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# You Are HERE!

By Tanni L. Anthony



We are all life travelers. We move forward throughout our days with mental maps of where we need to go. Some days we travel to the same 'ol familiar destinations and some days, we head into completely foreign territory.

Whether it is a literal journey or a life metaphor, a competent travel knows that the first steps begin with an understanding of "YOU ARE HERE!" When we know where we are and we know where we want to go, the travel plan can take shape.

As this new school year takes on its full-swing status, it is time to take stock. Where are children / students on a particular knowledge and skill set; where are you with what you need to learn to meet their needs. Stop—take a moment, look around, and put an deliberate X on the spot to mark the current location. This is the beginning of the map. Just like the map at the local mall that seems so confusing when it is first approached—there is comfort in finding the "You Are Here" marker.

"Whew," you may think. "I knew that I was somewhere—but I just did not know where!" And then the strategy begins to find where you want to go.

We too can be deliberate with our real-life / metaphor / and instructional maps — the direction, the route, and the destination. What do we need to get there? — specialized instruction, progress monitoring tools, opportunities to practice, equipment and adapted materials, the guidance of a co-teaching colleague, the support of a parent and/or a professional, landmarks along the way to confirm we are on the right route ... map it out and GO.

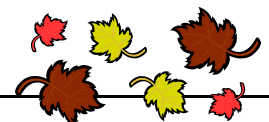
And when we get to that projected destination and look back from where we came, it is a joy to know that WE ARE NOW **THERE**. Moving from *Here* to *There* is always a worthwhile journey. Safe travels!

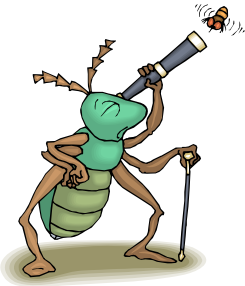
# WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers  
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired  
October 2011

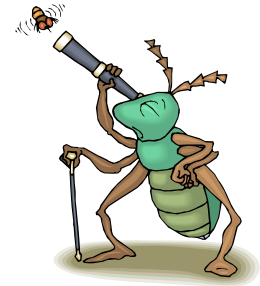
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# LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



## The CDE Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Schedule Clinic Schedule for School Year 2011-2012

REGION	DATES	PAPERWORK DEADLINE	SITE COORDINATOR
<b>Metro Denver</b> (Anchor Center for Blind Children)	Wed Nov 9, 2011 Th Nov 10, 2011 Fri Nov 11, 2011	October 20, 2011	Nancy Knight
<b>Northern</b> (Location to be determined)	Fri Feb 10, 2012 Sat Feb 11, 2012	January 20, 2012	Rita Abright Vicki Pearson
<b>Southern</b> (CSDB low vision room)	Fri Mar 2, 2012	February 17, 2012	Donice Fennimore

## Southern and Western Regions Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

By Debbie Haberkorn

The first Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic of 2011-2012 was held September 15-16, 2011 in the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind low vision room. This two-day clinic provided evaluations for 10 students from four school districts, (CSDB, El Paso County District 3, El Paso County District 8, and El Paso County District 11). Four sets of parents and six TVIs attended the evaluations with their students. The team would like to thank Donice Fennimore for her fabulous job of coordinating the clinic and CSDB for hosting the clinic.

The Western Slope Region Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic of the school year occurred September 30-October 1, 2011 in the Hawthorne Building in Grand Junction. Five students from four school districts (Mountain BOCES, Mesa Valley #51, Eagle County, Garfield Re-1, and Summit County School District) receive hour and a half exams. Four sets of parents and four TVIs attended the evaluations with their students. The team would like to express their gratitude to Sarah Sonnier and Angela Sims for coordinating and hosting the clinic and Mesa Valley School District for providing the host site.



## **“Tools for Life” Application Deadline: *October 15, 2011***

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

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

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

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

For more information please call Tom Theune, OD – Chairperson of the SEE THE FUTURE Fund at (719) 471-3200 or email: [twtheune@prodigy.net](mailto:twtheune@prodigy.net)

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## **“Education for Life” Application Deadline: *March 1, 2012***

Up to \$42,000 may be awarded to six deserving recipients. In addition, The SEE THE FUTURE Fund has formed a partnership with the Kane Family Foundation. The merit-based Kane Foundation is offering two “full-ride tuition” scholarships to visually impaired or blind students who meet the SEE THE FUTURE Fund criteria (see below) and are nominated by the SEE THE FUTURE Fund selection committee. Presently, Kane – SEE THE FUTURE recipients must attend CU-Boulder, CU-Denver, or CU-Colorado Springs.

To apply for an “Education for Life” scholarship and to obtain more information, please go to: [www.seethefuture.org](http://www.seethefuture.org) and click on “Education for Life” scholarships. You may also call Tom Theune, OD – Chairperson of the SEE THE FUTURE Fund at (719) 471-3200.

The SEE THE FUTURE / Kane Scholarship Criteria:

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



## Spotlight on Hunter Syndrome

*The primary content of this information was retrieved from: <http://www.hunterpatients.com/>*

**What is Hunter syndrome?** Hunter syndrome, or mucopolysaccharidosis II (MPS II), is a genetic disorder that primarily affects males. It interferes with the body's ability to break down and recycle specific mucopolysaccharides (mew-ko-pol-ee-sak-ah-rides), also known as glycosaminoglycans (gli-ko-sah-mee-no-gli-cans) or GAG. Hunter syndrome is one of several related lysosomal storage diseases.

In Hunter syndrome, GAG build up in cells throughout the body due to a deficiency or absence of the enzyme iduronate-2-sulfatase (I2S). This buildup interferes with the way certain cells and organs in the body function and leads to a number of serious symptoms.

**What are the Symptoms of Hunter syndrome?** The symptoms of Hunter syndrome (MPS II) are generally not apparent at birth, but usually start to become noticeable after the first year of life.

Common early symptoms of Hunter syndrome may include:

- umbilical or inguinal hernia
- ear infections
- runny nose
- colds

Since these symptoms are quite common among all infants, they are not likely to lead a doctor to make a diagnosis of Hunter syndrome right away. As the build up of GAG continues throughout the cells of the body, signs of Hunter syndrome become more visible and include:

- a distinctive coarseness in facial features including a prominent forehead, a nose with a flattened bridge, and an enlarged tongue
- a large head
- an enlarged abdomen
- pebbly, ivory-colored skin lesions on upper arms, legs, and upper back
- frequent ear infections (conductive hearing loss)
- poor peripheral vision / vision loss due to build up of spinal fluid
- progressive sensorineural hearing loss
- respiratory infections / limited lung capacity
- cardiac/problems with heart valves
- epilepsy (seizure disorder)

# Spotlight on

- breathing problems while sleeping / disorganized sleep patterns
- joint of fingers, arms, and legs held in partial flexion carpal tunnel syndrome / motor fatigue
- short stature, dysplasia, and joint stiffness
- developmental delays

The rate and progression of the symptoms may be different for each person with Hunter syndrome and there is a broad range in the type and severity of the symptoms.

**What is the Biochemistry of Hunter Syndrome?** The biochemistry of Hunter syndrome is related to a problem in a part of the connective tissue of the body known as the extracellular matrix. This matrix is made up of a variety of sugars and proteins and helps to form the architectural framework of the body. The matrix surrounds the cells of the body in an organized meshwork and functions as the glue that holds the cells of the body together. One of the parts of the extracellular matrix is a complex molecule called a proteoglycan. Like many components of the body, proteoglycans need to be broken down and replaced. When the body breaks down proteoglycans, one of the resulting products is mucopolysaccharides, otherwise known as GAG. There are several types of GAG, each found in certain characteristic places in the body:

GAG	LOCATION IN BODY
Hyaluronic acid	Various connective tissues, skin, cartilage, synovial fluid
Chondroitin sulfate	Cartilage, cornea, bone, skin, arteries
Dermatan sulfate	Skin, blood vessels, heart, heart valves
Heparan sulfate	Lung, arteries, cell surfaces
Heparin	Lung, liver, certain immune system cells
Keratan sulfate	Cartilage, cornea, intervertebral disks

In Hunter syndrome, the problem concerns the breakdown of two GAG: dermatan sulfate and heparan sulfate. The first step in the breakdown of dermatan sulfate and heparan sulfate requires the lysosomal enzyme I2S. In people with Hunter syndrome, this enzyme is either partially or completely inactive. As a result, GAG build up in cells throughout the body, particularly in tissues that contain large amounts of dermatan sulfate and heparan sulfate. As this buildup continues, it interferes with the way certain cells and organs in the body function and leads to a number of serious symptoms. The rate of GAG buildup is not the same for all people with Hunter syndrome, resulting in a wide spectrum of medical problems



**What are the Genetics of Hunter syndrome?** Hunter syndrome (MPS II) affects a calculated estimate of approximately 1 in 155,000 live male births. Since Hunter syndrome is an inherited disorder (X-linked recessive) that primarily affects males, it is passed down from one generation to the next in a specific way. Nearly every cell in the human body has 46 chromosomes, with 23 derived from each parent. The I2S gene is located on the X chromosome. Females have two X chromosomes, one inherited from each parent, whereas males have one X chromosome that they inherit from their mother and one Y chromosome that they inherit from their father.

If a male has an abnormal copy of the I2S gene, he will develop Hunter syndrome. A male can obtain an abnormal copy of the I2S gene in one of two ways. His mother is often a carrier; i.e., she has one abnormal and one normal I2S gene, and she passes along the abnormal gene to him. However, during egg and sperm formation, a mutation can develop in the I2S gene on his X chromosome. In this second case, the mother is not a carrier and the risk of a spontaneous mutation occurring again in a future sibling is low but not zero. Females can carry one abnormal copy of the I2S gene and are usually not affected. Hunter syndrome has been reported to occur in females.

**How is Hunter syndrome Diagnosed?** Many of the early signs and symptoms of Hunter syndrome are commonly seen in infants and toddlers, so the road to diagnosis often takes time. The path to diagnosis often includes:

- Symptoms usually appear between 2 to 4 years of age
- Visible signs and symptoms of Hunter syndrome (MPS II) are usually the first clues
- Doctors may use laboratory testing, to provide additional evidence that an MPS disorder is present and refer parents to a medical geneticist for further testing
- A definitive diagnosis of Hunter syndrome is made by measuring the iduronate-2 sulfatase (I2S) enzyme activity through a blood test.

**What are Needed Treatment and Supports for Hunter syndrome?** The child will need to be in the ongoing care of medical practitioners to address respiratory, pain management, eye care, and orthopedic needs. Audiology evaluations should be completed on a regular basis to ensure that the child receives possibly needed hearing aids and/or listening devices. The educational team may require the services of a teacher trained in the area of visual impairment and/or a teacher trained in deafness. In the event of a combined vision and hearing loss, the child will benefit from educational techniques specific to deafblindness. The child may require specialized instruction, aids, and/or equipment and appropriate related services to assure access to the general education curriculum.

