Sarah Sonnier / Angela Sims – Western

Nancy Knight – Metro

Wendy Stoltman – Northern

We appreciate all you do to make our clinic lives easier.

This past year we evaluated 42 students and we recommended and prescribed 114 magnifying devices. We also provided assessments utilizing some of the latest electronic-optical devices as well as electronic books and tablet computers.

We enjoy working with first time students, as well as students we have seen in the clinic previously. Many students seem to have a greater appreciation and motivation for the use of low vision devices once they have been initially introduced to them in the clinic.

We look forward to working with you at the 2011-12 clinics and we hope you provide us the opportunity to work with your visually impaired student and their family.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments that will help us make the clinics more beneficial to you and your students.

Sincerely, Tom, Jim & Debbie



# Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

[BonnieLS21@gmail.com](mailto:BonnieLS21@gmail.com)

<http://TVIVIP.org>

## Students of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

A couple of years ago, the School for the Blind hosted an exchange student from another country. I had the pleasure of working with him on technology; he was an exceptional student and he absorbed technology information like a sponge. At that same time, I was also working with a student in a local public school district. This was another technology prodigy whose curiosity about technology was insatiable.

The foreign exchange student is back in his country and attending a Technical College. He is the first blind person to attend this school and he has done as much teaching of the instructors on blindness as they have taught him technology. The public school student has moved on to a local community college.

Both of these young men use Facebook and Skype to communicate with friends. It was on Facebook that I decided to get these two together. It wasn't long before they were talking on Skype on a regular basis and they became fast friends.

As time went on, the student living in another country introduced two of his friends into the mix, both are singers and one plays the guitar. Along with our former public school student, they have formed a music group using Skype as their point of contact where they collaborate on creating their own musical numbers and practice these pieces together. Very soon, they will be recording their music and I have offered to post their masterpieces on my website for all to share.

So we have four people (actually more, because one of the original two has introduced several other friends who chat on Facebook and on Skype) from totally different cultures and are halfway around the world from each other (14 hours time difference) becoming fast friends and forming a music group as well.

These young people are excellent examples of students of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century who are using technology to expand their horizons, meet new people and collaborate with each other. And, by the way, they are all blind!

To all of you: Have a wonderful summer. And I hope to see you at the Symposium and next school year!

# ORIENTATION & MOBILITY



Mardee and Morgan guide running



Mat Time on Thursday Night



Outside Using the Equipment



Michelle boarding bus with Scott Crawford looking on



Angela and Tammy tandem biking



Jim, Mary, and Bill going up the stairs



Trina and Kaitlin

# 2011 CONFERENCE



Working on Street Crossings



Mike and David on a curb

It may well take a village to plan and host our **Annual O&M Conference**. This year's conference was funded and sponsored through the Colorado Department of Education's Exceptional Student Leadership Unit. Co-sponsors included the CO Chapter of AER and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, the latter which hosted on the training on their campus. Many thanks to many people:

**The Conference Planning Committee:** Thanks to the team for their selection of training content and the zillions of things that have to be done to design and host a statewide training - Tanni Anthony, Mary Chambers, Michelle Chacon, Barb Galgano, David Gooldy, Amber Rundle Kahn, Donna Keale, Cheryl Leidich, Bill Muir, and Michael Plansker.

**Our Conference Site:** Thanks to Diane Covington and Donna Keale at CSDB for all of the onsite coordination logistics. We had a wonderful training room and were well taken of during our 2.5 days on campus. Thanks also for your work in storing and charging the equipment.

**Thursday Night Hands-On Session for Sports, Recreation and Leisure:** A big thank you to Donna Keale for her lead role in organizing the event. Thanks to presenters: Barb Galgano, David Gooldy, Donna Keale, Mark Lucas, Brian Ortiz, Michael Plansker, Robin Theryoung, and Tim Willis. It was wonderful to have the United States Association of the Blind Athletes (USABA) work with us (Mark, Brian, and Tim).

**All the Wheelchairs and Scooters:** We are indebted to the amazing work of Patrice Kennedy, of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, for her efficient organization of our needed equipment. Also a big thanks to Bill Muir for his assistance with the equipment and to the following vendors who donated the equipment for our conference experience - Sunrise Medical (Jason Hebert – Independent Rep) and Pride Mobility (Jonathon Donley – Manufacture Rep).

**Bus Travel and Outdoor Experience with Wheelchairs and Scooters:** Thanks so much to Patty Wagner for making arrangements with the Colorado Spring's Transit Division to bring two city buses to us for the training on getting on and off city buses. Thanks to John Oliphint and Jerry Lindermann for their onsite support and assistance. Also thanks again to Patty and Donna for their work with Scott ahead of time to ensure that we had defined and well-organized outside field experiences.

**Friday and Saturday Sessions:** A super big thank you to key presenter Scott Crawford! You are a consummate professional in the field of O&M and your teaching with us will make a difference for Colorado individuals who are blind/visually impaired who use wheelchairs.

And, of course, thanks to all who attended and participated. This is an important annual training JUST for our Colorado O&M Specialists and you always make it a true pleasure.

# ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

# ORIENTATION & MOBILITY



American Printing House  
for the Blind, Inc.

## APH and Sendero Group Launch Talking PC Maps Software makes location details accessible



*Louisville, KY* - The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) in Louisville, Kentucky, and the Sendero Group LLC, pioneers in the development of location information systems for people with vision impairments headquartered in Davis California, are proud to announce the new APH Talking PC Maps.

Designed to be used by individual consumers, orientation and mobility specialists, and teachers of persons who are visually impaired, this software provides spoken and on-screen map data and 12 million points of interest. on one flash drive. It speaks on any computer, using Windows™ XP or later whether or not the computer has screen reading software installed. APH Talking PC Maps is an excellent tool for both classroom and orientation and mobility instructors. As the first map package that tracks the side of street on which the virtual traveler walks, this software simulates actual travel, allowing the student to press keys for appropriate turns and street crossings in the process of map exploration. Points of Interest can be explored, searched, or announced as the student virtually passes them.

For more suggested uses, user requirements, and other details visit <http://shop.aph.org> and search for Talking PC Maps.

**A new O&M listserv has been created.**

**If you are interested in joining, please go to:**

**[OrientationAndMobility-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:OrientationAndMobility-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**

**then reply to the confirmation e-mail asking who you are to ensure only interested parties are really involved in this national listeserv.**



## Spotlight on Batten Disease

Information Retrieved from: [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/batten/detail\\_batten.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/batten/detail_batten.htm)

**What is Batten disease?** Batten disease is a fatal, inherited disorder of the nervous system that begins in childhood. Early symptoms of this disorder usually appear between the ages of 5 and 10, when parents or physicians may notice a previously normal child has begun to develop vision problems or seizures. In some cases the early signs are subtle, taking the form of personality and behavior changes, slow learning, clumsiness, or stumbling. Other symptoms that may develop include: slowing of head growth with age in the infantile form, poor circulation in lower extremities with legs and feet cold as well as bluish-red in color, decreased body fat and muscle mass, curvature of the spine, hyperventilation and/or breath-holding spells, difficulty in swallowing and feeding, teeth grinding and constipation. Hearing may also be affected. Over time, affected children show mental impairment, worsening seizures, and progressive loss of sight and motor skills. Batten disease is often fatal by the late teens or twenties.

Batten disease is named after the British pediatrician who first described it in 1903. Also known as Spielmeier-Vogt-Sjogren-Batten disease, it is the most common form of a group of disorders called neuronal ceroid lipofuscinoses (or NCLs). Although Batten disease is usually regarded as the juvenile form of NCL, some physicians use the term Batten disease to describe all forms of NCL.

What are the other forms of NCL? There are three other main types of NCL, including two forms that begin earlier in childhood and a very rare form that strikes adults. The symptoms of these three types are similar to those caused by Batten disease, but they become apparent at different ages and progress at different rates.

- **Infantile NCL (Santavuori-Haltia disease)** begins between about 6 months and 2 years of age and progresses rapidly. Affected children fail to thrive and have abnormally small heads (microcephaly). Also typical are short, sharp muscle contractions called myoclonic jerks. Patients usually die before age 5, although some have survived in a vegetative state a few years longer.
- **Late infantile NCL (Jansky-Bielschowsky disease)** begins between ages 2 and 4. The typical early signs are loss of muscle coordination (ataxia) and seizures that do not respond to drugs. This form progresses rapidly and ends in death between ages 8 and 12.
- **Adult NCL (Kufs disease or Parry's disease)** generally begins before the age of 40, causes milder symptoms that progress slowly, and does not cause blindness. Although age of death is variable among affected individuals, this form does shorten life expectancy

**How Many People have this Type of Disorder?** Batten disease and other forms of NCL are relatively

# Spotlight on

rare, occurring in an estimated 2 to 4 of every 100,000 live births in the United States. These disorders appear to be more common in Finland, Sweden, other parts of northern Europe, and Newfoundland, Canada. Although NCLs are classified as rare diseases, they may involve more than one person in a family.

**How are NCLs Inherited?** Childhood NCLs are autosomal recessive disorders; that is, they occur only when a child inherits two copies of the affected gene, one from each parent. When both parents carry one affected gene, each of their children faces a one in four chance of developing NCL. At the same time, each child also faces a one in two chance of inheriting just one copy of the affected gene. Individuals who have only one defective gene are known as carriers, meaning they do not develop the disease, but they can pass the gene on to their own children. Because the mutated genes that are involved in certain forms of Batten disease are known, carrier detection is possible in some instances.

Adult NCL may be inherited as an autosomal recessive or, less often, as an autosomal dominant disorder. In autosomal dominant inheritance, all people who inherit a single copy of the disease gene develop the disease. As a result, there are no unaffected carriers of the gene.

**What Causes These Diseases?** Symptoms of Batten disease and other NCLs are linked to a buildup of substances called lipofuscins (lipopigments) in the body's tissues. These lipopigments are made up of fats and proteins. Their name comes from the technical word lipo, which is short for "lipid" or fat, and from the term pigment, used because they take on a greenish-yellow color when viewed under an ultraviolet light microscope. The lipopigments build up in cells of the brain and the eye as well as in skin, muscle, and many other tissues. Inside the cells, these pigments form deposits with distinctive shapes that can be seen under an electron microscope. Some look like half-moons, others like fingerprints. These deposits are what doctors look for when they examine a skin sample to diagnose Batten disease.

The biochemical defects that underlie several NCLs have recently been discovered. An enzyme called palmitoyl-protein thioesterase has been shown to be insufficiently active in the infantile form of Batten disease (this condition is now referred to as CLN1). In the late infantile form (CLN2), a deficiency of an acid protease, an enzyme that hydrolyzes proteins, has been found as the cause of this condition. A mutated gene has been identified in juvenile Batten disease (CLN3), but the protein for which this gene codes has not been identified.

**How Are These Diseases Diagnosed?** Because vision loss is often an early sign, Batten disease may be first suspected during an eye exam. An eye doctor can detect a loss of cells within the eye that occurs in the three childhood forms of NCL. However, because such cell loss occurs in other eye diseases, the disorder cannot be diagnosed by this sign alone. Often an eye specialist or other physician who suspects NCL may refer the child to a neurologist, a doctor who specializes in diseases of the



# Spotlight on

brain and nervous system.

In order to diagnose NCL, the neurologist needs the patient's medical history and information from various laboratory tests. Diagnostic tests used for NCLs include:

- Blood or urine tests. These tests can detect abnormalities that may indicate Batten disease. For example, elevated levels of a chemical called dolichol are found in the urine of many NCL patients.
- Skin or tissue sampling. The doctor can examine a small piece of tissue under an electron microscope. The powerful magnification of the microscope helps the doctor spot typical NCL deposits. These deposits are common in skin cells, especially those from sweat glands.
- Electroencephalogram or EEG. An EEG uses special patches placed on the scalp to record electrical currents inside the brain. This helps doctors see telltale patterns in the brain's electrical activity that suggest a patient has seizures.
- Electrical studies of the eyes. These tests, which include visual-evoked responses and electroretinograms, can detect various eye problems common in childhood NCLs.
- Brain scans. Imaging can help doctors look for changes in the brain's appearance. A commonly used imaging technique is computed tomography, or CT, which uses x-rays and a computer to create a sophisticated picture of the brain's tissues and structures. A CT scan may reveal brain areas that are decaying in NCL patients. Another imaging technique that is becoming increasingly common is magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI. MRI uses a combination of magnetic fields and radio waves, instead of radiation, to create a picture of the brain.
- Measurement of enzyme activity. Measurement of the activity of palmitoyl-protein thioesterase involved in CLN1 and the acid protease involved in CLN2 in white blood cells or cultured skin fibroblasts can be used to confirm these diagnoses.

DNA analysis. In families where the mutation in the gene for CLN3 is known, DNA analysis can be used to confirm the diagnosis or for the prenatal diagnosis of this form of Batten disease. When the mutation is known, DNA analysis can also be used to detect unaffected carriers of this condition for genetic counseling.

