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RECALCULATING!

By Tanni L. Anthony

We live in a world with Global Positioning Systems (GPS) —whether using a portable unit or one built into your car, we plug in the address we want to go to from the place where we are currently located. In seconds, the voice of very nice (and geographically gifted) lady or man comes through the device to guide us to that specific location. The one in my car first reminds me to obey traffic regulations and then off we go. If I decide to take a little detour to grab lunch or fill up for gas down another block, that very nice lady comes back and says in a confident voice, “RE-calculating!” There are times when I want (and even do!) to say to her, “HOLD UP—give me minute to do what I need to do first!” but, most often, I am grateful that she really knows where to go, as I turn my car back around into her recommended direction.

Sometimes I wish for a GPS on other life matters. Wouldn't it be nice to just plug in our relationship, private life matters, or work destinations and have the exact path outlined to just that place? To have exact guidance on the best and shortest way to accomplish targeted student outcomes? We know that sometimes it is not just a Point A to a Point B ride for us or our students. There are side trips down a couple of back alleys or new neighborhoods (that can result in some amazing discoveries) or even some road construction that was not on the GPS map. Sometimes in those moments of RECALCULATING, we discover another path to get to the location.

There is a balance of the proposed map and the uncharted course that gets us there. As a general rule, however, we should and need to take our students on the roads that are well defined to the intended destination. The good news is that we have such maps—how to teach students to read (print or braille), blueprints for teaching street crossings, —a few weeks ago we learned BANA guidance on making tactile graphics. We have the directions that tell us just how to get there. Progress monitoring tells us when we are still on the path or when we honestly need to RECALCULATE so we do not, quite frankly, get lost and waste precious teaching and learning time and fuel finding our way back to the right road.

Whether the GPS voice is from published /peer reviewed guidance, a trusted colleague, your experience, be sure to proceed wisely and be aware of when you need to recalculate based on “where is the student” data. I wish you safe and accurate travels this school year.

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

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

October 2012

Table of Contents

Recalculating	1	Orientation & Mobility	13
Bits from Bonnie	2	Assessment News	14
Reflections of an Athlete	3	Just for Parents	15
Technology Update	5	Dots of Interest	18
Low Vision News	6	Calendar of Events	22
Spotlight on Keratoconus	8	Check it Out!	26
Resources and Materials	10	Vision Coalition Notes	30
Transition Information	11	Colorado Connections	39



Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

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<http://TVIVIP.org>

Tips and Tricks for Enhancing the PC Visual Display, Part 4

If you are in need of assistance in seeing the screen on a PC, there are several options available to help you do this. If you are using Windows 7, for instance, there is a built-in screen magnifying program that is head and shoulders above the one in Windows XP. You can run it at any time (provided your video can use the Win 7 Aero display) by pressing Windows key – plus on the keyboard. Pressing Windows key – plus additional times will increase the magnification with each press and Windows key – minus will decrease the magnification with each press. Once you are in the magnification program, you can set up the program with the options you want. To do this, go down to the taskbar and click on the magnify icon. A window will open toward the top of the screen and an icon that looks like a “gear” will allow you to choose your options, including having the magnification load automatically at startup. You can change options on the fly by using Windows key – L for Lens mode, Windows key – D for Dock mode, Windows key – F for Full screen mode.

An interesting freeware program you might want to try is aRuler for Windows. It works under Win XP and Win 7. Initially it loads a ruler that you can use to help focus on the line of text you wish to read. It is configurable in length, and ruler’s visual display can be changed to the user’s preference. It also includes a screen magnification option from 1X to 4X.

One of the things that can cause visual fatigue when reading on a computer screen is the brightness of the display. There is a freeware program called TintedWindow which works in both Win XP and Win 7 that can mitigate this problem. Once loaded (it is a JAVA executable so it doesn’t install), TintedWindow comes up in a small window. Do a right click on that window and you can set up the color of the tint you wish. The window also allows for full screen or just a lens.

I would recommend that you do a Google search to find the two freeware programs referred to here.

I have a bunch of other freeware programs to help with video access, and I will write about them in my next few articles.

Reflections of an Athlete from the 2012 Paralympics Games

Robin at the Closing Ceremonies

By Robin Theryoung



Editor's Note: This article was submitted by Robin Theryoung, an O&M Specialist at the Adams School at CSDB. We are so proud of you, Robin!

In 3rd grade I decided that I couldn't be an athlete anymore because I couldn't keep up with the boys on the soccer field. My inability to track the ball once it left the ground made me realize that I didn't see as well as everyone else and I was just going to have to miss out on parts of life because of that. I could not have been more wrong.