**Resources:**

Brochure on Hunter syndrome can be found at: [http://www.hunterpatients.com/pdf/hunter\\_syndrome\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.hunterpatients.com/pdf/hunter_syndrome_brochure.pdf)

Hunter Patients: <http://www.hunterpatients.com/>

# Driving in Colorado with Low Vision

By Dr. Tom Theune and Jim Olson

To drive without restrictions, a driver must have a best corrected visual acuity of 20/40 or better in their best eye. Drivers with visual acuities of less than 20/40 in their best eye will fail the DMV central vision test and are given a DMV form to take to their eye care professional.

Acuities between 20/50 and 20/80 may be granted driving privileges with restrictions (such as daylight driving only, left and right side mirrors, restricted driving area, and restricted rate of speed). These drivers may also be considered for referral/fitting for a bioptic telescope system and training.

Acuities of 20/100 up to (but not including) 20/200 may also be granted driving privileges with additional restrictions such as a closer radius from home, a slower rate of speed. A behind the wheel driving assessment by motor vehicles or a certified driving instructor is strongly recommended at these acuity levels. These drivers may also be considered for referral/fitting for a bioptic telescope system and training. A visual acuity of 20/40 or better, through the bioptic telescope, is required.

The Colorado Optometric Association (COA) Low Vision Committee recommends that drivers with acuities of 20/200 or worse are not granted driving privileges, under any circumstances.

In June, 2006 the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles implemented a peripheral vision screening test. If the driver's horizontal visual field is 70 degrees or more binocularly, they may drive without restrictions. Visual fields found to be less than 70 degrees will fail the DMV vision test and drivers are given a form to take to their eye care professional. The eye doctor will restrict driving depending on the extent of the peripheral field loss.

Drivers training with an OTR/CDRS (Registered Occupational Therapist/Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist): For a listing, go to <http://www.driver-ed.org> and click on "CDRS Directory".

*Editors' Note: Thanks to Dr. Tom Theune and Jim Olson for this information, which was in response to a question on the cotvi coms listserv. Dr. Theune is on the Low Vision Committee of the Colorado Optometric Association.*



# BEHAVIOR

## **Behavior Expertise**

This page focuses upon where to access..well...expertise in behavior: the centers and projects that focus on it, behavior journals, professionals who can help, and a glossary of behavior terms. <http://nichcy.org/schoolage/behavior/expertise/>

## **Behavior Assessment, Plans, and Positive Supports**

Why is the student exhibiting this behavior? Behavioral assessments can help you answer that question-which, in turn, will help you provide appropriate positive behavior supports. <http://nichcy.org/schoolage/behavior/behavassess/>

## **Behavior at Home**

These resources connect families with resources and support to help a child with his or her behavior at home. <http://nichcy.org/schoolage/behavior/athome/>

## **Behavior at School**

What can teachers and administrators do to help children manage their behavior at school? What's recommended by disability and behavior specialists? What does the law require? <http://nichcy.org/schoolage/behavior/atschool/>

## **Bullying**

Bullying is a serious concern for many students with disabilities. Here are resources to help put an end to bullying. <http://nichcy.org/schoolage/behavior/bullying/>

## **Behavior resources for starters.**

Our *Effective Practices in Early Intervention* page will connect you with 7 top-notch resources on addressing challenging behavior in young children. <http://nichcy.org/babies/effectivepractices#behavior>

## **More on behavior: Individualizing interventions | A toolkit.**

This toolkit is designed to help mental health consultants guide teachers, teams, and families in developing and implementing an individualized plan of support that reduces challenging behavior in young children and promotes communication and social skills. From the Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation.

[http://www.ecmhc.org/facilitating\\_toolkit.html](http://www.ecmhc.org/facilitating_toolkit.html)

## **Is your child's behavior caused by a disability?**

Read more about how problem behavior and disability may coincide. <http://www.wrightslaw.com/nltr/11/nl.0215.htm>



# ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

## ORIENTATION & MOBILITY



### Orientation and Mobility and Professional Preparation: A JVIB Online Special Event!

The *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB)* is holding a special online e-learning event, and you are invited to attend! This special event will coincide with the publication of the **October-November Super Special Issue on O&M: "Orientation and Mobility and Professional Preparation: Celebrating 50 Years."** Special issue guest editors Richard G. Long, Ph.D., and Diane L. Fazzi, Ph.D. will moderate a discussion with and among readers of the special issue.

During the week of **October 17-21**, readers are invited to post comments and ask questions about the many critical issues and important trends affecting O&M practice today, using the *JVIB* Online comment-on-this-article feature on the Guest Editors' Page of the issue. The posted questions will be answered by the guest editors themselves. Access to the guest editorial on [JVIB Online](#) will be free during the week of this special event. You will need to be a *JVIB* subscriber, however, to make an online comment.

Contact Rebecca Burrichter, senior editor, *JVIB*, at [rburrichter@afb.net](mailto:rburrichter@afb.net). To subscribe to *JVIB* for just \$35, go to: <http://www.afb.org/jvibspecial.asp>.

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 listserv.

# Resources and Materials

## DVD on “In Their Own Words”

A new video DVD by the St. Louis Society for the Blind & Visually Impaired reveals inspiring stories of how the Society and its staff help improve quality of life for people of all ages with its meaningful programs and services. “In Their Own Words: Making a Difference” is the name of the video DVD featuring people who have

been blinded or visually impaired by accidents or illness, and who lead productive, rewarding lives thanks to programs and services the non-profit Society provides to children, adults and senior citizens.



Society for the Blind  
and Visually Impaired

“Free copies of our inspirational new video are available to schools, churches, businesses and non-profit organizations that want to learn more about our many programs and services,” said Society President David Ekin, ACSW, LCSW. To request a free copy of “In Their Own Words: Making a Difference,” contact the Society by calling 314.968.9000, or visit the website <http://www.SLSBVI.org>

## Guest blog for Special Education Advisor

NICHCY Project Director Elaine Mulligan contributed "All About the IEP" to our friends at Special Education Advisor. In this post, we identify answers to common questions like "What exactly are 'present levels'?" and "Who decides the appropriate placement/service delivery model for the child?" Check out "All About the IEP" at: <http://www.specialeducationadvisor.com/all-about-the-iep/>

## Promote children's success at reading

The National Research Council highlights the key aspects of language and literacy development from birth to grade 3, translating research findings into everyday practice. The report clearly identifies the skills that children must master to succeed in reading and includes practical guidelines for helping children to develop those skills.

*Read or download the full report:* [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=6014](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=6014)

*Listen to a podcast summarizing findings from the report:* [http://www.nap.edu/audioplayer.php?record\\_id=6014&n=0](http://www.nap.edu/audioplayer.php?record_id=6014&n=0)

## Free Webinar Series on Accessible Instructional Materials

The AIM Center webinars offer interactive opportunities to develop and extend knowledge about accessible instructional materials. The webinars are divided into three series to enable participants to select the webinars that focus most specifically on their individual needs, interests, and responsibilities. All webinars are free of charge and open to anyone. Check out 'AIM Basics' on Tuesday, October 4! <http://aim.cast.org/experience/training/webinars>

# Resources and Materials

## **DOE's new document on physical education, extracurricular athletics, and students with disabilities**

In August 2011, the U.S. Department of Education released *Creating Equal Opportunities for Children and Youth with Disabilities to Participate in Physical Education and Extracurricular Athletics*. This document responds to a report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), which found that opportunities for physical activity are limited for children and youth with disabilities. DOE provides an overview of the problem and offers suggestions for increasing opportunities for children and youth to access PE and athletics.

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/equal-pe.pdf>

## **NCES releases an e-book version of *The Condition of Education 2011***

*The Condition of Education 2011* summarizes important developments and trends in education using the latest available data. The 2011 report presents 50 indicators on the status and condition of education and includes indicators in five main areas: (1) participation in education; (2) learner outcomes; (3) student effort and educational progress; (4) the contexts of elementary and secondary education; and (5) the contexts of postsecondary education. For the first time, the book is made available in an e-book version, which can be used on the iPad, Nook, and other non-Kindle devices. The mobile file is for use on the Kindle only.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2011033>

## **Projections of Education Statistics to 2019**

Just released, from the National Center for Education Statistics, this 39th edition provides national-level data on enrollment, teachers, high school graduates, expenditures at the elementary and secondary school level, and enrollment and earned degrees at the postsecondary level for the past 14 years, and makes projections to the year 2019. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2011017>

## **Related services: Common supports for students with disabilities**

This new module from the IRIS Center describes related services and offers an overview of the benefits they provide to students with disabilities in the general education classroom. It highlights 5 commonly used related services (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, social work services, and psychological services) and briefly highlights many of the other related services identified in IDEA '04.

<http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/rs/chalcycle.htm>

## **100 useful tools for special needs students and educators**

This list of 100 useful tools can help students with disabilities use the Internet and other technology systems to tackle reading, math, organization, social skills, and more.

<http://www.teachingtips.com/blog/2009/09/07/100-useful-tools-for-special-needs-students-educators/>



# TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

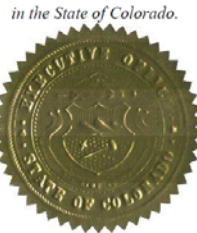
## Outcomes of young adults with disabilities up to 6 years after high school

This new IES report uses data from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 to provide a national picture of post-high school outcomes for students with disabilities. The report includes postsecondary enrollment rates; employment rates; engagement in employment, education, and/or job training activities; household circumstances (e.g., residential independence, parenting status); and social and community involvement. <http://ies.ed.gov/ncser/pubs/20113004/>

## State of educational practices for children who are deaf/hard of hearing

This new policy analysis from Project Forum is based on surveys sent to directors of special education and IDEA Part C coordinators. It includes information on state screening practices, schools for the deaf, services provided, professional development, funding, changes since cochlear implants became available, and challenges.