Is there any treatment? As yet, no specific treatment is known that can halt or reverse the symptoms of Batten disease or other NCLs. However, seizures can sometimes be reduced or controlled with anticonvulsant drugs, and other medical problems can be treated appropriately as they arise. Physical and occupational therapy may help patients retain function as long as possible.

Some reports have described a slowing of the disease in children with Batten disease who were



treated with vitamins C and E and with diets low in vitamin A. However, these treatments did not prevent the fatal outcome of the disease.

Support and encouragement can help patients and families cope with the profound disability and dementia caused by NCLs. Often, support groups enable affected children, adults, and families to share common concerns and experiences.

## **Support and Research Resources**

### **Where can I get more information?**

For more information on neurological disorders or research programs funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, contact the Institute's Brain Resources and Information Network (BRAIN) at BRAIN, P.O. Box 5801, Bethesda, MD 20824, (800) 352-9424, <http://www.ninds.nih.gov>.

### **Information also is available from the following organizations:**

#### **Batten Disease Support and Research Association**

166 Humphries Drive, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068, Tel: 800-448-4570 740-927-4298, Fax: 740-927-7683

#### **Children's Brain Disease Foundation**

Parnassus Heights Medical Building, Suite 900, San Francisco, CA 94117

#### **Nathan's Battle Foundation For Batten Disease Research**

459 State Road 135 South, Greenwood, IN 46142, Tel: 317-888-7396, Fax: 317-888-0504  
<http://www.nathansbattle.com>

#### **Hide and Seek Foundation for Lysosomal Storage Disease Research**

6475 East Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 466, Long Beach, CA 90803  
[info@hideandseek.org](mailto:info@hideandseek.org), <http://www.hideandseek.org>

*Our many thanks to Christine Maynard, for her beautiful contribution to our understanding of Batten Disease on the next page. She wrote it from her parent's perspective and we thank her for her deep insights.*

# Hidden Blessings

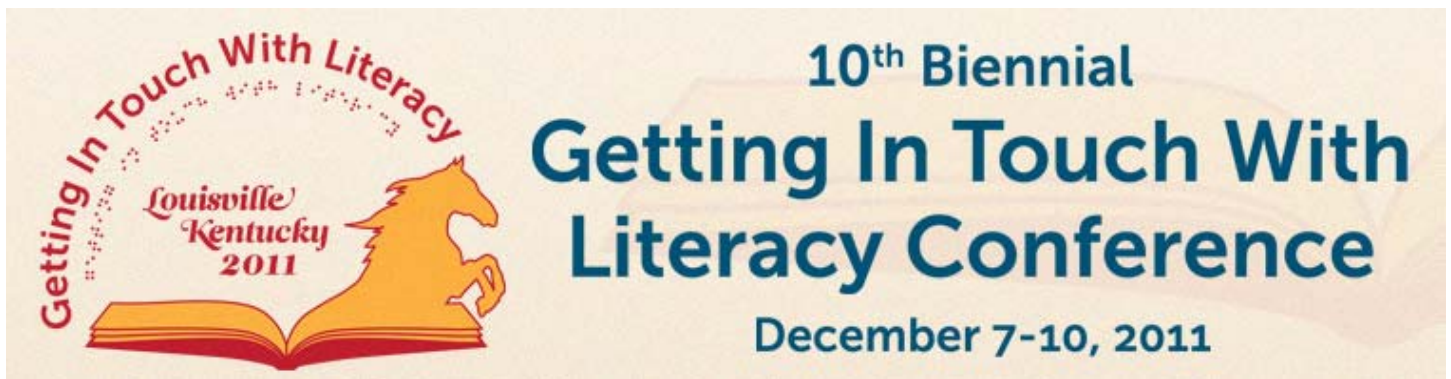
I am the mother of a wonderful young man that will turn 26 years old this May. He began losing his vision at the age of 5, he was living in total darkness by the age of 7. The unknown cause of his vision loss at the time has since been determined to be Juvenile Batten Disease. This is a devastating diagnosis to hear regarding someone you love, especially your child. But as in every situation, it is what action you choose in response to the information that can make a horrible situation one that can enrich your lives in ways you never imagined.

We were very fortunate to have caring, but direct doctors in the early years of Ryan's disease. We know that their very honest advice and encouragement shaped the way that our family learned to grow with the disease rather than the disease shaping our growth. The statement that rings loudest in our heads from our Retinal Specialist was, "Do not ever tell Ryan that he can't do something because he can't see, figure out a way that he CAN do it." When you read about Batten Disease you are left feeling helpless and hopeless but it is not a "Game Over" ticket. I am so grateful that we never stopped dreaming for our son and we never stopped encouraging his dreams from coming true.

Like so many rare diseases, no two cases of Battens or any form of NCL will be exactly the same. The best information is a guide, but you truly have to take each day and its circumstances new. The child's functional abilities and our strategies to assist them have to vary from day to day. Some days they can manage so much and other days they can't find their words or walk without stumbling. Knowing when to encourage them to keep trying and when to allow them their rest is a constant balance, but when we allow them and ourselves to just live in the day and not worry about the week, it all becomes much more manageable and enjoyable for everyone.

I know that we are far more fortunate than most families touched by Battens. We have two healthy sons and Ryan has remained strong for far longer than many. There are no answers as to "Why?" we haven't done anything special or tried any medical interventions, but I do know that we have continued to allow Ryan to live, we have done our best to not expend energy on things we cannot change. We laugh, we love and we look forward to how we can make today special in a world meaningful to him. Our entire family has learned so much about the true meaning of joy, it appears in Ryan's eyes even when they cannot see.

Christine Maynard



The Tenth Biennial Getting in Touch With Literacy will take place in Louisville, December 7-10, 2011. You are sure to find the same great presentations, exhibits, opportunities to network, special activities and more that you've come to expect from this outstanding conference. The 2011 event will also herald the return of the celebrity auction, so you'll want to be here to bid on autographed items from your favorite celebs!

CO TVIs—please consider submitting a paper and presenting at this important training! We've got a lot of great stuff to share! Go For It!

## Getting In Touch With Literacy Call for Papers!

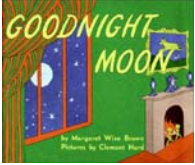
This grass roots conference is looking for workshops from professionals just like you, filled with practical solutions, cutting edge information and research, and the tricks, tips and techniques you use every day! Presentations are 60 - 90 minutes in length.

A call for papers for presentations and poster sessions is available on the GITWL website: [www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org](http://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org)

Presentations should focus on all areas of literacy including braille, print, the use of assistive technology and other literacy tools, research, and practice. A range of age levels and all ability levels should be addressed. Presentations are encouraged that deal with topics related to infants and toddlers, school aged students, and adults.

# Resources and Materials

## PICTURE BOOK MADE TACTILE



The beloved classic children's book, Goodnight Moon, is now available from National Braille Press in a print/Braille edition with 20 tactile images, making it a true picture book for blind tots. Artist Irma Goldberg of Creative Adaptations for Learning has re-created the images mentioned in the text-- the bowl of mush, the comb, the mittens, and so on. The set, including the book, tactile images and a guide for interpreting the images, is offered for \$30.00. To order, go to [www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org) and enter the book title in the search box.

## RESOURCE FOR TEEN "FASHIONISTAS"

StyleAble is an on-line resource for blind and visually impaired teenage girls and women who are interested in the latest trends in fashion and make-up. A project of Kiesha Meikle from Action for Blind People in the United Kingdom, StyleAble offers information and news about the latest styles, make-up tips and an interactive platform for fashion and beauty related discussions. The site is specifically directed to the blind/low vision female population. (Men's topics will be included in the near future.) Within the site you will find "What's New," "Fitness," "About Face" (make-up), "Fashion A-Z," and a fashion blog. StyleAble is a fun site for teen girls who want to join the discussion about challenges in putting on make-up, determining your style and feeling confident about the way you look. Check it out at [www.styleable.co.uk](http://www.styleable.co.uk).



Center for Early Literacy Learning

## New CELLreview: Tactile and Object Exploration Among Young Children with Visual Impairments

Source: Center for Early Literacy Learning - Retrieved April 8, 2011

The Center for Early Literacy Learning has published the following new CELLreview: *Tactile and Object Exploration Among Young Children with Visual Impairments*. This research synthesis investigates the variations in object and surface features that may be examined as precursors of Braille readiness. The CELLreview is available at [http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/cellreviews/cellreviews\\_v4\\_n2.pdf](http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/cellreviews/cellreviews_v4_n2.pdf)

## EaR Books Re-Release!

ST. LOUIS, MO – In honor of Better Hearing and Speech Month 2011, Elizabeth Boschini and Rachel Chaikof are proud to announce the re-release of their books, "Ellie's Ears" and "Happy Birthday to My Ears," which feature characters who are profoundly deaf but listen and talk with the help of bilateral cochlear implants. Since the books' original release in 2008, they have reached homes, clinics, and classrooms across the United States and around the world, promoting a positive self-image for children with hearing loss. The books are available in English and Spanish, in both print and eBook form. The re-released editions feature updated graphics and a new, lower price. As with the original release, all proceeds from the books will be donated to charities that support children with hearing loss and their families. For more information, please contact the author at 817.821.8198, [elliensearsbook@gmail.com](mailto:elliensearsbook@gmail.com), or visit the books' website by clicking here [http://cochlearimplantonline.com/site/?page\\_id=2910](http://cochlearimplantonline.com/site/?page_id=2910)





## National CEC in Denver

Please consider submitting a call for papers to present at this great conference. It is a fabulous opportunity to showcase all of the wonderful things happening in Colorado for Students with Exceptionalities!!

**Submit a Proposal for the CEC 2012 Convention & Expo**

**Denver, CO**

**DEADLINE: May 25, 2011**

**Convention will take place April 11-14, 2012, in Denver**

Douglas Cheney, Program Chair, cordially invites all interested parties to submit presentation proposals for the CEC 2012 Convention & Expo. Session presentations occur Thursday through Saturday of convention week and are selected from this call.

**BE PREPARED!** Before proceeding with the online submission process, please **read the official call document** for important information, including selection criteria, submission instructions, and FAQs. We encourage you to compose the title, abstract, and long description before you log on. Please be sure to **read the list of required fields, descriptions, and word length limitations** (pages 3-5 of the official call document).

[http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ConventionExpo/Presenters/2011\\_Call\\_for\\_Papers.htm](http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ConventionExpo/Presenters/2011_Call_for_Papers.htm)

### **Save the Date: June 6-10, 2011**

For the **Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs**.

We are thrilled (beyond measure) to announce that Drs. Karen Erickson and Penny Hatch will be teaching a five-day course on *Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities*.

If you are interested, please contact Tanni Anthony to see if there is still space available.



## TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!



**JobTIPS** is a free program designed to help individuals with disabilities such as autism explore career interests, seek and obtain employment, and successfully maintain employment. **JobTIPS** addresses the social and behavioral differences that might make identifying, obtaining, and keeping a job more difficult for you.

Though **JobTIPS** is designed for direct use by individuals with autism and other disabilities, this program (including all of the printables, assessments, and videos) is also suitable for delivery by teachers, family members, clinicians, mentors, and job coaches. <http://www.do2learn.com/JobTIPS//index.html>

**Disability**★gov

Connecting the Disability Community to Information & Opportunities

In conjunction with the 19th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the U.S. Department of Labor has re-named and re-launched DisabilityInfo.gov as Disability.gov. The site now offers comprehensive information about programs and services to better serve the more than 50 million Americans with disabilities, their family members, veterans, employers, educators, caregivers and anyone interested in disability-related information. The new Web site integrates content from 22 federal agencies and will be managed by the Labor Department. The former Disability-Info.gov site was revamped with social media tools to encourage interaction and feedback, and new ways to organize, share and receive information. Visitors can sign up for personalized news and updates, participate in online discussions and suggest resources for the site. New features include a Twitter feed, Really Simple Syndication feeds, a blog, social bookmarking and a user-friendly way to obtain answers to questions on such topics as finding employment and job accommodations. Additional tools will be added during the months ahead.



## CAER Awards 2011

The following awards were presented at the May 5, 2011 CO Chapter of AER (CAER) Annual Banquet. The President's Award was given by CAER President Mike Plansker. The Gary Schmidt Award was given by CAER Board member Nancy Cozart.