I've spent the last 14 years traveling all over the world and competing against some of the best teams in the world as a member of the US Women's Goalball Team. I just competed in my third Paralympics Games in London. We experienced so many incredible things in London. Opening Ceremonies put us in the same arena as the Royal Family, Stephen Hawking, and Ian McKellen, and we were treated to a concert with Coldplay, Rihanna and Jay-Z at Closing Ceremonies. For two and a half weeks we lived in the utopia that is the Paralympics Village where team pins are sought after commodities, all food and drinks are free, your laundry is done for you, someone brings you a towel when they notice you sweating while on the elliptical in the gym, and you have the opportunity to meet athletes of all different disabilities and cultures. We were able to hop on the Underground and explore London from the London Dungeon, Big Ben, Tower Bridge, and Abbey Road, to the top of the famous Eye Ferris Wheel. We were outfitted in copious amounts of Team USA apparel from Nike and Ralph Lauren.

But along with all those highs came some lows. Despite going into the Paralympics as one of the favorites, we were knocked out in the quarterfinals. That afternoon I sent the following email to my family back at CSDB.

Four years ago we faced China in the gold medal game and despite 7,000 Chinese fans cheering them on, we defeated them. Today, we faced them again—not for a gold medal, but for the opportunity to go on to the semifinal round and play for a medal. Unfortunately, today China came out on top. We threw everything we had them but this time they truly were the Great Wall of China and we couldn't penetrate their defense. It's heartbreaking to work so hard, sacrifice so much, and to travel so far only to come home empty handed. And it's especially heartbreaking to feel like we've let down our fans, friends and country. We teach our students that if they work hard enough they can do anything. I think it's also important that they know that sometimes you can work as hard as you can to accomplish something and still not succeed. But maybe it's because we all just have to wait a bit longer to get it or maybe it's because there is another goal, a better goal to work for.

In that moment the loss was overwhelming and ending London (and possibly my goalball career) on such a low note was hard to swallow. But a couple days after we had returned home the US Olympic and Paralympics Teams gathered in Washington DC for the traditional post-Games visit to the White House. I have been fortunate enough to have done this twice before but this time, the welcome we received from President and Mrs. Obama was incredible. Despite being told he had too many commitments to shake hands with all the athletes, he, Michelle Obama, and Vice President Biden stayed to shake hands and give hugs to everyone! That's right, I shook hands with the President (twice!), the Vice President and got a hug from Michelle Obama! I also met Sanya Richards-Ross and the Men's Gymnastics Team and was within 15 feet of Tyson Gay, Michael Phelps, Missy Franklin and countless others I had watched on TV and been inspired and amazed by.

I look back on my life and I am amazed at what I have been able to accomplish and what I've experienced because I attended the Michigan Blind Athletic Association Sports Education Camp at age 14. Sue and Paul Ponchillia, who were the camp directors and professors in the Blindness and Low Vision Studies Department at Western Michigan University, took me under their wings and changed the trajectory of my life by helping me to become an athlete and encouraging me to pursue a profession as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. I am so proud to not only represent my country in goalball, but to be a role model to my students as well. I hope they look at me as proof that having a visual impairment doesn't mean they have to miss out on anything in life. And I hope I can help to change the trajectory of my students' lives as Sue and Paul did for me.

YouTube video of White House Visit

You can see me at the very beginning just after I shook hands with President Obama and then shaking Vice President Joe Biden's hand.

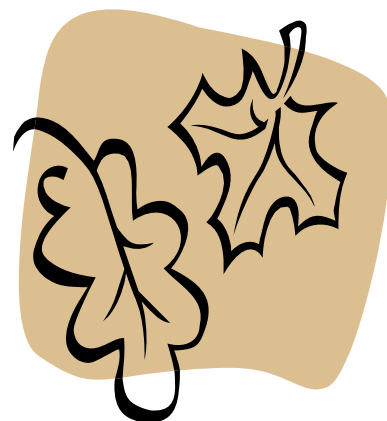
<http://www.teamusa.org/News/2012/September/14/Olympic-Spirit-Inspires-White-House-September-14-2012.aspx#.UFVVC14v10Q.mailto>

London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremonies

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kd4FgGSY5BY>

Closing Ceremonies

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIRHMmM2z7c>



New Student-Made Videos about Book Port Plus



Student/teacher video team Chase Crispin (pictured) and LeAnna MacDonald have created two new videos about APH's Book Port Plus. To see the videos, please go to: <http://www.youtube.com/user/brailleplus/> and to learn more about Book Port Plus, please go to:

http://shop.aph.org/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/Product_Book%20Port%20Plus_1-07191-00P_10001_11051

Hailing from Nebraska, Chase enjoys working with accessible technology, teaching people about computers, and learning about new technological devices. LeAnna MacDonald is a teacher of students with visual impairments, a low vision therapist, and an orientation and mobility specialist.

Together, they have teamed up to prepare a series of short training sessions about APH tech products.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The mission of Flying Blind is to develop and/or market adaptive technology solutions for the visually impaired within educational, vocational, community and residential settings, thereby enabling them to function independently and efficiently in unlimited capacities. Through its work with manufacturers of emerging technologies, Flying Blind is able to impact the direction of many adaptive technology trends whose goal is to keep pace with dynamic mainstream technology.