<http://projectforum.org/docs/ChildrenWhoareDeaf-HOH-StateoftheEducationalPractice.pdf>



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this thirtieth day of September, 2011  
*John Hickenlooper*  
John Hickenlooper  
Governor

*WHEREAS, more than 5,774,000 Americans in the labor force have a disability; and*

*WHEREAS, disabled workers are a valuable resource, and the unemployment rate for this sector is almost twice as high as the nondisabled workforce; and*

*WHEREAS, at more than 16 percent, the unemployment rate for Americans with disabilities is reaching record high, and in Colorado, disabled workers face an unemployment rate that is almost twice as high as the rest of the workforce; and*

*WHEREAS, for people with disabilities, getting a job is harder than it should be; and*

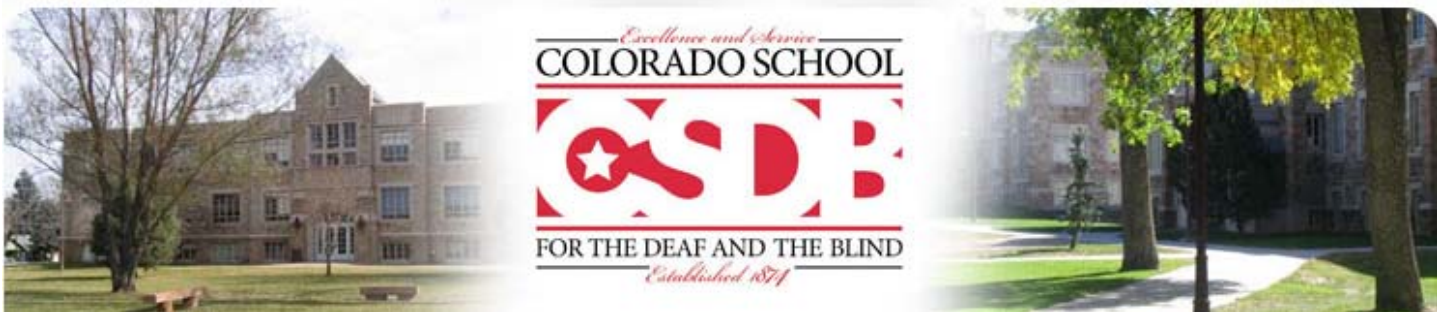
*WHEREAS, workers with disabilities are competent, dedicated employees who are willing to go the extra mile to be productive; and*

*WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities are prone to be problem-solvers because they have had to solve serious problems all their lives; and*

*WHEREAS, enhancing and building the diversity of the Colorado labor force is a critical component to workforce development;*

*Therefore, I, John Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim October, 2011,*

**DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH**



## Colorado Instructional Materials Center

The Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) provides braille and large print textbooks as well as instructional aids to students who are blind or visually impaired and are enrolled in Colorado's pre-K - 12 schools. The CIMC maintains an annual registration of Colorado students with visual impairments and registers those students who are legally blind with the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). The CIMC is able to purchase books through funds provided by the Colorado Department of Education, Colorado school districts, and the APH Federal Quota Registry.

**Important reminder: If you have a braille owned by CDE/CIMC in need of repair, your first step is to contact Debbie Haberkorn in the CIMC.**

DO NOT take braille directly to a braille repair person in your area.

The State of Colorado accounting procedures changed last year and we have to have an open purchase order in place and the vendor then needs to sign an IC Exhibit paperwork before any work can be done in the state system if payment of funds is involved.

CIMC also keeps a database which includes a repair history tracked by serial number and barcode of each device.

PLEASE begin all braille repair inquiries with the CIMC as your first point of contact.

Thank You, CIMC staff

*Jim Olson* (719) 578-2195

*Debbie Haberkorn* (719) 578-2197





## PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS

Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conferences are family-centered events designed to offer support, information and education to **both parents and professionals** who work with children with disabilities across Colorado. PEP promotes the partnerships between parents and professionals that are essential in supporting and including children with disabilities in schools and communities.

The 2011-2012 PEP Conferences will be held:

- **October 27-29, 2011 in Vail, Colorado**
- **February 2-4, 2012 in Colorado Springs, Colorado**
- **April 26-28, 2012 (Location to be determined)**

For more information about PEP and to complete the preliminary application, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp>. You may also call 303-866-6846 or 1-877-834-0588 toll-free for general information. We look forward to seeing you at PEP!

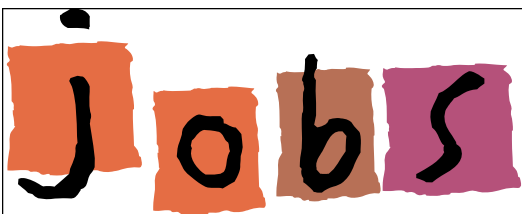


### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**Parents:** If you are moving out of state or your child has graduated, please be in touch so we can remove your name from our newsletter mailing list. If your child is still enrolled in a Colorado school district and you have a new mailing address, please be in touch with your address changes

**TVIs and COMSs:** 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! Send 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 call and leave her a voice message at (303) 866-6681.



## 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** (.6 FTE). Cherry Creek Schools. Please contact Dixie Periman at (720) 554-4250 or [dperiman@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:dperiman@cherrycreekschools.org)
- ✓ **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/COMS** (1 FTE): Aurora Public Schools. Apply online at [www.aps.k12.co.us](http://www.aps.k12.co.us). For more information contact Jo Cunningham at 720-271-9668 or Brenda Shepard @ 303 995 7913

### Southern Region Jobs

- ✓ **TVI - Elementary Education/Special Needs** (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information.
- ✓ **TVI - Mathematics** (1 FTE / Mathematics): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information.
- ✓ **Program Coordinator**, School for the Blind, (1 FTE): Contact Chelle Lutz, CSDB at [clutz@csdb.org](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) for more information.

### Statewide

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

# DOTS OF INTEREST



## **National Federation of the Blind 2011-2012 Braille Readers Are Leaders Contest**

The National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, the National Association to Promote the Use of Braille (NAPUB), and the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (NOPBC) are pleased to announce the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Braille Readers Are Leaders contest for students grades K-12. This contest encourages children around the country to be proud of their ability to read Braille and continually work to improve their skills. As in previous years students will read as many Braille pages as they can in two months (November 1, 2011, through January 4, 2012) to compete for ribbons, cash prizes, and an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2012 NFB national convention in Dallas, Texas.

For the third year NAPUB and the NFB Jernigan Institute are also offering a contest for mature Braille readers. Adults will compete for cash prizes, national recognition, and bragging rights!

Teams of two to five participants are welcome to compete in both the K-12 and adult contests again this year. Registration begins October 1, 2011. Form your teams, get some interesting reading material, and warm up your fingers! For detailed information about the K-12 and adult contests please visit [www.nfb.org/BRAL](http://www.nfb.org/BRAL).

### **Instructions**

To register fill out the simple online form at [www.nfb.org/BRAL](http://www.nfb.org/BRAL) to enter the contest. Collect leisure reading material (books, magazines, and whatever else you enjoy reading that has a title, author, and date of publication). Download the reading log at [www.nfb.org/BRAL](http://www.nfb.org/BRAL). Save it where you will be able to access it easily, or print it and log using a hard copy. Put your fingers to the paper. Update your “Pages Read” on the Leader Board to compete for additional prizes. Contestants competing for a special award in the K-12 contest must submit at least one letter of recommendation for each award. Submit your reading log, special award documentation, and final entry form no later than January 18, 2012, at [www.nfb.org/BRAL](http://www.nfb.org/BRAL).

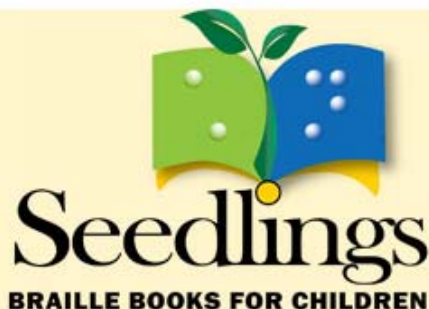
### **Important Dates**

- ◆ October 1, 2011: registration for the contest opens and continues through the end of the contest.
- ◆ November 1, 2011: contest begins, and participants start tracking their reading.
- ◆ January 4, 2012: Louis Braille’s birthday marks the end of the contest and the last day participants can count their pages.
- ◆ January 18, 2012: all documentation for the regular contest and special awards must be submitted to the NFB Jernigan Institute by midnight. This includes reading logs, letters of nomination, and final entry forms.
- ◆ March 2012: prizes are mailed out.

Paper forms may be downloaded via [www.nfb.org/BRAL](http://www.nfb.org/BRAL) or requested by e-mail, mail, telephone, or fax from: [BrailleReadersAreLeaders@nfb.org](mailto:BrailleReadersAreLeaders@nfb.org), or Braille Readers Are Leaders, 200 East Wells Street at Jernigan Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21230, Phone: (410) 659-9314, extension 2312, Fax: (410) 659-5129



# DOTS OF INTEREST



"By the touch of a finger  
behold the world." ©

Over 1,100 low-cost  
children's books in braille!

## Free Braille Books

Seedlings' "Book Angel Program" is open to visually impaired children who live in the US and Canada. Through this program each child can receive two free Seedlings' books each year. Simply list four books from the Seedlings catalog and you will receive two of them. To register, fill out the online form found at [www.seedlings.org/special.php](http://www.seedlings.org/special.php). (Click on "2011 Book Angel Program for V-I Children.") Print-Braille-&-Picture Books are a good way to introduce Braille to toddlers; the Print-&-Braille Easy-Readers are good for beginning readers; and the "Braille Only" books are perfect for older, more independent readers. To obtain more information, contact Debra Bonde, Director, Seedlings Braille Books for Children, [www.seedlings.org](http://www.seedlings.org) or by calling 800-777-8552.

## Humanware™ SCHOLARSHIP

HumanWare Scholarship: HumanWare announces an essay contest promoting early braille literacy. In one thousand words or less, tell HumanWare why you feel braille literacy will be key to your child's success and describe the role you think the Mountbatten Learning System will play in his or her future. Essays must be submitted with the written support of an early childhood or early intervention professional. Parents and professionals are welcome to provide any supporting material to their application.

All applicants must reside in the United States or its Territories. Entries on behalf of children between the ages of 3 and 8 years, who are learning braille or are assessed as future braille learners, will be accepted. The winner will receive a complete Mountbatten Learning System Educational pack, and must be willing to participate in promotional events or to attend a public award ceremony. Entries must be submitted before December 31, 2011. To email your entry, or for more information, contact Sharon Spiker at [sharon.spiker@humanware.com](mailto:sharon.spiker@humanware.com).