Gary Schmidt Award Winner Nancy Knight and colleague Nancy Cozart, both from Littleton School District

### Gary Schmidt Award: Nancy Knight

“Somewhere between our deep and casual discussions, Nancy has become a second mother to me. She has helped teach me manners, respect, tolerance, responsibility and life skills by going above and beyond the duty of a teacher. Words cannot express my heartfelt gratitude. Nancy Knight has made a difference in my life and I am a better person because of her.” Sincerely, Carissa Ortega, Student Heritage High School, Littleton Public Schools

Nancy has had a variety of professional experiences; working in the vocational rehabilitation setting, with the little ones at Anchor Center as well as in local school districts. For the past 14 years, Littleton Public Schools has been blessed to have Nancy Knight as a TVI/COMS. “Nancy is an amazing resource for students and families. She is constantly going the extra mile to benefit students and families. She is a warm and caring person who knows just how to push students to grow while giving them a sense of pride and accomplishment. Her dedication to community activities and special events for children and families has been outstanding. We are so lucky to have her working in Littleton Public Schools.” -Nate Thompson, Coordinator of Student Support Services

This talented teacher makes sure that good relationships are central to her interactions with her students. This allows for instruction to happen on a variety of levels (educational as well as “life lessons”) with the kids. This can be so important as we can be in these young people’s lives for a number of years. “Nancy has a good heart. For her students, she is a compassionate listener, a teacher of the skills they will need; and a guide for the various journeys they will take.” -Sharon Benn, Braille Transcriber

“For me, Nancy is the perfect colleague. She always works to do her best. She celebrates others’ accomplishments and is encouraging whenever you need it. She is open to answering my questions, even when I think I don’t know what I am doing. She is comfortable brainstorming together, completing joint assessments, etc. all for students’ gain. Mrs. Nancy Knight has served persons with visual impairments for a quarter of a century. In that time, she continues to gain knowledge, expand her skills and her instruction continues to change and develop. For all who know her, there is something that has never changed. “Nancy is the kindest and most genuine person and it is a pleasure to call her friend!” – Nancy Cozart, TVI and COMS



## CAER President's Award 2011:

### Trina Boyd Pratt

*This award recognizes outstanding leadership in service to people with visual disabilities.*

While I feel that there are many individuals in our field who demonstrate outstanding leadership and service for those with visual impairments, one person really stands out as a model to strive for. I have served on the CAER board with this individual, observed her during my practicum, worked with her in planning the O&M conference, learned the ins and outs of braille repair, and worked with her on the snowshoe weekend for a number of years. It is my pleasure to present this year's President's Award to Trina Boyd-Pratt.



CAER President Mike Plansker and the President's Award Winner Trina Boyd Pratt

Trina has led for many years and goes above and beyond for her students. She is always willing to answer questions and provide support. In addition to simply performing her job as a wonderful TVI and Orientation and Mobility instructor, Trina works for our field in many other ways: she plans many extra outings for her students, leads an O&M club for her students, attends events for her students outside of school, buys, repairs and gives away brailers for students in need, volunteers her time for the snowshoe weekend, has served on the CAER board, has worked in the rehab setting, works with CCB summer programs, has ran and planned the O&M conference, and I'm sure even more that I am forgetting.

I am truly amazed at all Trina has done for our field and students over the years. Thank you Trina for being an inspiration to me and I am guessing everyone else.

***Congratulations to both Trina Boyd Pratt and Nancy Knight – we are so proud of you two!***

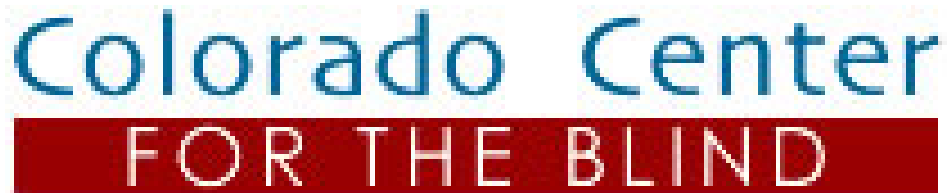


**October will be here before you know it & CAER wants you!**

**We are sponsoring a White Cane Day T-shirt Design Contest**

**Create a design that you feel represents the spirit of the day and to inform others about what the day means.**

**Be watching your email for further details!**



## **2011 Summer Youth Programs**

### **Summer for Success College Prep Program**

Ages: High school graduates and older

Program dates: Friday, June 10, 2011 - Friday, August 5, 2011, 8-week residential program

### **Earn and Learn High School Program**

Ages: 14 years and older

Program dates: Friday, June 10, 2011 - Friday, August 5, 2011, 8-week residential program

### **Initiation to Independence Middle School Program**

Ages: 11-14

Program dates: Monday, July 18, 2011 – Friday, August 5, 2011, 3 week residential program

At the Colorado Center for the Blind we offer three summer residential programs for students in middle school, high school and college. The students live with counselors in two bedroom, two bath apartments located near the Center and will work on all aspects of managing an apartment. Students are well supervised by their counselors at a ratio of 3:1. They will also use public transportation to travel to and from the Center each day. There are usually 2-3 students per apartment and they will work together on such things as cleaning, cooking, food storage, grocery shopping using shopper assistants, budgeting money, and sharing common household chores.

We place a big emphasis on challenge recreation activities such as white water rafting, rock climbing and a variety of other events like major league baseball games or trips to amusement parks. The students always have a great time tackling these challenges that are generally perceived as inaccessible to blind kids.

All students participate in discussion groups where they talk about what it's like to be a blind teenager. Topics of discussion may include dating, dealing with parents and teachers, ways to integrate effectively into all school activities, and various social situations. Students learn how to problem solve, self advocate and take control of their lives.

All programs share the core classes of Braille, cane travel, home management, technology and philosophy of blindness. As an integral part of our programs, students with residual vision are required to wear sleep shades during the day and during other center activities. This provides for all students to focus their attention on learning the non-visual techniques that we teach at the Colorado Center for the Blind. Confidence and self-belief is developed at a quicker rate and students can fully realize that it is okay to be blind and that their worth is not based upon the amount of usable vision but instead on their ability with or without vision.

One of the high points of the high school and college summer programs is traveling to the National Federation of the Blind Annual Convention. This is the largest gathering of blind people in the world and the students get the chance to meet many successful blind adults and other kids from all around the country. At this

convention, they learn about the newest technology and adaptive devices and experience some of the details of staying in a world-class hotel. We will travel by plane giving them a good experience in independently traveling through unfamiliar airports, packing and checking luggage, etc. They will attend a formal banquet at the end of the convention and appropriate dress clothing is the norm at this event.

### **Summer for Success College Prep Program**

This comprehensive eight-week residential program for high school graduates will prepare each student to handle all aspects of a university or vocational program. Participants will have instruction on using readers and Disabled Students Services, applying for scholarships and meeting and talking with blind adults who have gone through the college experience. Local college instructors will work with students on developing alternative techniques in order to take courses including math, statistics, and sciences. Students will learn to take effective notes as well as to manage time. They will also learn to navigate different college campuses by utilizing the structured discovery techniques that they will learn in their cane travel class.

### **Earn and Learn High School Program**

This eight-week residential program serves students aged 14-18. Not only do these students take the core classes, but they have the opportunity to participate in exciting, paid work experiences. We work to match students with jobs they find both interesting and challenging. It is exhilarating for the students to get their first paycheck.

### **Initiation to Independence Middle School Program**

This is a three-week residential program for students aged 12-14. In addition to the core classes, this is an opportunity for this age group to live in apartments with other students and a counselor, getting real world experiences in their home away from home. Students will meet successful, working adults in order to learn about various professions.

#### **For more information and applications please contact:**

Brent Batron, Youth Services Coordinator, [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)

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

(303) 778-1130

1-800-401-4632

Email: [ccb@cocenter.org](mailto:ccb@cocenter.org)

Website: [www.cocenter.org](http://www.cocenter.org)



## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Parents: If you are moving out of state or your child is graduating, please be in touch so we can remove your name from our newsletter mailing list. Also, please be in touch with your address changes if you move to a new Colorado location.

TVIs and O&Ms: If you have any changes in program contact information for the next school year, please help us out and send Tanni these changes.

Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our mailing list up-to-date! Just send your changes to [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or to Tanni Anthony, CDE ESLU, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1175, Denver, CO 80202. Or fax it to Tanni at (303) 866-6767 or call and leave her a voice message at (303) 866-6681.

# THE COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND

is pleased to host a

## VSA Photography Class

### for Blind and Visually Impaired Youth



Thursdays for 9 weeks

June 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (no class on July 7<sup>th</sup>)

9:00 am – 11:30 am ages 10 and up

To be held at:

Colorado Center for the Blind

2233 W. Shepperd Ave.

Littleton, CO 80120

Explore your world through photography and technology!

A 9 week project focused on exploring photography for teens who are blind or who have low vision. We will utilize new and existing photography techniques and will add accessible features to enhance the class. All sessions are led by professional artists and do not require any previous experience. We will look at photographing sounds, tactile photography and even travel photography. There is no cost but we do ask for a commitment from the participants. There will be a culminating Gallery Show at Access Gallery for all participants to show their work.

For information or to register contact:

Brent Batron, Colorado Center for the Blind

2233 W. Shepperd Ave. Littleton, CO 80120

Phone: 303-778-1130 x 222, Fax: 303-778-1598 or Email: [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)

Colorado Center  
FOR THE BLIND

**VSA Photography Class – Starts Thursday, June 2, 2011**  
**Registration Form**  
**Register early to save your spot!**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Student Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School and Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher of the Visually Impaired Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Orientation & Mobility Instructor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Release for filming/interviewing  
For children under 18 years of age

I allow my child and/or myself \_\_\_\_\_ to be videotaped, photographed and/or interviewed and I agree to allow said video, photo, film likeness or interview to be used or released to others for any legitimate purpose by the Colorado Center for the Blind or National Federation of the Blind.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature and Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return form **no later than May 23<sup>th</sup>** to:

Brent Batron

Colorado Center for the Blind

2233 W. Shepperd Ave.

Littleton, CO 80120

Phone: 303-778-1130 x 222, Fax: 303-778-1598 or Email: [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)

THE COLORADO CENTER FOR THE BLIND AND  
THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF BLIND ATHLETES

are pleased to co-host a

## CONFIDENCE DAY SPORTS CAMP

FEATURING THE SPORT OF GOALBALL

**For Students, Parents & Teachers**



Saturday, May 14, 2011

9:00 am – 1:00 pm ages 5 – 10

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm ages 11 -18

To be held at the Douglas H. Buck Recreation Center

2204 W. Powers Ave., Littleton, Colorado

The Colorado Center and USABA are playing host to an exciting sports confidence camp for blind and visually impaired students in grades K through 12. Participants will learn skill development in the sport of goalball. Parents and teachers are also encouraged to assist with the program and further learn the sport of goalball.

**What is Goalball?** Goalball is a highly competitive sport played three-against-three, indoors on a gym floor--primarily by blind and visually impaired athletes. It's played from the local school-gym level on up to the Paralympic, 'Team USA' level internationally.

The cost for this event is only \$10 -- This price includes a team shirt for participants and lunch.

For information or to register contact:

Brent Batron, Colorado Center for the Blind

2233 W. Shepperd Ave.

Littleton, CO 80120

Phone: 303-778-1130 x 222, Fax: 303-778-1598 or Email: [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)

Colorado Center  
FOR THE BLIND

**Confidence Day Sports Camp – Saturday, May 14, 2011**

**Registration Form**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Student Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School and Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher of the Visually Impaired Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Orientation & Mobility Instructor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Release for filming/interviewing  
For children under 18 years of age

I allow my child and/or myself \_\_\_\_\_ to be videotaped, photographed and/or interviewed and I agree to allow said video, photo, film likeness or interview to be used or released to others for any legitimate purpose by the Colorado Center for the Blind or National Federation of the Blind.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature and Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return form **no later than May 10<sup>th</sup>** to:

Brent Batron

Colorado Center for the Blind

2233 W. Shepperd Ave.

Littleton, CO 80120

Phone: 303-778-1130 x 222, Fax: 303-778-1598 or Email: [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)



## Western Regional Early Intervention Conference

Arizona Colorado Idaho Nevada  
New Mexico Utah Wyoming

*This conference is designed to support professionals working with children, newborn to five years of age, who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired or deafblind, and their families.* This year's WREIC Conference will be held at **Weber State University in Ogden, UT**. All participants are welcome to attend events and workshops on **June 22nd and 23rd**. Additionally, there will be a day specifically targeted towards the needs of administrators before the conference opens to all participants on **June 21st**..