# Calendar of Events

2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011 2011

- October 1 - 31**                      **AUs will be mailed spreadsheets of current enrollment data as reported by school districts to the CIMC** Contact: Jim Olson – [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- October 13**                              **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB, Colorado Springs**  
Contact: Sue Pfaffenhauser at [spfaffenhauser@csdb.org](mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.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 15**                              **WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY!!!**  
Visit: [www.nfb.org/nfb/White\\_Cane\\_Safety\\_Day.asp](http://www.nfb.org/nfb/White_Cane_Safety_Day.asp)
- October 15**                              **“Tools for Life” See the Future Fund Application Deadline**  
Visit: [www.seethefuture.org](http://www.seethefuture.org)
- October 27**                              **Colorado Deafblind Census Packets Mailed to Contact Personnel**  
Contact: Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- October 27-29**                      **CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment—Denver, CO**  
Contact: Tanni Anthony at [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- October 28 - 30**                      **AER Regional Conference 2011 - Cleveland, OH**  
Contact: [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)
- October 31**                              **FIRST DAY for DACs to order Braille, Large Print - Other Special Format Orders for TCAPs (formerly called CSAP Tests)**
- November 3 - 6**                      **Colorado State NBF Convention - Denver, CO**  
Visit: [www.cocenter.org](http://www.cocenter.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)
- November 10**                              **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB, Colorado Springs**  
Contact: Sue Pfaffenhauser at [spfaffenhauser@csdb.org](mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.org)
- November 14**                              **Southern Region TVI Meeting - CSDB, Colorado Springs (1 - 3 pm)**  
Contact: Jim Olson – [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- November 18**                              **Deadline to return updated VI Registration spreadsheets to the CIMC**  
Contact: Jim Olson – [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)

## More Calendar of Events

2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011    2011

- November 18**                      **CAER Meeting**  
Contact: Mike Plansker at [Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org](mailto:Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org)
- November 23**                      **LAST DAY** for DACs to order Braille/Large Print or Other Special Format TCAPs
- 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)
- December 12**                      **Southern Region TVI Meeting** - CSDB, Colorado Springs (1 - 3 pm)  
Contact: Jim Olson – [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- December 12**                      **Colorado English Language Acquisition Proficiency Assessment (CELApro)**  
 Early Testing Window for Speaking begins K-12 Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking
- December 16**                      **CIMC will mail corrected VI Registration spreadsheets to districts**  
Contact: Jim Olson – [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- December 16**                      **Colorado Deafblind Census Packets Due Back to CDE ESLU**  
Contact: Tanni Anthony (303) 866-6681 or [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)

2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012    2012

- January 2**                              **CIMC Federal Quota count day**  
Contact: Jim Olson – [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- January 9**                              **Southern Region TVI Meeting** - CSDB, Colorado Springs (1 - 3 pm)  
Contact: Jim Olson – [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- January 12 - 31**                      **Colorado English Language Acquisition Proficiency Assessment (CELApro)**  
 Testing Window for Grades K-12 Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking
- January 12**                              **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB, Colorado Springs  
Contact: Sue Pfaffenhauser at [spfaffenhauser@csdb.org](mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.org)
- January 31**                              **Deadline for returning corrected count day spreadsheets to the CIMC**  
Contact: Jim Olson – [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- February 2 - March 23**                      **Colorado Alternate (CoAlt) - Testing Window**  
 Grades 3-10 Rdg, Grades 3-10 Wrtg, Grades 3-10 Math, Grades 5, 8,& 10 Science
- February 8**                              **CAER Meeting**  
Contact: Mike Plansker at [Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org](mailto:Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org)
- February 9**                              **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB, Colorado Springs  
Contact: Sue Pfaffenhauser at [spfaffenhauser@csdb.org](mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.org)
- February 10-12**                      **Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - TBD  
Contact: Rita Albright [rita.albright@bvsd.org](mailto:rita.albright@bvsd.org) / Vicki Pearson at [vpearson1@yahoo.com](mailto:vpearson1@yahoo.com)

## More Calendar of Events

2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
February 13										<b>Southern Region TVI Meeting</b> - CSDB, Colorado Springs (1 - 3 pm) <u>Contact:</u> Jim Olson – <a href="mailto:jolson@csdb.org">jolson@csdb.org</a>
February 13 - 24										<b>Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP)</b> - Early Testing Window Grade 3 Reading or Lectura
February 24 - 26										<b>Snow Shoe Weekend</b> <u>Contact:</u> Mike Plansker at <a href="mailto:Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org">Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org</a>
February 27 - March 9										<b>Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP)</b> - Regular Testing Window Grade 3 Reading or Lectura
March 2										<b>“Education for Life” See the Future Fund Application Deadline</b> <u>Visit:</u> <a href="http://www.seethefuture.org">www.seethefuture.org</a>
March 2										<b>Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic</b> - CSDB, Colorado Springs <u>Contact:</u> Donice Fennimore 719-578-2100 / <a href="mailto:dfennimore@csdb.org">dfennimore@csdb.org</a>
March 5 - April 6										<b>Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP)</b> - Early Testing Window
March 7										<b>CAER Meeting</b> - (by phone) <u>Contact:</u> Mike Plansker <a href="mailto:Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org">Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org</a>
March 8										<b>CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting</b> - CSDB, Colorado Springs <u>Contact:</u> Sue Pfaffenhauser - <a href="mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.org">spfaffenhauser@csdb.org</a>
March 12 - April 13										<b>Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP)</b> - Regular Testing Window
April 2 - 27										<b>11th Grade Alternate Testing Window</b>
April 3 - 5										<b>Canadian Vision Teacher’s Conference 2012</b> - Richmond Hill, Ontario <u>Contact:</u> Kevin Stewart at <a href="mailto:Kevin.stewart@yrdsb.edu.on.ca">Kevin.stewart@yrdsb.edu.on.ca</a>
April 9										<b>Southern Region TVI Meeting</b> - CSDB, Colorado Springs (1 - 3 pm) <u>Contact:</u> Jim Olson – <a href="mailto:jolson@csdb.org">jolson@csdb.org</a>
April 11										<b>CAER Meeting</b> - <u>Contact:</u> Mike Plansker at <a href="mailto:Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org">Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org</a>
April 11 - 14										<b>National Council of Exceptional Children</b> - Denver, CO <u>Visit:</u> <a href="http://www.cec.sped.org">www.cec.sped.org</a>
April 12										<b>CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting</b> - CSDB, Colorado Springs <u>Contact:</u> Sue Pfaffenhauser at <a href="mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.org">spfaffenhauser@csdb.org</a>
April 24										<b>Colorado ACT (CO ACT)</b> - Initial Test Date, Grade 11
April 30 - May 4										<b>Data Entry on the ADE Site for 11th Grade Alternate Test</b>

## More Calendar of Events

2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012

- May 8** Colorado ACT (CO ACT) - Make-up Test Date, Grade 11
- May 14** Southern Region TVI Meeting - CSDB, Colorado Springs (1 - 3 pm)  
Contact: Jim Olson – [jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)
- July 17 - 22** AER 2012 International Conference - Bellevue, WA  
Visit: [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org)
- June 6** CAER Meeting - Left Hand, Longmont  
Contact: Mike Plansker at [Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org](mailto:Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org)
- June 11 - 15** 2012 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and SSN - Denver, CO  
Contact: Tanni Anthony at 303-866-6681 / [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)
- June 21** CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB, Colorado Springs  
Contact: Sue Pfaffenhauser at [spfaffenhauser@csdb.org](mailto:spfaffenhauser@csdb.org)

## OCTOBER 15TH IS WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY!!!



**For more information check out:**

**[http://www.nfb.org/nfb/White Cane Safety Day.asp](http://www.nfb.org/nfb/White_Cane_Safety_Day.asp)**



## **DVD on the Individualized Education Program In English and Espanol**

The Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Leadership Unit (ESLU) has developed a DVD on the IEP process. This DVD, presented in English or Spanish, summarizes the IEP process and supplements the information with tips and comments by parents and professionals. There is specific mention of students with sensory disabilities in the videos. You can watch the video from the CDE website and also download a transcript of the DVD.

The English version of the DVD may be found at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/media/IEPVideo/IEPVideo.html>

The Spanish version of the DVD may be found at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/media/IEPVideo/IEPVideoSP.html>

## **Part C Guidelines for Your Review**

The U.S. Department of Education has announced the release of the final regulations for the early intervention program under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These final regulations will help improve services and outcomes for America's infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

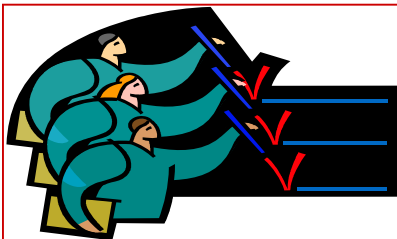
The final Part C regulations incorporate provisions in the 2004 amendments to Part C of the IDEA. Additionally, the final regulations provide States with flexibility in some areas, while ensuring State accountability to improve results and providing needed services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. The regulations focus on measuring and improving outcomes for the approximately 350,000 children served by the Part C program with the goal of ensuring that such children are ready for preschool and kindergarten.

The official version of this document will be published in the Federal Register. The pre-publication Part C final regulations are posted at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/news.html>. In addition, the Part C portion of [IDEA.ed.gov](http://IDEA.ed.gov) is now live.

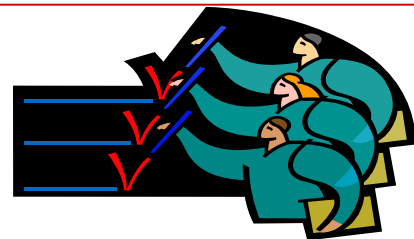
### **Updated CDE Accommodations Manual**

The 2011- 2012 Colorado Accommodations Manual is now available on the CDE Unit of Student Assessment website.

Please go to <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeassess/publications.html> to download the manual, which details both instructional and assessment accommodations specifically for students with visual disabilities, including deafblindness.



# CHECK IT OUT!



## The USABA Has Moved Offices!

The United States Association of Blind Athletes is pleased to announce that the National Headquarters Offices have moved to the U.S. Olympic Sport House in Colorado Springs, CO. USABA's new contact information is:



**1 Olympic Plaza \* Colorado Springs, CO 80909 \* (719) 866-3224**

“In alignment with our strategic plan and our vision to be the nation’s leading sports resource provider for people who are blind and visually impaired, the move into the United States Olympic Committee’s Sport House further fosters our organizational growth which can only better serve our athletes,” said Mark Lucas, USABA Executive Director. He continued, “I would also like to thank the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind for providing office space to USABA for the last 23 years.” The U.S. Olympic Sport House is also home to several National Governing Bodies, including USA Boxing, USA Weightlifting, USA Judo, USA Badminton and USA Taekwondo.

## How Does Our Government Work?

Opportunity to Visit Washington, DC

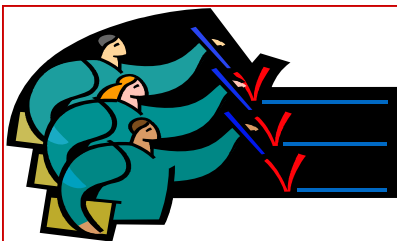
The Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind is sponsoring a 7-day learning adventure in Washington, D.C. for high school students and educators. The program, Close Up, develops students' knowledge of basic concepts of government and citizenship. It is the hope of CSDB to send one student who attends a school other than CSDB and one CSDB student. Students interested in going need to complete an application form which will be posted on the CSDB website during fall 2011. For more information, please contact Laura Douglas at [ldouglas@csdb.org](mailto:ldouglas@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2110.

## Blind Link

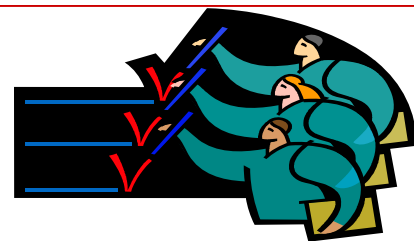
Blind Link is a Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Services Program that connects adult blind mentors with blind/visually impaired kids for activities and fun. In honor of White Cane Day, CO-POBC families will join with Blind Link for a Cane Pride walk at Stern Park in Littleton, CO. For more information about this program, please contact Brent Batron at [bbatron@cocenter.org](mailto:bbatron@cocenter.org) or (303) 778-1130 x 222

## Autism Spectrum Disorders Collection

This collection is the product of the IDEA Partnership's collaborative work on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) with 12 partner organization representatives, 9 national and state technical assistance providers, and a number of state and local organizations and agencies. The Autism Spectrum Disorders collection includes Guiding Principles, Fact Sheets, Essential Elements, a Resource Guide, Standards of Evidence in Autism Spectrum Disorders, and more! Find the collection itself at: [http://www.ideapartnership.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1493](http://www.ideapartnership.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1493)



**CHECK IT OUT!**



## **Multi-Tier System of Supports (RtI) Implementation Grant**

CDE's State Personnel Development Grant from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) supports professional development activities that target a fully integrated multi-tier system of supports. More specifically, this framework is known as Response to Intervention (RtI) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS).

Through this grant, CDE is funding eight mini-grants in which districts receive up to \$10,000 in fiscal support as well as technical assistance from a CDE Technical Assistance Coordinator (TAC). The TAC support includes the following services as part of the grant: (a) Monthly planning meetings with the District Leadership Team; (b) Technical assistance to support district/school implementation efforts' and (c) Training and support in the use of RtI Implementation Rubrics.

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the Multi-tier System of Supports (RtI) Implementation mini-grants for the 2011-12 school year. Congratulations to the following eight districts: Mesa County Valley School District 51; Thompson School District R2-J; Poudre School District; Bayfield School District; Weld Re-4 School District (Windsor); NW Colorado BOCES; Archuleta School District 50 JT; and Weld County Re-8 Schools (Fort Lupton)

Another cohort of RtI mini-grant applications will be available for the 2012-13 school year at the beginning of the calendar year. For more information, Contact: Michael Ramirez - Phone: 303-866-6991 or Email: [ramirez\\_m@cde.state.co.us](mailto:ramirez_m@cde.state.co.us)

## **Upcoming Regional Child Find Meetings**

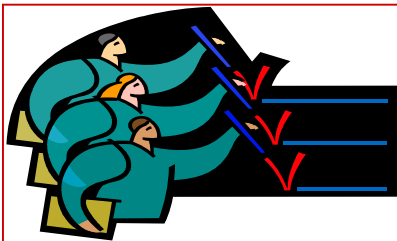
Seven locations have been scheduled for the fall regional Child Find meetings. Local Part C directors have been invited to the first two hours of these day-long meetings. During that portion of the meeting the following topics will be discussed: initial Part C evaluations, Transition from Part C to Part B, child find's role in Part C child outcomes reporting process. The remainder of the day will focus specifically on preschool child find issues.

The agenda includes: data collection on the Preschool Educational Environments codes, Indicator 6 and preschool least restrictive environment (LRE), timely child find referrals and parent consent for evaluation, update on the task force that is providing recommendations on changes to the "preschool with a disability" eligibility category, and state & federal updates. These meetings are intended for Child Find coordinators, however, special education directors and other early childhood administrators are always welcome. The scheduled meetings are:

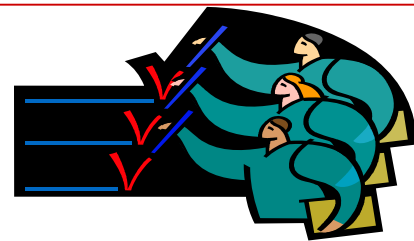
October 2 - Telluride (already happened)	October 14 - Breckenridge
October 17 - Glenwood Springs	November 7 - Colorado Springs
November 28 - Pueblo	December 5 - Loveland
December 12 - Denver	

For More Information, Contact: Heidi McCaslin at 303-866-6667 or Email: [mccaslin\\_h@cde.state.co.us](mailto:mccaslin_h@cde.state.co.us)





**CHECK IT OUT!**



## **Arts Education in Colorado: Guidebook and Resources**

This guidebook provides Colorado schools and districts with research-based information and ideas on ways to improve or expand their arts education programs. As the economic needs of the state have evolved, so has the urgency to provide our students with an education that will best prepare them for the workforce of tomorrow, one that will require the learning and innovation skills that are taught most effectively through the arts: invention, creativity and innovation, critical thinking and reasoning, self-direction, communication and collaboration.

The task force associated with the guidebook recognizes that all students in Colorado should have access to quality arts instruction during their learning process in school. This guide is intended to help schools, districts, parents, community members and most importantly, the students, gain equal access to the arts.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/DropoutPrevention/studentengagement.htm>

## **New Educator Licensing System - Important Heads Up!**

As of October 15, CDE's Educator Licensing Office will discontinue using the old licensing system. This will require that all applications submitted after this date will have to be returned to the applicants. The applicants will be re-directed to apply through our new eLicensing system at: <https://www.colorado.gov/cde/licensing/>



## **THE 57TH ANNUAL NFBCO CONVENTION**

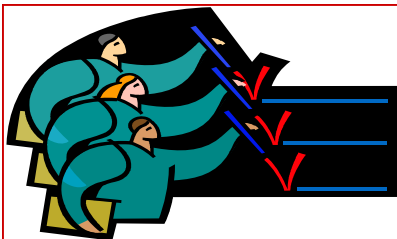
**November 3 - 6, 2011**

**DoubleTree Hotel, 3203 Quebec Street in Denver**

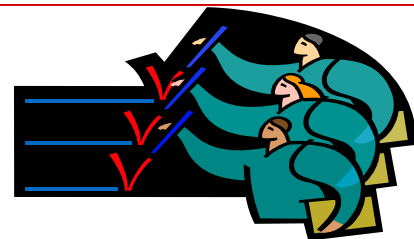
We are delighted to have **Patti Chang** from Illinois as our national representative; she will be delivering a keynote address at the Saturday Evening Banquet. Online convention registration is now open, go to [www.nfbco.org](http://www.nfbco.org) to preregister for the convention. For more information please contact President Scott LaBarre at 303-504-5979 or email him at [slabarre@labarrelaw.com](mailto:slabarre@labarrelaw.com).

## **Keeping Up with NFB Programs**

Are you interested in keeping up to date with Youth Programs sponsored by the National Federation of the Blind? Do you want to know what happened at the Youth Slam? Check out [Whozit's page on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001816645242) located at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001816645242> There you can find updates on activities and a gallery of Youth Slam Pictures.



# CHECK IT OUT!



## New Presentations: APH Webcast Training Series

This past summer the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) has been busy putting together webcast training presentations that you can view at your convenience. This month's products include: The Light Box and Sense of Science Series, The Digital Light Box Artwork, and 4 step-by-step tutorials on how to get started using the new software APH Talking PC Maps: "Introduction," "Getting Started," "Exploration" and "More Exploration." These webcast training presentations, as well as older recorded presentations, may be found in our webcast archive page at: [www.aph.org/webcast](http://www.aph.org/webcast) If you have ideas on products you'd like to see featured in our Webcast Training Series, please send your suggestions to Maria Delgado at: [mdelgado@aph.org](mailto:mdelgado@aph.org)

## Field Test Sites Needed

APH seeks field test sites for the new Spangle Tangle toy. This one color Tangle® has smooth and textured segments; it reflects and shines like chrome. Each Spangle Tangle has a custom-designed stand that sticks to wheelchair trays or table tops. The stand allows learners who have visual impairment or blindness accompanied with limited motor skills to manipulate the Tangle and participate in learning activities and games. The product also comes with two tube stands and three tubes for expanded learning opportunities. The instruction guide describes in detail how to build Tangle creations for specific activities. Prototypes will ship this month! If you are interested, contact [tpierce@aph.org](mailto:tpierce@aph.org)

## Another Field Testing Opportunity

Field testers are needed to evaluate the prototype of a **new DNA & RNA model** with their high school students who are visually impaired. The model demonstrates Double-stranded DNA, DNA replication, and Transcription of DNA to mRNA. Prototypes are available for field testing and will be sent out in late September or early October 2011. Evaluations must be returned by December 2011.

If you are interested in field testing AND you have one or more high school students with whom you can use this prototype, please tell me your

Name

School/Agency address with zip code

The best phone number(s) to reach you

Email address

Educational level of your student(s)



Contact Rosanne Hoffmann, [rhoffmann@aph.org](mailto:rhoffmann@aph.org), 502/899-2292 or 800/223-1839, ext 292.



## **APH Guidelines for Print Document Design Have Been Updated!**

In an ongoing effort to share information about best practices for designing accessible media, we have updated our APH guidelines for creating print and large print materials. The revisions were based on extensive research and feedback from low vision readers.

“APH Guidelines for Print Document Design” was created by APH Low Vision Project Leader Elaine Kitchel, who has years of experience designing products for low vision users.

A few of the many revisions to these guidelines include:

Improved specifications for maps, charts, graphs, and graphics to make them as readable and usable as the surrounding large print.

Application of colors or fills preferred by low vision and color-blind readers where necessary to improve recognition and decoding.

Implementation of alternating color bands to facilitate comprehension of text-dense documents such as a table of contents.

You can find our revised print document guidelines, as well as best practices for accessible media such as braille, tactile graphics, and assessments on the Accessible Media Guidelines page, located at <http://www.aph.org/accessible-media-guidelines/>

## **Assistive Technology Awareness Week is October 16 - 22, 2011**

By Proclamation of John Hickenlooper, Governor of Colorado

Please join us as we continue our efforts to build awareness & recognition for the advancement of technologies that aid, assist & enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

**Open Houses October 19, 2011 5:30 - 7:30pm at these locations:**

**Assistive Technology Partners Denver Office**

601 East 18th Avenue Suite 130, Denver, CO 80203, Tel: 303-315-1280

**ATP Western Colorado (WesTAC)**

2897 North Avenue Module 3A, Grand Junction, CO 81501, Tel: 970-248-0876

**ATP Southeastern Colorado (SETAC) Hosted at: Bellwether Nutrition & Rehabilitative Services**

201 Lamkin Street Suite 101A, Pueblo CO 81003, Tel: 719-380-6229

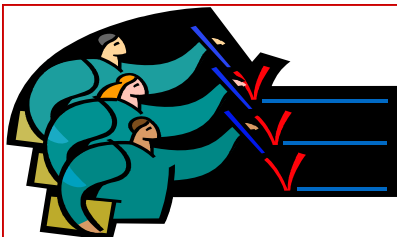


**Assistive Technology Partners**

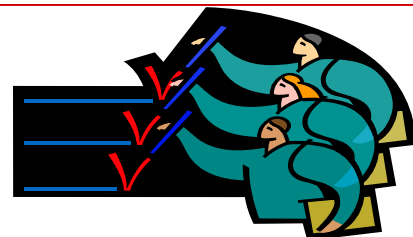
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



# CHECK IT OUT!



## educator series

knowledge is most powerful when shared

TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES PROGRAM



### Cindy's Corner

Welcome to *Cindy's Corner*. Each month we will share a new hands-on activity that will provide students with a fun way to work on meaningful skills. These activities have been adapted to meet the needs of students who are visually impaired including those with additional disabilities. Developed to be used by teachers and families alike, these activities have been prepared by Cindy O'Connell, a teacher of the visually impaired with 35 years of experience, who has also served as a mentor and a consultant in the field both nationally and internationally.