Early Intervention programs and Deafblind Projects in the following states are co-sponsoring this conference: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. **The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project will offer scholarships to selected CO attendees. For scholarship selection criteria and the application, please go to: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Deafblind.asp> or contact Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)**

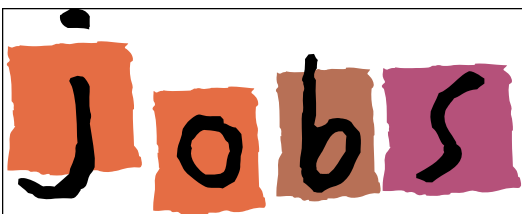
Some of the presentations will include:

- Mark Borchert M.D.: *The ABC's of ONH (Optic Nerve Hypoplasia)*
- MaryAnn Demchak PhD: *Let's Play: Selecting Toys for Children with Disabilities*
- Julia Kleinschmidt PhD, LCSW: *Playing Cards & Life: Resilience in Us & Those We Serve*
- Terese Pawletko PhD: *Autism and Visual Impairment/ Deafblindness: Considerations in Diagnosis/Misdiagnosis* and *Working with Young Children with Optic Nerve Hypoplasia: Considerations and Strategies*
- Kat Stremel-Thomas: *Cochlear Implants in Young Children with Multiple Disabilities/ Deafblindness: Intervention Strategies*

To learn more about the WREIC and/to register for this year's conference, please go to:

<http://wreic2011.org/>





## 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

- ✓ **Early Childhood TVI** (1FTE): Anchor Center for Blind Children. Submit cover letter and resume to Alice Applebaum at [aapplebaum@anchorcenter.org](mailto:aapplebaum@anchorcenter.org)
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1 FTE). Aurora Public Schools. Please go to the district website <http://aurorak12.org/> for an application or contact Brenda Shepard at (303) 995-7913 or her email at [BLShepard@aps.k12.co.us](mailto:BLShepard@aps.k12.co.us)
- ✓ **Vocation Rehabilitation Counselor / O&M Specialist** (1 FTE): Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. For more information, please contact Lindsey Pacheco at (303) 866.3319 or [Lindsey.Pacheco@state.co.us](mailto:Lindsey.Pacheco@state.co.us)
- ✓ **TVI/O&M Instructor** (1 FTE) in Adams Twelve Five Star Schools: Apply at [www.adams12.org](http://www.adams12.org) or contact Regina Robbins (Student Support Services Business Applications Support Clerk), 720-972-4791, [regina.robbins@adams12.org](mailto:regina.robbins@adams12.org)

### Southern Region Jobs

- ✓ **TVI - Elementary Education/Special Needs** (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** (SY 2011-12; 1 FTE / Mathematics): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information
- ✓ **Program Coordinator**, School for the Blind, (SY 2011-12, 1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org)
- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (.4 FTE for temporary substitute work): Position needed for Extended School Year this summer and during Fall Maternity Leave in Cheyenne Mountain School District. For more information, contact Deb Carlisle at [carlisle@cmsd.12.org](mailto:carlisle@cmsd.12.org) or (303) 916-1457.

### 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)



## The SEE THE FUTURE Fund 2011 “Education for Life” Recipients

By Dr. Tom Theune

This year, the SEE THE FUTURE Fund will pass the \$500,000 mark of awarded scholarships as well as celebrating our 15th anniversary. Congratulations to the following 2011 Award recipients:

### Miss Carissa Ortega

**High School:** Heritage

**City:** Littleton

**Award:** Kane/STF Scholar, all tuition paid over 8 semesters

**Will Attend:** CU-Colorado Springs

**Stated Major:** Psychology / Spanish

### Mr. Andre Kaiser

**Attending:** Brigham Young University

**Amount Awarded:**

\$4,000 over 4 semesters

**Pursuing:** Masters Business Management - Finance

### Mr. Reed Diamond

**High School:** Castle View

**City:** Castle Rock

**Amount Awarded:**

\$6,000 over 8 semesters

**Will Attend:** Colorado State University

**Stated Major:** Pre-Medicine

### Miss Masooma Baig

**High School:** Hinkley

**City:** Aurora

**Amount Awarded:**

\$10,000 over 8 semesters

**Stated Major:**

Psychology & International Studies

### Mr. Cody Bair

**High School:** Central

**City:** Greeley

**Amount Awarded:**

\$6,000 over 8 semesters

**Will Attend:**

University of Northern Colorado

**Stated Major:** Business Management

### Miss Jourdan Peters

**Attending:** Sand Creek

**City:** Colorado Springs

**Amount Awarded:**

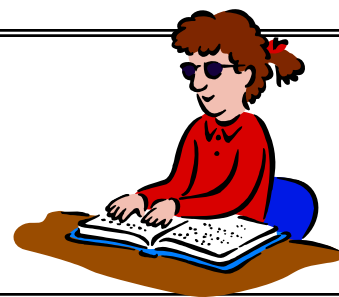
\$6,000 over 8 semesters

**Will Attend:** Adams State College

**Stated Major:** Music Education



# DOTS OF INTEREST



## Summer Braille Camp

The BELL Program, a project of the NFB Jernigan Institute, is a two week day camp experience for blind and visually impaired children ages 4-12. Officially the letters B.E.L.L. stand for "Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning", but for the kids the letters stand for F.U.N. Both beginners and more accomplished Braille readers will gain confidence in reading and writing while engaged in games, crafts and exciting outdoor activities. The BELL program is being held in the Denver metro area from July 25 to August 5, 2011, Monday through Friday (exact location to be determined). The program will be led by certified Braille teachers and others who love Braille and use it every day. There is no cost to attend, but families will be encouraged to volunteer at least one day during the program. Cash donations will also be appreciated. Transportation to and from the camp will be the family's responsibility. Space is limited, so call soon to request an application. For more information contact program coordinator, Diane McGeorge, at [303-321-4268](tel:303-321-4268) or e-mail [rmcgeorge@comcast.net](mailto:rmcgeorge@comcast.net).

## Spring 2011 Fashion Collection with Braille

Denise Lasprogata is a fashion designer inspired by braille and how one experiences the visual world of fashion not only through sight but through touch as well. Each piece in her debut collection for DLASPROGATA has a braille signature included in the texture of the cloth or with beadwork. Previously, Lasprogata developed washable braille and large print garment labels that could be used to identify the color and other attributes of a garment; her work has been featured in *People*, *Glamour* and *Entrepreneur* magazines. Watch for news of this collection or visit [www.dlasprogata.com](http://www.dlasprogata.com).

## Would Your Student/Child Benefit from Having a Braillewriter at Home?

Last year, I have been purchasing braillewriters off Ebay for students. Kirk McCall has generously cleaned and repaired them for me. I have fifteen braillewriters that could go to children who need a braillewriter at home. This would be one that they could keep. Once it is given to them, the family is responsible for future cleaning and repairs. If the family could make a donation (no matter how small) it would be used to purchase more braillewriters off Ebay. You may contact me or give my phone number to the parents. My home phone is 303-487-8796. Thanks, Trina Boyd-Pratt



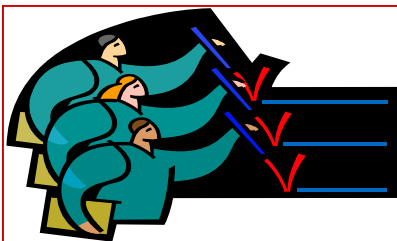
## More Calendar of Events

2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011

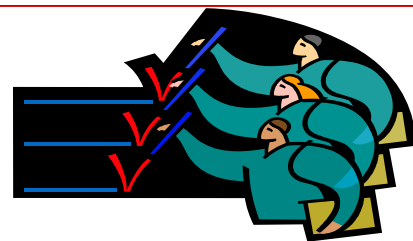
- July 17 - 23**                      **National Federation of the Blind Youth Slam** - Orlando, FL  
Contact: Mary Jo Hartle at 410-659-9314 or [youthslam@nfb.org](mailto:youthslam@nfb.org)
- June 18 - Aug 5**                      **Initiation to Independence Middle School Program** - Colorado Center for the Blind  
Contact: Brent Batron [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org)
- July 21 - 23**                      **Wheelchair Seating for Postural Control and Function** - Denver, CO  
Contact: [GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org](mailto:GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org)
- August 12-14**                      **AER Regional Conference 2011** - Boston, MA  
Visit: [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)
- September 15 - 16**                      **Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - CSDB, Colorado Springs  
Contact: Donice Fennimore 719-578-2100 / [dfennimore@csdb.org](mailto:dfennimore@csdb.org)
- September 22**                      **Vision Coalition Meeting** - Denver, CO  
Contact: Tanni Anthony 303-866-6681 / [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- Sept 30 - Oct 1**                      **Western Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - Grand Junction, CO  
Contact: [Sarah.sonnier@d51schools.org](mailto:Sarah.sonnier@d51schools.org) or [Angela.sims@d51schools.org](mailto:Angela.sims@d51schools.org)
- October 13 - 15**                      **143rd Annual American Printing House for the Blind Meeting** - Louisville, KY  
Visit: [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org) or contact [info@aph.org](mailto:info@aph.org)
- October 28 - 30**                      **AER Regional Conference 2011** - Cleveland, OH  
Contact: [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)
- November 9 - 11**                      **Metro Denver Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - Anchor Center for Blind Children  
Contact: Nancy Knight at [nknight@lps.k12.co.us](mailto:nknight@lps.k12.co.us)
- December 7 - 10**                      **2011 Getting In Touch With Literacy Conference** - Louisville, KY  
Contact: Janie Blome [jblome@aph.org](mailto:jblome@aph.org) or Jane Thompson [jthompson@aph.org](mailto:jthompson@aph.org)

2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012

- February**                      **Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - TBD  
Contact: Jim Olson at [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- March 2**                      **Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - CSDB, Colorado Springs  
Contact: Donice Fennimore 719-578-2100 / [dfennimore@csdb.org](mailto:dfennimore@csdb.org)
- April 11-14**                      **National Council of Exceptional Children** - Denver, CO  
Visit: [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)
- July 17 - 22**                      **AER 2012 International Conference** - Bellevue, WA  
Visit: [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)



# CHECK IT OUT!



## educator series

knowledge is most powerful when shared

TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES PROGRAM

Earn 10 ACVREP Credits or 10 PDP's:  
Watch Teaching Strategies for Students Who  
Are Visually Impaired with Additional  
Disabilities Including Deafblindness

## Perkins Webcast: Good Sleep Strategies

by: Veronika Bernstein, Ph.D



The Training and Educational Resources Program at Perkins School for the Blind is now offering the following professional development activity: Teaching Strategies for Students Who Are Visually

Impaired with Additional Disabilities Including Deafblindness. The tutorial consists of eight webcasts with corresponding readings. Participants will be required to view the webcasts, complete the readings and take a short multiple choice test. Upon completion, participants will receive a letter from Perkins stating that they have earned 10 ACVREP credits or 10 PDP's depending upon their preference. All materials will be available online.

In this webcast, Veronika Bernstein, Ph.D. describes the challenges faced by children with visual impairments and their families in developing good sleep habits. Dr. Bernstein provides a variety of strategies that may be used to address this challenge. The webcast chapters are: 1. Introduction, 2. Why We Sleep, 3. Melatonin Production and Sleep Patterns, 4. Development of a Circadian Rhythm without light perception, 5. Visual Impairment and Anxiety Issues, 6. Sleep Time Routines, and 7. Teaching a Child to Sleep.

[http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts\\_Good\\_Sleep\\_Strategies](http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts_Good_Sleep_Strategies)

## National Federation of the Blind Youth Slam 2011:

### A STEM Leadership Academy

The third biennial NFB Youth Slam will be taking place on July 17-23, 2011 at Towson University in Towson, Maryland. Whether or not science or technology is "your thing," there's sure to be something for everyone, from learning the science behind building apps for your iPod, using cutting edge equipment and technology to determine chemical reactions in chemistry labs, building robots or learning how to use nonvisual techniques to perform a real dissection! One hundred and fifty blind and low vision students from across the country will be selected to attend this five-day adventure that will engage, inspire and encourage the next generation of blind youth to consider careers in science. Registration is now open! Visit <http://www.blindscience.org/ncbys/default.asp> to apply.



**AMERICAN COUNCIL OF THE BLIND–AUDIO DESCRIPTION PROJECT  
and the DESCRIBED AND CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM announce the  
*THIRD ANNUAL YOUNG DESCRIBED FILM CRITIC Contest*  
A “Listening Is Learning” Initiative**

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

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

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

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

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

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

The top nominees in each age category will be invited to an Awards Ceremony at the American Council of the Blind 2011 convention in Reno, NV during the week of July 11. Special guest award presenters will be in attendance and while the prizes are still to be determined, we know you won’t be disappointed!

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Friday, June 3, 2011**

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

Send us your written entry in regular or large print or Braille via email or postal mail (submissions from outside the United States are fine) to: ACB-Young Described Film Critic, 2200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 650, Arlington, VA 22201 USA; email: [jsnyder@acb.org](mailto:jsnyder@acb.org), phone: 202 467-5083

You will need to include these details: Name, Address, Phone, and Email, Age Category (Sophomore ages 7 to 10, Junior ages 11 to 14, or Senior ages 15 to 18), Name of school and class, School address and phone number, and don’t forget to attach your review!