[http://www.perkins.org/assets/downloads/educators-series/ed\\_series\\_sept2011\\_cindyscorner\\_freebie.pdf](http://www.perkins.org/assets/downloads/educators-series/ed_series_sept2011_cindyscorner_freebie.pdf)

## Including Students with Albinism Perkins Webcast



In this webcast Perkins and NOAH (National Organization for Albinism & Hypopigmentation) are pleased to present Susan Dalton, M.S.Ed., CVRT as she shares her insights on Including Students with Albinism in the Regular Education Classroom. Susan Dalton is the co-founder of Northern Illinois NOAH where she served as president of NOAH's largest chapter for over 20 years. She has also been a NOAH board member and the chairperson for five NOAH national conferences. Ms. Dalton directs a program for the State of Illinois addressing the transition needs of blind and visually impaired teens and is on the faculty of Northern Illinois University, Department of Teaching and Learning. Ms. Dalton is the parent of three adult children, two of whom have albinism.

[http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts Including Students With Albinism](http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts_Including_Students_With_Albinism)

# Vision Coalition Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2011

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

**Persons Absent:** Kathryn Botsford, LaVerne Dell

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome aboard new VC member Kathryn Botsford! Kathryn will be representing the Colorado AER Chapter.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Northern Region (Wendy Stoltman)

Our area is feeling the effects of the downturn in the economy. Several districts have lost both TVIs and Paraprofessionals due to budget cuts. Because of this, we have not scheduled any meetings for our area for this year (as of yet). Rita Albright and Vicki Pearson will be hosting the Low Vision Clinic this year in Fort Collins at the Ensign Center. Our area would like to propose holding the clinic in the fall next year. Our clinic has always been in the spring, and we would like to take advantage of a longer school year to implement recommendations, as well as better weather conditions for driving.

Rita from Boulder reports that “If you have a technology challenge that you need help with, consider contacting Bonnie Snyder with a request for a SKYPE date. I did this a few times over the summer with notetaker challenges, pairing the refreshable braille 18 with the iPad, etc. and it was helpful. Did it from the comfort of my home and didn't need to travel.” Rita suggests that others consider making this request from Bonnie.

We would like to commend the CIMC for the timeliness of responses with such a limited staff.

Dr. Cary Supalo will be at CU/Boulder on Thursday, September 1st, visiting with the office of disabilities, CU students with vision disabilities and the science department. Teachers from the northern region have been invited to join the students in visiting with him

### *Discussion Items:*

*The Northern region would like to be considered for an earlier low vision evaluation clinic date for school year 2012-13. This will allow the students in the northern region to have earlier access to low vision devices in the school year. This may mean that another region will have a later date. This request will be honored, contingent upon continued funding of the regional low vision clinics.*

*There is a request for TVIs to share their technology and new material information with one another across the state. Could this be a role for the CSDB Outreach – to be vigilant about sharing information about new technology and materials? Another suggestion is for TVIs and COMS to actively use the listserv to share their experiences with new products. Judy shared a resource – the Quality Indicators for Assistive Tech Services (Qiat). This listserv is open to service providers and families. People can ask questions or responds to others. There are many people on with vision questions/needs/answers as well as other assistive technology needs. The web link is: [http://natri.uky.edu/assoc\\_projects/qiat/](http://natri.uky.edu/assoc_projects/qiat/)*

*Tanni asked if people would be interested in a monthly or bimonthly phone discussion on a selected article or a device topic. Paula shared that Division 17 of AER does a comparable type of training/discussion forum. One of the challenges will be to find a time period that generally works across the school day – Tanni will follow up with an electronic survey to see if there is a general time that will work for TVIs and COMSs.*

*Wendy also announced that she will retire at the end of this school year.*

## **Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)**

We had our first metro TVI meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Knight is coordinating the regional meetings this year. Part of the meeting included generating ideas for future meetings including topics such as discussion of appropriate O&M services for different ages, making new simulator kits, etc. Several TVIs signed up for Anchor Center's lunch bunch monthly parent gatherings. If you have not yet signed up and could be available sometime this year, check with Nancy Knight on what dates still need to be filled. We scheduled 3 more meetings for the 2011-12 school year. They will be held on Fridays from 3:00-4:30. (We will be confirming that Anchor Center will be available to host each of the meetings.) November 4, 2011 (to be held at Anchor Center for Blind Children); February 3, 2012 (location to be determined) and April 13, 2012 (location to be determined).

We had two guest speakers at our first meeting. Ann Cunningham shared her latest ideas on how to present simple, on-the-spot, tactual graphics using rubber boards, copy paper and pens. She is interested in getting a small group of students (approximately 5) ages 5-21 and TVIs to get together for a couple of hours to brainstorm with her. This group would look at projects that could generate ideas for improvement of this type of tool. Anyone interested can contact Ann Cunningham at [ann@sensationalbooks.com](mailto:ann@sensationalbooks.com). Our other guest speaker was Scott Chaplick, the new owner of Beyond Sight in Littleton. He shared a few of the latest products in his store as well as gave everyone a chance to ask questions about services.

The Metro Low Vision Clinic is November 11-13. It is imperative that paperwork get in on time. Students will not be able to attend the clinic if the paperwork is not submitted completely to Nancy Knight by October 24<sup>th</sup>. The information has already gone out via email so get started!

### *Discussion Items:*

*What happened to the possibility of pulling O&M out separately from the severity rating scale?* The work that started a few years back was halted due to lack of progress on the proposed Colorado tool. In the interim, the Michigan folks have completed a scale specific to O&M. This is a strong tool. Tanni will disseminate it to the CO O&M Scale on the Colorado O&MSs to determine if this is the tool we want to use within the state or if people want to resurrect a Colorado tool. Charlotte shared that Anchor Center has used the Michigan Severity Rating Scale and made some tweaks for their population of infants and toddlers. She will send this information to Tanni.

*Caseload determination- Are districts using the severity rating scale? If so, how? If not, how are determinations made?* The decision to use the Colorado rating scale that is on the CDE Blind/Low Vision website is up to an individual district. TVIs and COMSS should continue to share this tool with their program supervisors.

*Voc. Rehab- Questions:* There are reported differences of what services should be provided to school-age students who are blind/visually impaired. This information will be shared with LaVerne Dell for her input. The goal is to ensure that TVIs know what to expect of their local / regional rehabilitation counselor.

## **Southern Region (Judy Mumford)**

### *Thoughts about Summer*

The summer flowers began blooming

Our fun travels took us to places new,

The time at home with our families was relaxing

We hope the same was true for you.

The southern region folks are happy to share that Deb and Chris Andrews are proud parents of a new baby girl, Paige Mackenzie. Paige was born Sept 11 weight 7 lb 13oz and is 19 1/2" long. The happy family is doing well. Donice Fennimore is covering for Deb in Cheyenne Mountain District.

We had a great turnout for our first meeting on September 12, 2011 and some great information was shared. Topics included: "Skype" demonstration (Bonnie Snyder), low vision clinic preparation/discussion (Donice Fennimore), Orientation and Mobility updates (Patty Wagner, DVR. Other discussion included: Bookshare's "Read2Go" app; Braille Institute's "Vision Sim" app; Video: Blind Ambition: Imagine Cup winner, Note-Taker which enables low vision students to take notes in class with the assistance of a custom-designed portable camera, a touch-screen Tablet PC, and Microsoft OneNote; and HumanWare's updated audio tutorial for the Stream.

*Southern Region TVI meeting schedule 2011-2012:* Our next meeting will be October 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 to 3:30 CSDB Lion Con-

ference Room. Thanks to CSDB for supporting our meeting location.

- November 14, 2011 (1:00 – 3:00pm, CSDB - Lions conference room)
- December 12, 2011 (1:00 – 3:00pm, CSDB - Lions conference room)
- January 9, 2012 (1:00 – 3:00pm, CSDB - Lions conference room)
- February 13, 2012 (1:00 – 3:00pm, CSDB - Lions conference room)
- March – No Meeting
- April 9, 2012 (1:00 – 3:00pm, CSDB - Lions conference room)
- May 14, 2012 (1:00 – 3:00pm, CSDB - Lions conference room)



**Southern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic** - (hosted on CSDB's campus, Adams Building). The clinic team would like to thank Donice Fennimore for all of her hard work as regional coordinator for this year's first clinic. Ten students received evaluations. Thanks to the TVIs in Widefield, Fountain Fort Carson, D 11, and CSDB for sending students and attending the clinic with them. We are so fortunate to have the Low Vision Evaluation Clinic, many thanks.

**Southern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Part 2 (March 2, 2012)** - (To be hosted on CSDB's campus, Adams Building). 6 appointments are available. Clinic paperwork is due to Donice Fennimore, regional clinic coordinator, no later than February 17, 2012 or the appointment will be cancelled. Contact Donice Fennimore, [dfennimore@ppboces.org](mailto:dfennimore@ppboces.org)

The state definition terminology is getting positive feedback in the southern region. One area of question will be reviewed during the discussion on this topic.

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

The start of the school year has been extremely busy. In the Mesa Valley school district we started out with a new assessment the first week of school. The STAR computerized assessment has replaced the NWEA and MAP assessments. We're running into many errors in the reading assessment and accessibility for braille readers. There have been a lot of discussion and questions about this assessment but no definite answers to our concerns. Grand Junction is getting ready to host the Low Vision Clinic Sept 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>. The experience students have with the Low Vision team is always beneficial and greatly appreciated.

We'd like to welcome Brandon Mapes as our newest TVI on the western slope. He is replacing Julie King in the Mtn. BOCES region. Big congratulations to Brooke Miller (formally Sanden) who got married this summer and to our delight decided to continue working in the Mountain BOCES region.

#### *Discussion items:*

*Districts that are using the STAR assessment, what alternative assessment are you using for Braille readers?* This test is not accessible for students who are blind, per the company's advertised ability for the test to be accommodated. Tanni has been in touch with the two state contacts for STAR and they have promised to respond to questions about alternative options for students who are blind. One district noted that some of their students use the STAR, but continue to use a paper and pencil version of NWEA. Another district reported that MAPS was upgraded and was initially no longer compatible with Zoomtext.

*What is the CDE recommending as an alternative to computerized assessments?* This is a district-by-district decision. If a computerized assessment is used as a district-wide assessment, it is the district's responsibility to ensure that (a) there is district document detailing accommodations and (b) there is an alternate assessment for the one percent population of learners.

*Since STARS is being used as a progress monitoring test, can our braille students be excused because there is no alternative test available at a district level?* Best-practice thinking is that progressing monitoring tools should be reflective of instructional practice (inclusive of accommodations) and should be available to all learners.

*How involved does/should/can a TVI involve his/herself with SPED curricular decisions?* It is always recommended that the TVI build relationships with teachers and others directly involved in the curriculum and curricular decisions. TVIs should share their insights and concerns with appropriate school personnel, such as special education directors.

### **CAER (Kathryn Botsford and Nancy Cozart)**

CAER is continuing to support professionals and the families, clients, and students they serve through our CAER Mini-Grants. Our next round of Mini-Grants will be awarded at the November 2011 CAER Board Meeting. Deadline for the round of Mini-Grant requests is November 17, 2011. CAER wants to announce two new activities for this fall:

*Mini-Grant Fundraising: October 15 is White Cane Day!* In celebration of White Cane Day CAER is sponsoring a T-Shirt design contest. Design entries must be submitted to the CAER Board by September 23, 2011. The winning design will be screen printed onto t-shirts and the winner gets a free t-shirt. T-shirts will be pre-sold at \$15 each: there is an additional \$5.00 for people who want to have their shirts mailed. Our plan is to have the shirts into people's hands in time to wear them for White Cane Day. CAER would like to continue this as an annual event. Proceeds will go to support the CAER Mini-Grants.

*Professional Development:* CAER arranged for Humanware's Kevin Hughes to teach a workshop on Notetaker Technology. The first one was held September 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and had about 30 people, including TVIs, parents, and some students. Proceeds will go to support the CAER Mini-Grants. Be watching for more offerings!

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

It has been a busy time within the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) since May. At the end of May, the Colorado Center for the Blind in conjunction with DVR staff, launched the first annual Federal job fair/education event. Federal hiring managers from across the state came together to learn about blind/vision loss and the skills and accommodations that people who are blind/visually impaired utilize to perform everyday tasks and job related tasks. At the end of the day, twenty select candidates had the opportunity to have mock interviews with the hiring managers. The hope is that this will become an annual event.

DVR has also seen some staff changes. We welcomed Krista Dann as the new Deputy Director. DVR said goodbye to Marilyn Carmichael, Ken Reynolds and Candy Leathers. Candy and Ken have returned for a brief period of time to assist with the transition to DVR's new management team.

The Rehabilitation Counselors for the Blind have seen some staff changes, as well. A new list will be distributed at the meeting. The teaching staff has also seen some changes. Tracey has left Grand Junction, and Mary Grace has left the Metro Office. The teaching positions for the Metro Office have been posted and we have high hopes that they will be filled soon.

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

Anchor's 2011 School Year started off with a bang: each staff person received an iPad from very generous donors. Staff has been busy finding, sharing and trying new apps that apply to preschoolers and younger children. If anyone has apps to share with us to use with preschoolers, send them our way!

*Mermaids, Math and Magic*, the summer theme, culminated in a terrific talent show filled with song, dance, magic tricks and a cartwheel! Anchor Center's Got Talent! We were sad to see the summer session end. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who made it so much fun. Many older sibs were fantastic, natural "camp counselors." We see potential TVIs in this crop!

The Roller Derby girls visited Anchor recently. The preschoolers loved feeling and hearing the sensation of the Roller Derby gals whizzing down the hardwood floors. The Roller Derby girls also took each preschooler for a spin down the hall in their arms. It was a big hit and Anchor looks forward to their return! Our gardens are in full bloom.

The Pizza Garden is being thoroughly enjoyed by the preschoolers who are making salsas and pizzas from it. Soon they will be going to a Pizza Parlor to round out their story of the month, Pizza Pat, by making their own individual pizzas in a restaurant. Meanwhile, staff is busy with a dozen referrals each month, large numbers in Infant/Toddler program and creating literacy ideas with the Pizza Pat story of the month on our iPads!



Anchor Center has used the Michigan Severity Rating Scale with their young children. They have made some adaptations specific to the age range of their population.

Anchor Center just received a Visual Evoked Potential machine. Dr. King is completing VEPs on some of the children.

A new fund raiser will feature dancing with news anchors! Be watching for more details!

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

*Book orders for 2012-2013:* Plan Ahead! .....**May 1 of every year is the deadline for book orders** for the following school year. This is the same date many of the instructional resource centers across the U.S. agree upon. Please plan to place your orders for the 2012-13 school year no later than Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

Administrative Units (AUs) may contact the CIMC for a printout of their current book order status at any time. The spreadsheet data is shaded grey if the book order has been delivered complete to a school district within an AU. For orders received by the May 1st deadline, the CIMC will try their hardest to provide districts with at least partially completed volumes of embossed braille by the first day of school. Orders received after May 1st are not guaranteed to be delivered, even partially complete, at the start of the new school year. The CIMC will make every attempt to deliver completed book orders in a timely manner.

#### *Returning books to the CIMC:*

- ◆ A "Return Shipping Label" must be used.
- ◆ Districts with large quantities of braille shipments were given color-coded labels specific to their district. All other labels are printed on white paper.
- ◆ Return shipping labels should be filled out accurately and completely.
- ◆ Labels should be adhered to the side of the box so that they are visible when the boxes are stacked 6 high vertically.
- ◆ Boxes need to be packed and taped securely so they do not break open during shipment.

#### *Phone number changes:*

The CIMC currently uses the following numbers:

- ◆ (719) 578-2195                      Jim Olson
- ◆ (719) 578-2196
- ◆ (719) 578-2197                      Debbie Haberkorn
- ◆ (719) 578-2198
- ◆ (719) 578-2207                      FAX (*if you FAX, please contact us to verify we received your FAX*)

Please delete (719) 578-2120 from your contact lists.

*Request for updated contact information sent to district contact personnel:* Please check with your district's designated contact person for CIMC to verify and update your contact information. Email updates to [dhaberkorn@cldb.org](mailto:dhaberkorn@cldb.org).

#### *Forms:*

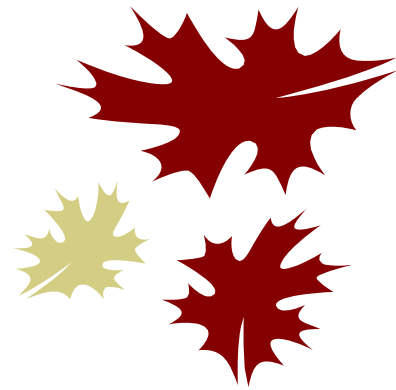
- ◆ Please use current versions of all forms - available on our website.
- ◆ Current forms all have footers that state "May 2011" or newer. Please use the new forms!
- ◆ The "VI Registration" form is in the process of being revised.

#### *How to Get To the CIMC Website:*

- ◆ Go to: [www.cldb.org](http://www.cldb.org) Click on "Programs & Services", "Outreach", "CIMC."
- ◆ Click on the link for "CIMC Documents and Order Forms"

*"CIMC Documents and Order Forms"*

- ◆ Order Form: APH Educational Materials
- ◆ Order Form: Braille and Large Print Books
- ◆ Order Form: Professional Lending Library Materials (**NEW**)
- ◆ Order Form: Braille
- ◆ Braille writer Repair Form
- ◆ VI Registration Form (to sign up new students)
- ◆ VI Exit Form (to notify us of a student withdrawal/graduation)
- ◆ Leisure Reading books in braille by age
- ◆ Recommended APH products for Science instruction



*Contact us:*

- ◆ Send new "VI Registration" forms to: [cimcaphorders@csdb.org](mailto:cimcaphorders@csdb.org)
- ◆ Send "Exit" forms to: [cimcaphorders@csdb.org](mailto:cimcaphorders@csdb.org)
- ◆ Send order forms for APH educational materials to: [cimcaphorders@csdb.org](mailto:cimcaphorders@csdb.org)
- ◆ Send order forms for braille and large print books to: [cimcbookorders@csdb.org](mailto:cimcbookorders@csdb.org)
- ◆ Contact Debbie Haberkorn ([dhaberkorn@csdb.org](mailto:dhaberkorn@csdb.org)) with your Low Vision Evaluation Clinic orders for prescribed devices.
- ◆ Contact Jim Olson ([jolson@csdb.org](mailto:jolson@csdb.org)) with your Low Vision Evaluation Clinic inquiries.

*Statewide VI Registration Count & Federal Quota Count Process for 2011-2012:*

- ◆ *October 2011:* Administrative Units in Colorado will be mailed printed color-coded spreadsheets of their current enrollment data as reported by school districts to the CIMC.
- ◆ *November 18, 2011:* Deadline for returning updated VI Registration spreadsheets to the CIMC.
- ◆ *December 16, 2011:* CIMC will mail corrected VI Registration spreadsheets to districts to compare to their actual enrollment on the Federal Quota count day, the first day in January of each calendar year.
- ◆ *January 2, 2012:* Federal Quota count day! Districts are asked to compare their current enrollment against the spreadsheets mailed in December, make updates, and mail to CIMC by January 31 so CIMC staff can enter the information into the federal count database by the established deadline.
- ◆ *January 31, 2012:* Deadline for returning corrected count day spreadsheets to the CIMC with student information specific to the January count day.

Jim has asked TVIs and district contact personnel to PLEASE be sure that a student is eligible for APH quota funds before making an order. **Not every student who is blind/visually impaired in Colorado is quota-eligible.** For more information regarding the Federal Quota program, please visit [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)

The CIMC is currently out of Perkins' braillewriters. What is currently in inventory are the New Generations braillewriters.

Jim offered that CIMC could be a repository for braille testing documents and/or create a posted database on who had done what type of braille work on an assessment and may be a resource.

*Discussion: Tanni, Jim, and Laura Douglas will be meeting in early October to review existing CIMC policies and to determine the need to add to the policies. These policies will detail further timelines, eligibility for books, district responsibilities, etc. Policies will be shared with Special Education Directors, TVIs, and parents and posted on the CIMC webpage.*

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

*New staff within CIMC Outreach Programs and Services:* Jerri Nelson (CSDB, Outreach Programs and Services); Nicole (Niki) Lewis (CSDB, Outreach Programs and Services); and Francey Liefert (CSDB, Outreach Programs and Services)

*Upcoming events:*

*September 23-24, 2011- CSDB Homecoming:* Students who are blind/visually impaired were invited to participate in CSDB's Homecoming activities which included goalball games, audio described football games, and the homecoming dance. Flyers were distributed via email to TVIs in Colorado as well as various list-serves and email distribution lists.

*October 4, 2011 - Community ASL Classes Begin (beginners class) 5:30 - 7:00* - Register with Dale Wolf at (719) 578-2245 or [dewolf@csdb.org](mailto:dewolf@csdb.org)

*October 6, 2011- Community ASL Classes Begin (intermediate class) 5:30 - 7:00* - Register with Dale Wolf at (719) 578-2245 or [dewolf@csdb.org](mailto:dewolf@csdb.org)

*October 4, 2011 - Community Braille Classes Begin* - Scheduled for Tuesdays, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. for six weeks. Register with Dale Wolf at (719) 578-2245 or [dewolf@csdb.org](mailto:dewolf@csdb.org)

*October 17, 2011 - White Cane Day Observed* - CSDB has offered to partner with local COMSs for a multi-district white cane day group activity. Additional information to follow.

*November 11, 2011 - Education Beyond High School Fair* - (To be held on the CSDB campus) November 11 is also the third clinic day for the Metro Denver region's low vision evaluation clinic. Potential attendees for both events will need to secure low **vision** clinic appointments on November 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>.

*February 03, 2012- National Braille Challenge* - (To be held on the CSDB campus) - Additional information to follow. Contact: Bertha Guerrero at [bguerrero@csdb.org](mailto:bguerrero@csdb.org), (719) 578-2204.