For “Top Tips for Writing the Ultimate Film Review” visit: [http://listeningislearning.org/get-involved\\_events-and-contests.html](http://listeningislearning.org/get-involved_events-and-contests.html)

JOEL SNYDER, Director, Audio Description Project, American Council of the Blind, [jsnyder@acb.org](mailto:jsnyder@acb.org), 202 467-5083, [www.acb.org/adp](http://www.acb.org/adp)





### **2011 American Council for the Blind Convention Information**

ACB 50th anniversary conference and convention will be in Reno, Nevada. Convention dates are July 8 - 16, and the hotel is the John Ascuaga Nugget Hotel Resort Casino. For more information, please go to [acbco.org](http://acbco.org)

### **2011 National Federation for the Blind Convention**

National Convention. Each year the National Federation of the Blind holds its national convention. This year's convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort on July 3-8, 2011. Scholarships are available for First Timers to the Convention. Preregistration is also now open, so visit [www.nfb.org/registration](http://www.nfb.org/registration) to register for the convention.

### **American Council of the Blind of Colorado**

American Council of the Blind of Colorado provides support, resources, referral and services to those who are blind/visually impaired. In addition it has a hotline for information and referrals about agencies. It is located at 1536 Wynkoop Street Suite 20 Denver, CO 80202; phone 303.831.0117 or toll free 888.775.2221. Their web page is at [acbco.org](http://acbco.org)

### **Audio Information Network of Colorado**

Audio Information Network of Colorado provides free access to many local newspapers in accessible format via phone or internet. Its main studio is located at 2200 Central Avenue, Boulder, CO, 80301. Their phone numbers are (303) 786-7777 or (303) 939-8013. The webpage is <http://www.aincolorado.org>

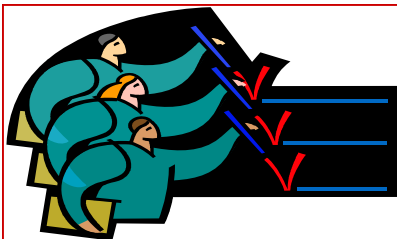
### **Colorado Center of the Blind**

Colorado Center of the Blind believes that by providing comprehensive training, support and opportunities to blind persons and others in developing positive attitudes, the facility empowers blind persons to lead independent lives as fully integrated, productive and contributing members of society. The Colorado Center of the Blind is located at 2233 West Sheppard Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120. Their phone number is (303) 778-1130.

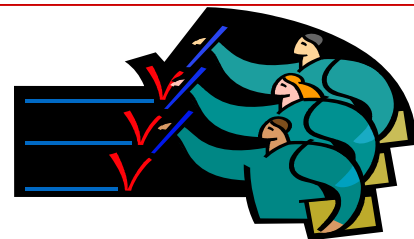
### **Colorado Talking Book Library**

The Colorado Talking Book Library, part of the national library, provides a free audible book library and descriptive video collection. It is located at 180 Sheridan Boulevard, Denver Colorado 80226, phone 303.727.9277 Monday through Friday 8to 5 pm. Web Site at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/ctbl/tbservices.htm>.





## CHECK IT OUT!



### E-EDUCATION: A BARRIER OR A BOON TO BLIND STUDENTS?

The field of education has entered the electronic age and there is no turning back. Schools have websites that post information vital to the student's educational program. Electronic textbooks are becoming common. Interactive whiteboards in front of the class, electronic testing, and online library catalogs are changing the ways that students and teachers interact. The introduction of electronic and digital educational tools is happening at a lightning pace and it is paramount that we make sure blind and visually impaired students are not left out.



To that end, the National Federation of the Blind is seeking information about accessibility barriers in the digital technology used by all students, teachers, and administrators in K-12 schools, universities, and colleges in the United States. They are asking students, teachers, administrators and parents of blind students to complete a survey so that the NFB can learn more about educational technology that is either helping or hindering the learning process for blind students. You can help by completing a short online questionnaire located here: [http://www.nfb.org/nfb/directTechAccess\\_193.asp](http://www.nfb.org/nfb/directTechAccess_193.asp)

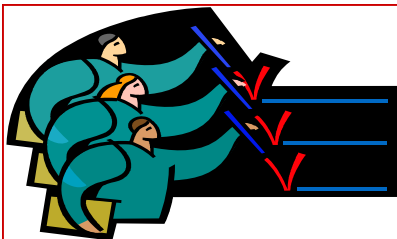
### FIELD TESTERS NEEDED

Reach for the Stars is a product [sold by APH on quota \(Catalog #7-08410-00\)](#). The authors, Dr. Jennifer Grisham-Brown and Diane Haines, decided to modernize this product to bring it in line with national standards for transition. They have completed their work and field testers are needed to review the product. If you are interested in field testing Reach for the Stars, please contact Burt Boyer, Early Childhood Project Leader, via email ([bboyer@aph.org](mailto:bboyer@aph.org)).

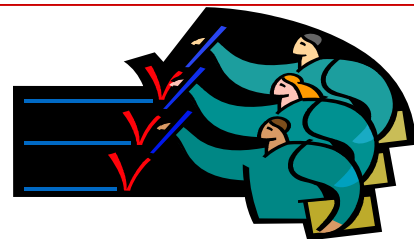
### APH VIDEO CONFERENCE

The American Printing House for the Blind is, for the first time, hosting a Products Video Contest! APH wishes to invite all teachers, administrators, rehab instructors, parents, students and all of our customers to shoot their own videos demonstrating uses of their favorite APH products! Cash prizes of \$150.00, \$75.00, and \$50.00 will be awarded to the top three videos. Every individual or team submitting a video will receive a certificate of participation and the chance to enter 3 random drawings for \$25.00 gift certificates to Amazon.com. Deadline for submitting your video is 12:00 noon on July 7, 2011! So get out your camcorder and start shooting! For complete contest guidelines and submission form, go to: [WWW.APH.ORG/CONTEST](http://WWW.APH.ORG/CONTEST)





## CHECK IT OUT!



### ARE YOU CREATIVE?

U.S. Entries Invited in International Tactile Book Competition! Typhlo & Tactus, an organization comprised of western and eastern European nations, exists to improve the quality and quantity of tactile books available to young children with visual impairments in member countries. As a part of T&T's efforts, the organization has conducted an annual tactile book competition each year, beginning in 2000. In the past, the competition has been open only to T&T members, but this year's tactile book competition has been opened to a worldwide audience. APH News, May 2011.



A panel of U.S. judges, including APH, will review each entry and select the top five books to send overseas for final adjudication by an international panel of children and adults with visual impairments, as well as professionals in the field. A single winning entry will be chosen, along with ten shortlisted books. Selected books may be featured at the T&T website and appear in posters and promotional materials used by T&T.

If you reside in the U.S. or U.S. outlying areas, this is your chance to send us your completed tactile book, designed for a child with visual impairment from birth to 12 years of age, by **Friday, September 2, 2011!**

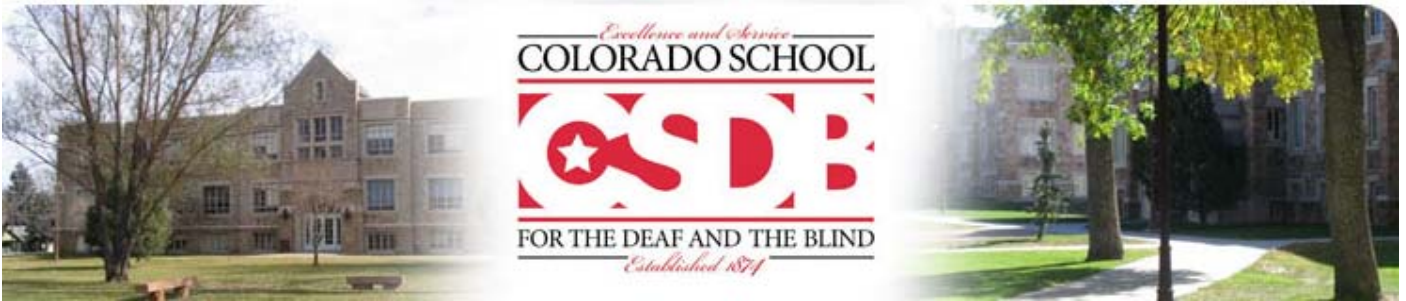
- All entries must be accompanied by an official T&T entry form, found at the T&T website: [http://www.tactus.org/united\\_k/entry\\_form2011.pdf](http://www.tactus.org/united_k/entry_form2011.pdf)
- Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope so we can return your book to you after the competition has ended.
- Address entries to:

American Printing House for the Blind  
1839 Frankfort Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40206-0085  
Attn: Suzette Wright, T&T book competition

The T&T website provides the competition guidelines as well as a list of suggestions for desirable features in your tactile book creation! Go to: <http://www.tactus.org/>

### Social Skills Cinema: Lessons for the Real World

Mary Ann Siller shares that this year the Texas Education of Blind and Visually Impaired Students Advisory Committee is challenging teachers, parents, and students with visual impairments to submit a short video on the theme, "Social Skills: Putting the C in Cool." ([www.tsbvi.edu/component/content/article/5/3354-cinema](http://www.tsbvi.edu/component/content/article/5/3354-cinema)) This contest is open to people throughout the United States and Canada. It is a perfect opportunity to show your colleagues a favorite lesson that you use to teach social skills at home, school, or in the community.



## UPCOMING CSDB EVENTS

**Colorado Sports Education Camp for ages 10-16** will be held June 6-10th. This camp is divided into two camps, Junior Camp which includes 10-12 year olds takes place June 6-8th, the Senior Camp 13-16 year olds is June 6-10th. Junior Camp Athletes will be allowed to stay the entire week IF they were able to handle all the activities. Students who are past the age of 16, but are still under 18 will be accepted on a space-available basis. This is a sports camp not a recreation and leisure camp, so students must be willing to participate in all the activities at a developmental level. Activities include: Swimming, Judo, Wrestling, Tandem Cycling, Goalball, and Track and Field Activities.

**Independent Living Skills Camp for Middle School** is June 12-17th. This camp is for students attending middle school grades 6th, 7th, or 8th. If you have a 9th grader who would like to attend, CSDB will take them on a space-available wait list.

The cost of the programs above is \$80 each this year and there are a limited number of scholarships available to help those who need help in paying. Adams 12 families have already started requesting information - way to go TVIs! For more information please contact Donna Keale at 719-578-2251 or [dkeale@csdb.org](mailto:dkeale@csdb.org)

### Save the Date for the Family Learning Retreat

CSDB will host a one-day event on **June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011** for families of children with a sensory loss between the ages of birth through eight years. Topics of interest to parents of young children with vision and/or hearing loss will be presented for parents, while the children are engaged in recreational activities. There will be two concurrent day sessions; one at CSDB in Colorado Springs and one in Montrose. Please find the flyers and registration form on the next pages of this newsletter and on the CSDB website. The web address is [www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org) Please note that all families must register for this event.

**Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind**  
**33 N. Institute Street**  
**Colorado Springs CO 80903**  
**719-578-2100**  
**719-578-2239 FAX**



# Family Learning Retreat 2011

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

33 North Institute Street

Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

719-578-2100; [www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org)

June 4, 2011

The Family Learning Retreat (FLR) will be returning to the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind June 4, 2011. This year, the FLR will be a one-day retreat focused on families with a child between the ages of 0-8 years, who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind. This is an opportunity for families to meet other families while networking, learning and having fun together.

Parents /adults will attend training during the day, while children participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program.

- 9:00 a.m. Check-in begins
- 9:30 a.m. Encouraging Your Child's Literacy Development
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch provided
- 1:00-4:00 p.m. IEP vs IFSP; Part B & Part C Process

The cost of the FLR is only \$5.00 per person over the age of one year. Spanish and sign language interpreters will be provided upon request.

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

Come and relax. Make new friends. Experience a valuable learning opportunity.

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





# 2011 Family Learning Retreat

Pomona Elementary School  
1045 S. Cascade Avenue  
Montrose, Colorado  
June 4, 2011

The Family Learning Retreat (FLR) will be coming to the Western Slope on June 4, 2011. The FLR will be a one-day retreat focused on families with a child between the ages of 0-8 years, who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind. This is an opportunity for families to meet other families while networking, learning and having fun together.

Parents /adults will attend training during the day, while children participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program.

- 9:00 a.m. Check-in begins
- 9:30 a.m. Encouraging Your Child's Literacy Development
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch provided
- 1:00-4:00 p.m. IEP vs IFSP; Part C & Part B Process, "What's in a Label?"

The cost of the FLR is only \$5.00 per person over the age of one year. Spanish and sign language interpreters will be provided upon request.

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

Come and relax. Make new friends. Experience a valuable learning opportunity.