*February 24, 2012- Snowshoe Weekend* - (Winter Park, CO) - The snowshoe weekend is scheduled for February 24-26, 2011 at Snow Mountain Ranch near Winter Park, CO. The link to the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch website is: <http://www.ymcarockies.org/snow-mountain-ranch-winter-park-colorado.html>. CSDB will continue to provide the primary funding for this event. TVIs throughout the state are welcome to assist with the planning for this weekend event. Please contact Diane Covington (CSDB) at [dcovington@csdb.org](mailto:dcovington@csdb.org), (719) 578-2225; or Mike Plansker (Adams County Five Star Schools) at [Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org](mailto:Mike.E.Plansker@Adams12.org)

*March 2012- ASL Classes Begin* - Register with Dale Wolf at (719) 578-2245 or [dewolf@csdb.org](mailto:dewolf@csdb.org)

*April 20, 2012 - Career Day* - Information to follow.

*June 29-July 1, 2012 - Family Learning Retreat* - Information to follow.

Persons interested in short courses, should contact Laura Douglas at [ldouglas@csdb.org](mailto:ldouglas@csdb.org)

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

The Colorado School for the Blind opened our doors to students a little later than normal this school year. One of the larger buildings on campus, the Gottlieb school building, has been under renovation since January. The project was funded by a grant from the BEST grant program. BEST provides an annual amount of funding, in the form of competitive grants to schools in Colorado. Now that the renovation is in its final stages, all of the students are back on campus and the school year is well under way.

We have new staff members on our team this year. Nicole Lewis comes to our team from Pennsylvania. Nicole is our preschool teacher. Evangelina Gonzalez has joined our team as a special education teacher after completing her student teaching in our elementary school last semester. Glenn Yeary moved here from Florida to be our middle school and high school social studies and English teacher. Amanda Stein is working as a transition teacher with our students who are blind and/or visually impaired in the employability center. We are still looking for a school for the blind program coordinator and a highly qualified math teacher. Barbara Meese continues to serve in an interim leadership role and mathematics teacher, Jan Drewry is covering as a long-term substitute.

The School for the Blind has been blessed with new technology in the Adams building this year. All of the teachers came back to mimeo interactive display boards with laptop computers. Teachers have begun using the display boards on a daily basis. We are very appreciative to be able to utilize and apply this new technology to the instruction with students who are blind/visually impaired. In addition, we are receiving weekly technology training and support on the display boards and other new devices.

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

Congratulations to our seven graduates in the spring 2011 including two Colorado students, Brandon Mapes and Morgan Turner. Theresa Walters (now in Germany) also completed her MA in Visual Impairment! The Visual Impairment and O&M program faculty welcomed 27 new students to UNC this fall. Several of our current students are finishing up their programs by completing their practica in Colorado school districts this fall and are expected to graduate in December.

Faculty continue to strive to be student-centered and are working as hard as ever! Dr. Kay Ferrell and Dr. Silvia Correa-Torres are back from their travels and are focusing on the print disabilities grant in partnership with the States of Utah, Colorado, and Kansas. Dr. Ferrell spent last semester on sabbatical at APH and Dr. Correa-Torres presented at a conference in Africa with Dr. Robin Brewer this past summer. UNC now has a huge marketing banner at DIA featuring Dr. Correa-Torres, check it out!

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

*Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project:* The project is in its fourth year of a five-year grant cycle. The project's mission is free technical assistance to parents and services provides of children and youth, ages birth through 21 and who are deafblind or who have both a vision and a hearing loss. The project has a lending library and a website with electronic resources that are available to families and educational personnel. For TVIs new to the state, please contact Tanni Anthony or Gina Quintana for more information about the services of the project. Call 303 866-6681 (Tanni) or 303 866-6605 (Gina).

*Census:* We are gearing up for our annual census of students, birth through 21 years, with combined vision and hearing loss. A total of 131 children and youth have been currently 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. Thank you for your assistance in keeping the census up-to-date. One special request is to ensure that the parents' address is recorded accurately on the census form, as we often have mailed items come back to CDE as "address unknown."

*VIBRATIONS Newsletter:* The next newsletter is in process and will focus on the topic of literacy. 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. There are over 20 new documents added to our topics page over the summer.

*Summer Institute:* This past summer institute featured two internationally-recognized experts in the field of literacy and learners with significant disabilities. It was offered as a five-day, two semester hour graduate course. The really fabulous news is that we will bring these ladies back for the 2012 Summer Institute! First priority will be district teams.

*Annual O&M Conference:* The conference is a joint event with CDE and CAER. The details of this school year's training have yet to be finalized. If you are interested in being on the O&M Conference Planning Committee, please be in touch with Tanni.

*Low Vision Evaluation Clinics:* Five regional low vision evaluation clinics will be offered throughout this school year. Clinic forms have been sent to all the site coordinators and are also available on the CDE website on Blindness/Low Vision.

*Recruitment and Retention:* We currently have a .6 FTE opening in Cherry Creek School District, a 1 FTE at the Anchor Center for Blind Children, a 1 FTE at the School for the Blind, a 1. FTE position in Aurora School District, and a 1. FTE Program Coordinator at the School for the Blind. Positions were filled in Aurora (Karin Hensel), CSDB (Niki Lewis, Glen Yeary), Adams 12 (Sherry Bainbridge), and Jeff-CO (Leslie Kelly-Watrobka). Francey Leifley has joined the CSDB Outreach team. Marty Rhan is now also working in Centennial BOCES. Christine Moe is now also working in Johnston-Millikin.

*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.

*Listservs:* The CDE ESLU maintains two separate listservs specific to personnel working in BVI programs in Colorado school districts. One is specific to Colorado TVIs and COMSs. The second one is specific to Colorado brailists. If anyone has questions about the listservs, please be in touch with Tanni.

*Visual and Tactile Bias Review Training:* Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart, and Sarah Sonnier provided a two-day training for personnel in Colorado, Utah, and Kansas on the topic of visual and tactile bias review procedures for state assessment. The training was very well received. The training was tied to the *Description-Enhanced Assessments for Students with Visual and Print Disabilities* grant project, detailed below.

*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. For more information about participating in the project, be in touch with Tanni or Dr. Kay Ferrell.

*Eligibility Definition - Visual Impairment, Including Blindness:* One of Tanni's tasks this school year will be to facilitate important work around House Bill 11-1277. This bill renamed many of the disability categories for school age students to align with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). CDE is beginning work now to review criteria for these disability categories. We will be confirming current language and/or modifying the language specific to: Autism Spectrum Disorders; Hearing Impairment, Including Deafness; Serious Emotional Disability; Intellectual Disability; Multiple Disabilities; Deaf-Blind, Orthopedic Impairment; Other Health Impairment; Specific Learning Disability (definition only); Speech or Language Impairment; Traumatic Brain Injury; Visual Impairment, Including Blindness; Preschooler with a Disability; and Infants and Toddler with a Disability. A second-round draft of the Visual Impairment, Including Blindness definition will be addressed at today's meeting.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Regional TVI Meetings:** 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. Please send Tanni these dates so they can be inserted into the *WHOT* newsletter Calendar of Events.

### **Vision Coalition Deliverables for 2011-12**

The Vision Coalition would like to focus on three key deliverables for this school year. (a) the vision impairment, including blindness eligibility definition, (2) the Colorado Academic Standards and products that help TVIs; and 3) a module specific to the mental health needs of children and youth with visual impairment.

### **Visual Disability Eligibility:**

There was discussion about the current eligibility criteria for vision disability, which will ultimately be aligned with IDEA and renamed as *visual impairment, including blindness*. 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. Other changes included changing Braille to braille since it is not a proper noun in the context of the definition and to add academics, social interactions, self advocacy, activities of daily living skills, and orientation (to complement the existing mobility) to the criteria phrase of required specialized instruction (changed from methods), aids, and/or equipment. The updated version will be shared with CO TVIs and COMSs on the CDE listserv.

**Deaf-Blindness Eligibility:**

Two versions of the proposed definition for deaf-blindness were reviewed. The content is comparable, but version A reiterates the physiological criteria for hearing impairment, including deafness and visual impairment, including blindness whereas version B references this information. There was divided approval of which definition version is preferred. The VC made on simple adjustment on the proposed criteria, which was to move the word “academic” up in the list of areas that may require specialized instruction, aids, and/or equipment. The two versions will next be shared with the Colorado DB Advisory Task Force.

Both versions of the proposed eligibility definitions will be shared, along with other changes to the 13 disability categories, at an October 7th, 2011 State Stakeholders’ meeting. This is the first of a long process to recommend and approve changes to these disability categories. The changes will not be mandatory until July 1, 2016.

Task	Person Responsible	Date Due
Send out proposed VI and DB definitions to Colorado TVIs.	Tanni Anthony	October 1, 2011
Share the MI O&M Rating Scale with CO COMSs	Tanni Anthony	October 15, 2011
Offer a teleconference discussion on a key article.	Tanni Anthony	November 15, 2011
Send Tanni program report updates	All VC members	January 24, 2011



**Dates for next Meetings:**

January 31, 2011 – Anchor Center for Blind Children (tentative location)  
Focus on Colorado Academic Standards and Extended Evidence Outcome

February 2, 2011 – Anchor Center for Blind Children (tentative location)  
Focus on mental health module





# colorado connections

- 🔊 We are happy to share that **Deb and Chris Andrews** are proud parents of a new baby girl, Paige Mackenzie. Paige was born Sept 11 weight 7 lb 13oz and is 19 1/2" long. Congratulations!!
- 🔊 I just wanted to give you some feedback about the fabulous support and assistance **Bonnie Snyder** provided to us at her visit September 13. Bonnie is delightful to work with and provided a wealth of information while assisting us in identifying the technology needs for our student. We will continue to work with her as the needs of our students grow and change and plan to skype with her on a monthly basis so that we can try to stay ahead of the technology curve. Thanks for funding this position. Bonnie is an incredible resource for us! - **Stephanie Labossiere TVI, NW BOCES**
- 🔊 Congrats to **Lorraine Hutcheson**, who has accepted a job with Vocational Rehabilitation Services on the Western Slope. Her last day with Aurora School District will be on October 31. We wish Lorraine all the best and look forward to continuing to cross paths!
- 🔊 MANY thanks to the members of the Vision Coalition and the Colorado Deafblind Advisory Task Force for their contributions in refining the eligibility definition for *visual impairment, including blindness* and the new eligibility definition of *deaf-blindness*. Your work is so appreciated. Also a very special thank you to the TVIs who responded with suggested feedback when the first two drafts of the *visual impairment, including blindness* definition was posted on the CO TVI COMS listserv. Thanks to: **Tanni Anthony, Teresa Barone, Paula Conroy, Nancy Cozart, Charlotte Javier, Elaine Karns, Donna Keale, Jamie Lugo, Judy Mumford, Jim Olson, Angela Sims, Sarah Sonnier, Wendy Stoltman, Silvia Torres Correa, and Karen Wood.**



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