**Questions?** Contact Lou Jankowsky, [ljankowsky@mcsd.k12.co.us](mailto:ljankowsky@mcsd.k12.co.us), 970-240-1709 or Ginny Hall, [yhall@mcsd.k12.co.us](mailto:yhall@mcsd.k12.co.us)

cde



## Stay in Montrose!

Friendly service and exceptional amenities  
Indoor pool, Whirlpool and Fitness Center  
Free Express Start Breakfast Bar  
Relax by the copper and rock fireplace  
970-240-1800 for reservations  
Mention "Family Learning Retreat" to receive  
special room rate of \$93.00/night



# Family Learning Retreat

**When: June 04, 2011**



*Please indicate location below!*

\_\_\_\_\_ CSDB  
 33 NORTH INSTITUTE ST  
 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

\_\_\_\_\_ POMONA  
 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
 1045 S. CASCADE AVENUE  
 MONTROSE, CO

**Check/purchase order must accompany registration**

**Make checks payable to: CSDB**

**Mail to: CSDB**  
**Attention: Diane Covington**  
 33 North Institute Street  
 Colorado Springs, CO  
 80903

**Registration Deadline  
 May 24, 2011**

Colorado families with a child who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind attend to network, learn and have fun together. Parents/adults will attend training during the day, while children participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program.

- **Mom's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name
- **Dad's Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name
- **Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Phone(h)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
1st Child's Name Age Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, Other, None
- \_\_\_\_\_  
2nd Child's Name Age Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, Other, None
- \_\_\_\_\_  
3rd Child's Name Age Deaf, Blind, Deafblind, Other, None
- **Additional Adult** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Additional Adult** \_\_\_\_\_ **Relationship** \_\_\_\_\_
- **Previously Attended? (Circle) Yes No**
- **Accommodations:** \_\_\_\_\_ Sign Language Interpreter  
Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Other (such as Braille or Spanish Language)  
Specify \_\_\_\_\_

**FEES**

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Registration - **\$5.00/Adult**  
 # Total Adult \$  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Child Registration - **\$5.00/Child**  
 # Total Child \$  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Totals  
 Total # Total \$\$

**Scholarships may be available for travel/lodging. If a family is in need of scholarship assistance, please contact Tanni Anthony, [Anthony\\_T@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Anthony_T@cde.state.co.us) or 303-866-6681.**

For additional information or if you need to cancel PRIOR to the close of business May 26, 2011, please contact . No reimbursements for cancellations made after May 26, 2011. Please request ADA accommodations at time of registration.

## Vision Coalition Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2011

**Persons in Attendance:** Tanni Anthony, Paula Conroy, Nancy Cozart, LaVerne Dell, Charlotte Javier, Jamie Lugo, Judy Mumford, Angela Sims, and Wendy Stoltman.

**Persons Absent:** Bill Muir, Jim Olson

### PROGRAM UPDATES

#### Northern Region (Wendy Stoltman)

The Low Vision Clinic was held in Brighton on February 17. Debbie Haberkorn, Dr. Theune and Jim Olson worked extremely long hours, and their positive impact on our students and their families was immeasurable. It is always inspirational to watch them work with families, demonstrate what CAN BE accomplished, and then watch the students walk out with new low vision aids, their heads held high, and self esteem boosted. We thank you so much for your passion and dedication to our students.

Thanks to the incredible efforts of Teresa Barone and Jan Wood, we had a fabulous training in Loveland on the Ipad on January 14, 2011. Frank Vretos, an Accessibility Specialist from Apple came and demonstrated the Ipad. If any other teacher groups are interested, please contact him at [vretos@apple.com](mailto:vretos@apple.com). Vocational Rehabilitation counselors from the Fort Collins / Greeley area also came to share information at our meeting. To make a referral for Rehab Teaching or O&M Services in this area of Colorado please call (970) 223-9823.

Due to increased workloads, it has been difficult for all teachers in our area to meet this year. We are not sure about where we will meet next school year. A continued request from the NE vision teachers is that technology vendors be present at the State conference or a split out session at a conference that would address technology needs.

#### Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

We will be having our final meeting of the school year at Anchor Center on Friday April 29 from 3:00-4:30. Jim from CIMC will be sharing the latest and greatest from APH. He will also be giving the updates on CIMC procedures. This will be a time for TVIs to ask questions so we can be sure to end this year and start next year with clear information.

We will also be determining if moving our meetings this year to the later time of 3:00 has proven to be better for the majority of teachers. Hopefully, we will be setting out dates for meetings for the 2011-2012 school year. We will be determining who will be the regional coordinator for the coming year and coming up with topic ideas.

The metro region has been busy with participation in snow shoe weekend, the Braille Challenge, CCB science days and other events as well as our own district special events. It is important for us to remember how much we share with our students and their families! Good things are happening for our kids in the Denver area and across Colorado.

#### Southern Region (Judy Mumford)

At our April meeting Matthew Gesualke presented a tactile architectural model for educating people who are blind about architecture, history, scale, etc. He received positive feedback from teachers. We also shared CVI 'tips and tricks.'

We had some discussion around the VI Registration spread sheets and students registered as CVI. These students must have an eye report within three years in order to be eligible to borrow materials. *Discussion: We may need more clarification on eye reports for a child with CVI. Families may not always think ongoing eye exams are necessary for their child or be in a position to pay for an exam. Could the family physician make notes about the*

*status of the child's vision and would this be acceptable? There are issues of eye health and refraction. This may be an area to discuss with our eye care community about their recommendations. Tanni will talk to CDE's school nurse consultant for her guidance on possible resources for eye care examinations.*

In May Linda Belyeu-Conklin and Ken Conklin, "AGA Low Vision" will be showing new low vision devices. Jim will share new APH products and we will wrap up the year and discuss next year's meetings! WOW, this school year has flown by... We wish everyone a happy, healthy and restful summer break.

Notes from Donna Keale J I want to remind everyone that we have the Sensory Safari coming up at the Cheyenne Mtn. Zoo on April 30<sup>th</sup>. It is designed for one student and one family member at the \$2.50 each fee, others are welcome but must pay general admission price.

The Colorado Sports Education Camp is in need of TVIs /COMSs to volunteer. If you have any availability June 6 -11 please contact Donna. We have had great support from TVIs across the state in the years past and are hoping to see a good turn out this year as well.

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

Southwest BOCES is advertising for a ½ time TVI position for 1 more year and then it will be a full time position. When the position is filled Leilani Scott will be able to spend all her time as the Special Education Director.

Congratulations to Brooke Sanden who is engaged to be married this summer! We are hopeful she will be staying in the area so she can continue doing great work with students in the Mountain BOCES region.

Discussion for Vision Coalition:

1. Need clarification on qualifications for deaf blind: *Discussion: There are eligibility documents / guidance on the CO Deafblind Project's website. Currently deafblindness is referenced in the ECEA Rules under the eligibility language specific to multiple disabilities, which does not provide sufficient guidance for eligibility. Tanni will follow-up with information.*
2. Clarification on how to fill in the vision disability page when a student no longer qualifies for vision services or when they are being taken off an IEP and placed on a 504? *Discussion: On the Determination of Eligibility Form – can check Yes on the visual disability but NO to the question about educational need or No on both to indicate that a student no longer qualified as being a child with a visual disability.*

### **CAER (Nancy Cozart and Paula Conroy)**

The Annual Awards Banquet will be held in Colorado Springs on May 6<sup>th</sup> (the Friday night of the O&M Conference). Some fund raising has occurred over the course of the school year. There were no mini grants submitted for the April review. CAER also continues to be involved with technology loans.

### **Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (LaVerne Dell)**

In March, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has bid farewell to the Director of Field Services, Dr. Schmidt, as he moves on to the next phase in his life. We have also seen other staff changes. Kelly Hartmann, the (at) Coordinator will become DVR's new Chief Financial Officer. The Personal Adjustment Training Program is hiring a CVRT/O&M specialist, and we expect that they will submit a request to hire a replacement for Kelly.

Another change that is coming to DVR is a new case management system that will be launched at the beginning of May. Staff will be partaking in two-and-a-half day trainings starting at the end of April and continuing through the greater part of May. This new system will minimize paperwork for Counselor's. It will also take staff sometime to learn the new system, so please be patient with us.

The American Council for the Blind of Colorado recently held their annual conference.



The Colorado Center for the Blind in conjunction with DVR is sponsoring a Federal job fair in May. This is expected to be a big event with Kareem Dale video conferencing in as a keynote speaker. CCB is also gearing up for their summer youth programs. Please contact Julie Deden for further details at (303) 778-1130.

The Colorado Commission for Individuals who are blind/visually Impaired has seen some changes in membership. The Commission is up for review in 2012 and the review activities will actually begin sometime this year. One of the current goals that the Commission would like to address is the public's perception of blindness.

Dr. Kara Hanson and Dr. Mehta will be doing training on "general etiquette" for eye care specialists on working with persons who are blind/visually impaired.

### **Anchor Center and CSDB Early Intervention News (Charlotte Javier)**

The Western Regional Early intervention Conference WREIC 2011 will be in Ogden, UT June 22-23 2011. This conference provides workshops and presentations designed to support professionals working with children, newborn to five years of age, who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired or deafblind and their families. We have a number of staff going and hope to see many more of you join us at this conference! *Discussion: The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss is offering \$200 scholarships for Colorado attendees who are working with a young (0-5) child on the CO Deafblind Census.*

The Preschool Team has been spending a great deal of time brainstorming how we will integrate up to 13 new children into our existing 26 preschoolers next year. We anticipate 3-4 graduates in June.

We are happy to report the EI Colorado is going to let us use The Oregon Project now for assessment. For TVIs in school districts they can use the Oregon Project as a part of Child Find. We hope this will provide some consistency in Child Finds across the state. *Discussion: This may be a training topic for TVIs with the new materials (6<sup>th</sup> Edition) and coordination with State Child Find. It would also be helpful to have an update in the next newsletter about what news in Child Find (Charlotte will take a lead role).*

The Horticulture Therapy Institute has been at the Anchor Center. You are very welcome any time to come and see our gardens!

Anchor is advertising for a new TVI! Interested persons should contact Alice Applebaum.

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

Book orders for next school year (2011-2012): Submit your orders for braille books as soon as possible. The CIMC would like all orders by May 1, 2011. This is the same deadline we have requested for three years now. If you are currently using a book that you would like to keep in your administrative unit (AU) for next year-either for the same student or a new student, remember that you need to submit another order form.

Returning books at the end of the year: **NEW** color-coded mailing label implementation! The larger school districts, who tend to have the most braille books to return, have been mailed color-coded shipping labels to attach to the outside of their boxes this year. Labels were printed on one unique color specific to each of the largest districts. These labels have already been mailed to the designated CIMC contact person in each of these districts. Please do not print labels on any other color paper. Contact the CIMC if you need additional labels. Red labels are shipped to districts for use when returning a book that has been requested by a different district for use the following school year. Please remember to use these red labels to help the CIMC fulfill these orders promptly. Please pay careful attention when filling out shipping label: (1) enter accurate information on the label, (2) verify that the book inside the box matches the book written on the label, (3) number the boxes in order (i.e. "Box 1 of 3", the "Box 2 of 3", "Box 3 of 3", and (4) Do not insert anything into the box except for the book to be returned. Please do not include order forms, notes, or ink print copies of books to be transcribed. Unless the book being returned is needed to fill another order, these boxes may not be unpacked for a whole year.

Statewide counts of students who are blind/visually impaired: The CIMC conducts two counts of students who have been identified as blind/visually impaired in Colorado annually: Statewide count: The CIMC counts all students in

Colorado who are blind/visually impaired in Colorado (from birth through 21) for the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Federal Quota count: Legally blind students are counted on the first Monday in January of each calendar year for the Federal Quota program, administered by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). Federal Quota funds acquired by eligible students are used to acquire educational materials specifically developed and manufactured by the APH for the benefit of students who meet the Federal eligibility requirements of legal blindness. The CIMC serves as a repository of these materials for teachers of students with visual impairment (TVIs) in all Administrative Units (Aus) in Colorado to access for their quota eligible students. This year's count day was January 3, 2011.

"VI Registration" spreadsheets specific to the 2011 count day data have been mailed to Directors of Special Education and designated CIMC contact persons. This is the first year that the spreadsheets have been color-coded to provide additional information. A document titled, "*How to read your 'VI Registration' spreadsheet*" accompanied each mailing. District contact personnel are requested to contact the CIMC to update their district's spreadsheet information.

Preliminary statewide count data:

Total registered students on count day 2010: 1,200

Total registered students on count day 2011: 1,130

Infants: 170

Ages 3-21: 960

Unaccounted for: 65

The number of "unaccounted for" students indicates students who were registered on last year's count and had "exit" forms submitted by their AU indicating the student had withdrawn from the district who registered them last year and no new "VI Registration" forms were submitted in a new administrative unit as of count day.

The most frequently occurring diagnoses identified this year:

270 Cortical Visual Impairment

143 Optic Nerve Hypoplasia & Septo-Optic Dysplasia

65 Retinopathy of Prematurity

61 Albinism

*APH updates:* Jim was nominated to the 5 member APH Educational Services Advisory Committee ("ESAC"). The board is comprised of Ex Officio Trustees of the Federal Quota accounts appointed for a term of two years. The ESAC meeting was held April 18-21, 2011 at APH in Louisville, KY. Jim will present information on new APH products at the April 25th School for the Blind staff meeting, the April Metro Denver regional TVI meeting and the May Southern region TVI meeting.

### **CSDB – BVI Outreach (Jim Olson)**

Strategic Plan: We are nearing the end of the first year of the implementation phase of the 2010 strategic plan. On April 14<sup>th</sup> the Outreach strategic plan update was presented to the School Board of Trustees meeting. This plan focuses on four goal areas: (1) Distance Education and Distance Learning, (2) Parent and Student Support, (3) Professional Development, and (4) Technology. Key updates include:

Informational documents: *An assessment document has been posted to the CSDB website related to psychological assessment practices when working with a student who is blind/visually impaired. Links to the document can be located by going to [www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.org), click on "Programs and Services", then "Outreach", then "Services for B/VI". Thank you to Vision Coalition for your assistance in the development of this document. Additional documents are being developed and should be posted to the website by the end of June.*

A new "VIDEO" link button has been added to the front page of the website homepage. Videos have been produced and posted to website related to TECHNOLOGY for the B/VI. Topics include: "*braille*" (posted to the website in 3 parts) and "*screen reading software*" (posted in 4 parts)

Activities: This was the first year for the mini-grant funding for activities involving students who are Blind/VI.

First requests were for funding assistance for students to participate in the CAER/CSDB sponsored Snowshoe weekend in Estes Park.

“*Families Together*” is a program started this year by Donna Keale (CSDB preschool), Louise Gettman and Jerri Nelson (TVIs with the CSDB Early Education program) to bring their students (between birth and 5 years old) and their parents together for educational and socialization opportunities. The CSDB Early Education program (Louise and Jerri) is currently in the process of assembling a welcome packet for caretakers of children who are B/VI to include: an eye diagram with definitions, chart of developmental milestones, information on how vision develops and available resources (local, AFB Family Connect, and other internet resources).

“*Orientation & Mobility*” and “*Independent Living Skills*” Short Courses were offered this school year. There were no participants for the second course. Jim has already asked the strategic plan (Outreach) implementation committee membership as well as the Southern region TVI meeting participants for feedback and would like to ask Vision Coalition reps to inquire within their regions for feedback as to possible reasons for the lack of interest/participation on this short course. Feedback is vital to improve Outreach services in the future and during the remaining two years of our current Strategic Plan.

#### Upcoming Activities:

- “*Sensory Safari*” (Saturday activity, focus on elementary age) with community partner Cheyenne Mtn. Zoo (9 students with VI and 27 family members currently registered)
- “*Family Learning Retreat*” –Focus children birth to 8 years (June 4)
- “*Sports Education Camp*” June 6-10. 6 participants registered so far – still early.
- CSDB 2011 Summer Enrichment programs (June 2011):
- “*Independent Living Skills*” (B/VI)

#### Sponsored professional development opportunities and trainings

CSDB Outreach programs and services exhibited at the following events:

- Council for Exceptional Children “*Courage to Risk*” conference
- Career Day (April 8th)
- National Braille Challenge
- Colorado school nurses conference
- Peterson Air Force Base “*Passport to Diversity in a Changing World*” (May 2011)

#### Co-Sponsored and hosted on our campus:

- Orientation and Mobility conference (May 5, 6, 7). Topic: Wheelchair mobility
- Colorado School Nurses conference (March) CSDB staff also presented. They have requested CSDB to be the host location for next year’s conference too.
- “*Family Learning Retreat*” (June 4) for families of (B/VI) (D/HH) (deafblind). This year’s focus: 1-day training in two simultaneous sites (Montrose and CSDB) for families of younger students to include: literacy development and understanding the IEP process (*Discussion: important to highlight secondary labels*).
- Hosted Optimist Club regional speech competition (April)
- Host & facilitate southern meetings for TVIs
- Professional Development Dr. Karen Wolffe - “*TVI session*” -- [Metro Denver and Southern CO regions represented] “*Parent session*”
- Ongoing braille format training for Library of Congress certified braille Transcribers (funded this year through CDE)
  - Individual training on braille transcription software

- Community braille class in development

Technology Training included:

- APH “Book Port Plus” training for TVIs in the Southern region
- Dissemination of available APH webinar postings

Technology Loan Banks:

Technology loan bank for the B/VI

**CSDB – School for the Blind (Jamie Lugo)**

Lou Tutt is now in a new position as the Executive Director of AER. He left Colorado in late March. Barb Meese is the acting Program Coordinator of the School for the Blind for the remainder of the school year. The position of Program Coordinator for the School for the Blind will be advertised for the next school year.

Key Student Updates Include: On January 27, the School for the Blind hosted a Poetry Out Loud contest. Twelve high school students competed in the first round. The five students with the highest scores in round one advanced to a second round. The Poetry Out Loud competition winner from the School for the Blind advanced to the state competition on February 28. Black History Month was celebrated on campus by two assemblies: one for the students in the School for the Blind where they learned about segregated Schools for the Blind; and an all-school assembly where students were entertained with African music and dance. After a quick rescheduling due to inclement weather, the Optimists Oratorical Contest was held February 11. The top three winners from CSDB went on to compete in a city-wide competition on February 15. On February 24, two students from the School for the Blind traveled to Rogers Elementary in Colorado Springs to read from Braille books to elementary students in honor of Dr. Seuss’ birthday. Several of our students who are blind had the opportunity to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Snowshoe Weekend in Estes Park along with other students who are blind/visually impaired from across Colorado. Three members of the Student Life team, as well as a teacher, went to provide support and supervision. The students had a blast! Three elementary students and their parents went to Vail to ski with the Foresight Ski Guides. They spent three days learning to ski and conquering the slopes.

Campus Events: The Braille Challenge was held Friday, February 4, with 60 students (including CSDB students) participating. Twelve exhibitors provided information relative to their services. Parents had an opportunity to participate in a seminar which included a panel discussion and mini-sessions on Orientation & Mobility, Technology, Daily Living Skills, and Literacy. The Student Body Government in the School for the Blind gave a tour to the Manitou Springs Elementary School Cub Scout troop. There was a group of 20 including the Cub Scouts, parents, and siblings. The Cub Scouts were impressed with our students and their adaptive technology. The Cub Scouts also did the Cub Scout Promise in sign language.

**University of Northern Colorado – VI Program (Paula Conroy)**

The close of the spring semester is quickly approaching at UNC. We have seven graduates this semester. Several of these students will work as TVIs in Colorado. Our traineeship grant remains full with a long waitlist. We will be applying for more funding in the near future. Grants continue to become more and more competitive as funding levels are reduced at the Federal level. Emphasis continues to be on program assessment/evaluation and diversity at the college level. AER Personnel Prep division has issued program standards and an evaluation process. UNC will submit materials in the upcoming year in order to add the new "AER Approval" to our program. We currently hold NCATE approval.

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

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project: The project is in its third year of a five-year grant cycle. The performance report for the third cycle was just submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs.

*Census:* We have just completed the annual census. A total of 131 children and youth have been identified across the state. The census count dropped by about 10 learners due to the lack of viable testing of children's vision and hearing status. If a child's vision and hearing is reported as "unknown" for over – years, the child must be taken off the state count. *VIBRATIONS Newsletter:* The second newsletter of the year, which focused on the DHH aspect of deafblindness, has been disseminated across the state and country. The newsletter featured several in-state contributors. Tanni would love to see a school year 2011-12 newsletter with specific BVI updates and will be asking for in-state author contributions.

*Project Webpage:* Everyone is encouraged to check out the recently updated project webpage (located at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Deafblind>) and specifically the Topic Index page. This page holds over a hundred documents and/or links to training information pertinent to deafblindness. Another way to get to the webpage is to go to CDE's webpage, which is [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us) and type in deafblindness in the search box, which will take you to a direct link to the project page.

*ONH Training:* The grant project just sponsored the April 16<sup>th</sup> Syndrome of Optic Nerve Hypoplasia Training with over 150 attendees.

*Summer Institute:* This year's summer institute will feature two internationally-recognized experts in the field of literacy and learners with significant disabilities. It will be offer as a five-day, two semester hour graduate course. Attendance will be limited to 75 participants.

Annual O&M Conference: The conference is a joint event with CDE, CAER, and CSDB. It will be held on May 5-7, 2011 on the campus of CSDB. Scott Crawford will be the lead presenter and will discuss O&M for learners who are blind/visually impaired and wheelchair users. About people have signed up for this training.

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: We sponsored five low vision clinics across the state during school year 2010-12. Thanks to the site coordinators (Judy Mumford for the two Southern Clinics, Sarah Sonnier / Angela Sims for the Western Clinic, Nancy Knight for the Metro Clinic, and Wendy Stoltman for the Northern Clinic) did great work to organize and host the clinics. One addition that will be added to the expectations for TVIs involved in the clinics will be the mandatory attendance of the TVI with his or her student. We are in the process of determining the dates for the 2011-12 clinics.

Recruitment and Retention: Jasmine Campbell recently accepted a position with Denver Public Schools. Please keep in touch with any expected vacancies for the 2011-12 school year. CSDB has open positions. A full time position is open at the Anchor Center for the Blind, Adams 12, and Aurora School Districts. There will be a part time temporary position in Cheyenne Mountain School District this fall.

Mentors for New TVIs / COMS: If you are new to the field of teaching students who are blind/visually impaired and would like a mentor to work with you during this next school year, please be in touch with Tanni. Mentors can also be arranged for veteran TVIs/COMS who have been out of the teaching field for a while and would like some update support. There is no cost to having a mentor. A full time position is open at the Anchor Center for the Blind.

Braille CSAP Tests: Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart, and Wendy Stoltman traveled to Boston on December 4-7 for the purpose of previewing the 2010-11 braille-format CSAP Tests. Many TVIs have turned in the item review forms for both the CSAP and CSAP tests for this school year – a validation review will occur in June.

Description-Enhanced Assessments for Students with Visual and Print Disabilities: A grant award was made to the Utah State Office of Education in the fall of 2010 for the purpose of examining the use of description as an accommodation for students with visual and print disabilities. Partners include the Colorado Department of Education, the Kansas Department of Education, WGBH National Center on Accessible media, the National, Center on Severe and Sensory Disabilities, and a panel of advisors. Tanni is working with the team with the following Colorado responsibilities: (a) review items for visual bias, (b) identify teachers and students in Colorado who may be eligible for participation in the project, and assist with the dissemination of the guidelines. She will also coordinate and host a visual-bias review training for personnel involved in the project in Colorado, Utah, and Kansas. Sarah Sonnier and Nancy Cozart will be involved with this latter project. For more information about participating in the project, be in touch with Tanni or Dr. Kay Ferrell.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Regional TVI Meetings:** There was discussion about the challenges of regional meetings. They do not always work out for all TVIs to attend. One goal of a couple of regions is to get dates on the calendar at the beginning of the school year and honor these dates for those that can attend.

**Online Assessment and instruction Programs Document:** Tanni, Nancy, and Wendy finalized the document in December and shared it at today's meeting. It will be emailed to the TVIs.

### **CDE ESLU Budget for 2010-11**

The following budgets were approved for the 2011-12 school year!

1. *State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment*
2. *Low Vision Evaluation Clinics (Dr. Theune's time on the project, equipment)*
3. *Annual O&M Conference*
4. *Braille CSAPs*
5. *Braille Competency Testing*
6. *Vision Coalition*
7. *Mentors for new TVIs / Braille Mentors*
8. *Technology Support (Bonnie Snyder)*

*Discussion: Tanni will follow-up with TVIs on the CDE-listserv to address potential topics of the fall conference.*

#### **CDE funded CSDB Activities**

1. *CIMC (the CDE Contribution)*
2. *Low Vision Evaluation Clinics (funding of Jim and Debbie's role on the clinics)*

### **Mental Health Services for Learners who are Blind/Visually Impaired**

Guest: Nate Thompson from Littleton School District came to talk to us about what mental health supports are in place for students and young adults who are blind/visually impaired. Nate found two articles that describe mental health supports - one from Scotland and one from the UK. Nate is interested in working with interns to explore this topic. It may also be helpful to have TVIs visit professional meetings of school psychologists and social workers to address the mental health support needs of students with sensory disabilities.

School districts may utilize their school psychologists and social workers for different roles. It would be helpful to have a module / training document specific to what might be unique about a learner who is blind/visually impaired. This may be something that Dr. Dean Tuttle could help us with developing. There are many aspects: low vision and middle school / driving; losing vision; family systems in response to vision loss; behaviors that may be misinterpreted. It may also be valuable to train local psychologists for those students who need more support than a school could provide.

LaVerne shared two people in the metro (Julia Hunter and Joel Junker from Colorado Springs) are trained. CSDB has personnel who can complete a psychological assessment on students who are blind/visually impaired.

### **Extended School Year**

There is a new extended School Year services Guidance Manual on the CDE ESLU website. It is currently posted at this link: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/Guidelines\\_ESY\\_2011April4.pdf](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/Guidelines_ESY_2011April4.pdf)

## Visual Disability Eligibility:

There was discussion about the current eligibility criteria. There was consensus to remove the reference to ocular motor apraxia as an example of a special condition. Students with ocular motor apraxia still may qualify as a student with a visual disability, but the removal of this condition from the definition has been requested as many of these learners do not automatically qualify for services from a teacher certified in the area of visual impairment.

## VC Deliverables for Next School Year

*Standards Tied to IEP Goals and Objectives:* This is a YES topic.

*TVI and COMS Evaluation Documents:* This was not felt to be valuable as TVIs will be evaluated using the same tools as what are used with other teachers. It is recommended that peer review be utilized. It might be helpful to have an overview job description of an itinerant TVI.

*Standard Eye Doctor Requests:* Several TVIs brought examples of the request forms that they use with requesting eye doctor information. Some forms are tailored to include content that is needed for the low vision evaluation clinics. It may be helpful to have an example of a recommended form to share with new teachers. There are doctors who charge for filling out a report.

*Mental Health Module / Training and Support Materials:* Yes

**Vision Coalition Membership for Next School Year:** Nancy Cozart – *Metro Region*; Angela Sims – *Western Region*; Paula Conroy – *UNC*; Jim Olson – *CIMC*; Judy Mumford - *Southern*; Charlotte Javier – *Anchor Center*, Kathryn Botsford– *CAER*; CSDB School for the Blind; Wendy Stoltman – *Northern Region*.

**Dates for next Meetings: September 22, 2011**



**Doha Early Intervention Conference**  
for Children with Visual or Multiple Impairments  
27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 AINoor Institute - Qatar

Give more early, expect more later

Dr. Tanni Anthony was an invited speaker at the April 27-30, 2011 Doha Early Intervention Conference of Children with Visual or Multiple Impairments. The conference was held in Doha, Qatar (located in the middle east). It was the first such conference for the Gulf Countries and was designed to increase awareness about the educational needs of young children who are blind/visually impaired or with multiple disabilities. Tanni provided four training sessions at the conference and was joined by an amazing team of experts. It was a profound professional and personal experience. For more details about the conference, go to: <http://www.deic-qatar.com/>



Noura Abdulla, Dr. Tanni Anthony, Brooke Clodfelter, Dr. Barry Kran, Dr. Deborah Chen, Dr. Mary Ann Lang, Dr. Penny Rosenblum, and Dr. Lea Hyvärinen

# *Saying Thank You and Farewell*

Braillist with Littleton Public Schools, SHARON BENN had an important decision to make in the spring of 1996. Should she go to work at Nordstrom's or go to work in the school district where her children were attending in Littleton? She got a call from Nancy Cozart who had an opening for a paraprofessional position in the Visually Impaired Program. She came to LPS! Sharon's new work took her in a direction she never anticipated. The goal was soon to become a braillist ... she fell in love with the dots. She was a natural. She became a nationally certified literary transcriber and then got her certification in the Nemeth Code. Along the way, Sharon has shared her artistic talents with our low vision students through pictures in books, magazines, and classroom materials she has created. Sharon has also developed skills to complete tactual graphics for charts, graphs, maps, etc. for our kids to use in lessons throughout their day. In addition to her work for LPS, Sharon has served other Colorado kids as the transcriber of many texts and test materials. She has also produced materials for conferences in our state as well as materials across the country. Sharon has always cared deeply about the children in the schools. She encourages others and is willing to help with whatever is needed. We will miss Sharon's positive attitude, her great sense of humor and her wonderful laugh. Sharon didn't need to be employed at Nordstrom's to maintain the perfect sense of style- clothes, shoes, hair, nails, accessories. She made the right choice!

The Colorado Instructional Materials Center would like to thank BURDINE (BURT) HAAS for her many dedicated years of service which benefited students who were blind/visually impaired. Burt started working as a classroom paraprofessional at CSDB in 1979 and moved on to being a Library of Congress certified braille transcriber for the CIMC until her recent retirement in November 2010. In her last six years of employment Burt helped the CIMC provide braille and educational materials to 1,200 students annually in 94 Colorado school districts. Burt was instrumental in mentoring several people who went on to successfully obtain their LOC braille transcription certification. Burt's dedication to getting braille in the hands of students is being carried out by many of these mentees who are currently employed in Southern Colorado school districts.

SALLY PECORARO is a vision paraprofessional in Pueblo City Schools. She is retiring this year to spend more time with her family (including several grandchildren) and friends. Sally will be dearly missed. She was our CIMC contact individual. We could always count on her to keep all equipment information current, send in broken braillewriters, and be a timely contact between staff and CIMC. Sally's greatest strength was her nurturing, patient, caring approach to our young visually impaired students who needed academic support. One young man who came to our country speaking only Spanish is now successfully in college because of Sally's excellent ELL experience in teaching English. Other children who were lagging behind academically "caught up" due to Sally's excellent support. May she find many years of happiness and joy in her retirement years.



Braillist/Education Assistant, Aurora Public Schools KATHY FAY has worked with Aurora Public Schools for 28 years. The last eleven as their Braillist/Educational Assistant. She has been a valuable asset to their department. Her first day, she wondered if she had made the right decision when given a packet of worksheets 2 inches thick to braille. She was just starting to learn the braille code. As the years progressed, Kathy began to love her job and the students. She pushed the students towards independence and gave them a great foundation for future skills. She will be missed a lot.



WANDA GWINN, a native of Austin, Minnesota, moved to Colorado in 1973 after a career as an x-ray technician for the Mayo Clinic. Wanda and her husband were looking for adventure and thought Longmont, Colorado to be just the place. Having and taking care of children and foster children consumed much of Wanda's time for the next few years. In February, 1996, Wanda started working as a paraeducator, for the St. Vrain Valley School district. Rita Albright recruited Wanda to the Vision Department and encouraged her to obtain her Library of Congress certification as a Braillist (and later her Colorado state Braille certification). Wanda has touched the lives of many students and teachers through the Vision Department. She is a tireless supporter of Braille and literacy. In addition to her Braille transcription activities, Wanda creates tactile books for students who do not know how to read Braille. Wanda has also been known to help out with the Social Club activities of the Vision Department: helping students learn to bake Christmas cookies, make craft toys, and help a student learn to ride a recumbent bike. Wanda will be missed by many students and staff in St. Vrain!

TRACY MOSBARGER will be moving to Phoenix, AZ with her family at the end of May. Tracy has worked for SW BOCES, San Juan BOCES, San Luis Valley BOCES, UnBOCS, and most recently, the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. She graduated from UNC in 2000 as a TVI and O&M Specialist. She also has worked for a time in New Mexico. Tracy will begin work for the Arizona School for the Deaf and the Blind at the end of July. We thank Tracy for her service in CO and wish her the very best in Arizona!

JENEVIEVE SCOTT is leaving her position at a TVI in Pikes Peak BOCES to move to Seattle. She has lived in Colorado since July 2003. Her first Colorado job was with the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind after graduating from Portland State University. She was at CSDB as the Science / History / Transition teacher for 3 years and then took a position with Pikes Peak BOCES. Jen shared, "I have enjoyed my experience here in Colorado and value the friends I have met here." Her next steps include some summer camping and a long trip to Portugal! All the best to you, Jen - we wish you safe travels.





# colorado connections

- ☞ A very special to the members of the Vision Coalition who contributed their time and expertise during school year 2010-11: **Tanni Anthony** (CDE), **Paula Conroy** (UNC), **Nancy Cozart** (Metro TVI rep), **LaVerne Dell** (Division of Vocational Services), **Charlotte Javier** (Anchor Center for Blind Children), **Jamie Lugo** (School for the Blind), **Judy Mumford** (Southern TVI rep), **Jim Olson** (CIMC and CSDB Outreach), **Angela Sims** (Western TVI rep), and **Wendy Stoltman** (Northern TVI rep).
- ☞ Thanks so much to everyone who attended the April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 training on the Syndrome of Optic Nerve Hypoplasia – we had over 150 parents, TVIs, and other professionals attend. A big thank you to our two presenters, **Dr. Mark Borchert** and **Dr. Terese Pawletko**. My personal thanks to **JC Greeley** for her preconference and onsite conference assistance. Thanks also to **Marci Reid** and **Nancy Cozart** who assisted with the registration table.
- ☞ Thanks to the many TVIs who took the time to submit comments on the 2010-11 CSAP and CSAPA tests. Information was received from: **Deb Andrews**, **Janis Mountford**, **Sarah Sonnier**, **Linda Campbell**, **Judy Wiepert**, **Jasmine Campbell**, **Lorraine Hutcheson**, **Sue Newhart-Larson**, **Jan Megarry**, **Nick Pagani**, **Amy Gunning**, **Vicki Pearson**, **Kathy Gallina**, **Barb Galgano**, **Mike Plansker**, **Rachel Sullivan**, **Janice Schmidt**, **Kevin O'Brien**, and **Angel Findler**.
- ☞ **Karla** and **Scott McKechnie** are the proud parents of a new baby boy. Owen David McKechnie was born on May 9, 2011. He weighed 9 lbs, 15oz. and was 22 ½ inches long. Owen David joins brother Aiden in the McKechnie family.
- ☞ Thank you so much for the people who served as mentors during this school year - YOU are so appreciated! **Lisa Brocard**, **Linda Campbell**, **Lucia Hasty**, **Shelley Moats**, and **Mike Plansker**. These individuals served as either a braille mentor or a new-TVIs mentor.
- ☞ The five outstanding members of the 2010 – 2011 Educational Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) met at APH, April 18 – 21, for their annual spring meeting. The committee is charged with providing oversight and leadership in the planning, evaluation, and delivery of product-related services provided by the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind, identifying new services as needed, and assisting in the promotion of APH products through services. The committee of APH Ex Officio Trustees, under the excellent leadership of Chair Marje Kaiser (SD), met their charge with flying colors. Committee members Patrick Clancy (IA), Sally Giittinger (NE), **Jim Olson** (CO) and Jonn Paris-Salb (CA) met with APH staff to discuss key areas such as the Federal Quota Census, the APH website, Louis, NIMAC, and more! Their generous commendations and thoughtful recommendations will guide APH in the coming year as we continue to find ways to improve.



# colorado connections

🔊 A big Welcome Back to **Barb Meese** who is the interim Program Coordinator of the School for the Blind. Barb stepped in to cover the position that Lou Tutt left in late May. Barb has a long history with CSDB as a school principal of the School for the Deaf and also as the school's former special education director. She is currently retired and was asked to fill in for the duration of the school year.

## More thoughts on Lou from the last edition.

When I think of Lou Tutt, I think of his amazing leadership....I want to thank Lou for being an inspiring, supportive, and delightful colleague and friend.

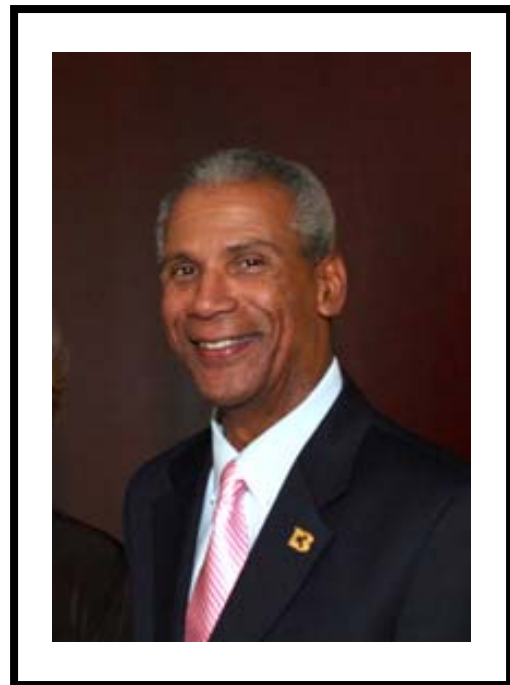
- Barbara Jack

"We will all miss his smile and infectious enthusiasm - from a little child doing well on their spelling test, to getting the crowd excited for Literacy during the Braille Challenge. It was fun to hear him compare the Braille Challenge to the Super Bowl (challenge) that was going on at the same time."

- Carol Love

No doubt about it, AER's gain is Colorado's loss. When I think of Lou, I first and foremost think of that GREAT BIG LOU TUTT SMILE as well as Lou's genuine warmth and kindness. I also think of the huge contributions Lou has made to our entire field here in Colorado beginning with CSDB. I want to thank Lou for his guidance and leadership, his sense of humor and the inspiration he continually provided to so many colleagues. Lou Tutt is a remarkable individual and I wish him the very best at AER!

- Kevin O'Brien



Thanks for all your service in Colorado!

- Janet Anderson

"When I think of Lou Tutt I see images of a warm, calming breeze, a sparkling crystal glass, a soothing cup of tea and I smile. Lou is respectful, positive, and motivating. We are so fortunate to have had his presence in our state these past few years and will greatly miss him."

- Rita Albright

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