For more information and to subscribe to the newsletter "Top Tech Tidbits: The Week's News in Adaptive Technology" go to: enews@flying-blind.com>. For more information on Flying Blind, LLC go to: <http://www.flying-blind.com/>>.

Bits on iPads

The web links listed below provide a plethora of information on how to get the latest Apple i-series assistive technology products. Thanks to Karin Hensel for sending in the following information:

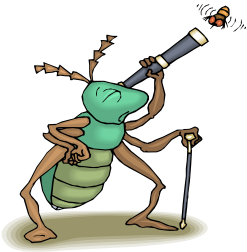
For iPad please go to: <http://www.apple.com/accessibility/ipad/vision.html> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeleWhWpqy4>

For iPhone please go to: <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/iphone-ipad-apps-for-magnification-and-vision-support>

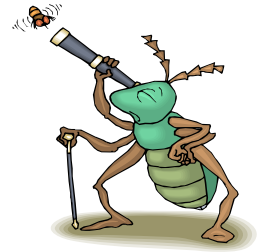
For iTunes please go to: <http://www.apple.com/accessibility/itunes/vision.html>

For a variety of resources please go to: <http://www.eastersealstech.com/>





LOW VISION EVALUATION



Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

By Debbie Haberkorn

The first Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic of 2012-2013 was held Friday, September 14 and Saturday, September 15, 2012 in the Hawthorne Building in Grand Junction. This two-day clinic provided evaluations for six students from four school districts (Delta County, Eagle County, Lake County, and Mesa County District 51). Six sets of parents and four TVIs from three administrative units (Delta County, Mesa County District 51, and Mountain BOCES) attended the evaluations with their students. The team would like to thank Sarah Sonnier for all of the time and effort she put into coordinating this clinic.

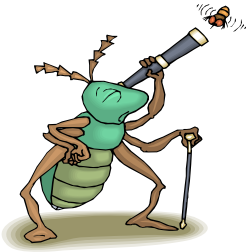
***Editor's Note:** This was the first clinic that our new LV Therapist to the team Wendy Stoltman did without her peer Jim Olson. We welcome Wendy to the team and thank her for her contribution to the team. And, as always a big thank you to Dr. Tom Theune and Debbie Haberkorn for their great work!*

Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Announcements

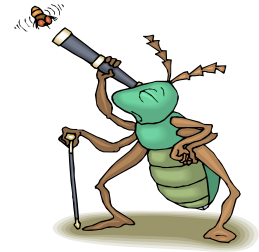
The LVE Clinic Team wants to remind TVIs of the following clinic responsibilities to help ensure a successful clinic for all involved:

- A TVI should not recommend the clinic to families of students who do not have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The clinics are funded with federal special education funds and, as such, are exclusive to these learners.
- The TVI should review the clinic paperwork ahead of time to best prepare the family for the appointment. Please be aware that the Purchase Policy for the devices have some changes from past clinic years. PLEASE read this paperwork to best understand policies on purchasing and replacing devices.
- A TVI must attend the low vision clinic appointment with the student and family. The team needs the onsite expertise of the TVI and, in return, will count on the TVI to be someone who will prepare the family for the clinic, debrief the clinic findings with the family, answer any questions about the report, and provide needed training on any prescribed devices.
- Please bring an actual textbook / worksheet to the clinic that the student using in school, along with any prescription glasses or devices the student has (even if he or she is not using them).

Our thanks to everyone involved in the clinics. It takes all of us to ensure that our shared students and families have an optimal experience.



LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



2012 / 2013 CDE LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC DATES

REGION	DATES	PAPERWORK DEADLINE	SITE COORDINATOR
Northern (Enights Skill Center)	Fri Nov 16, 2012 Sat Nov 17, 2012	Tuesday, October 30, 2012	Vicki Pearson and Rita Albright
Metro (Anchor Center for Blind Children)	Wed Feb 27, 2013 Thurs Feb 28, 2012 Fri March 1, 2013	Friday, February 8, 2013	Nancy Knight
Southern 3 (CSDB low vision room)	Fri April 12, 2013	Wednesday, March 27, 2013	Donice Fennimore

SAVE THE DATE!
WREIC / Northern Rockies AER
“Assessment and Strategies” - Conference on Sensory Disabilities
Jackson Hole, Wyoming—June 18 – 21, 2013

Featured Speakers: Dr. Jan VanDijk, Cathy Nelson, Kathee Keller Scoggins, and Millie Smith



Spotlight on



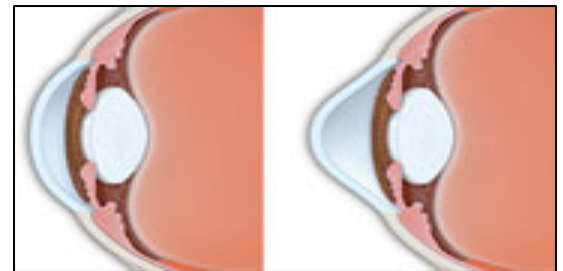
Spotlight on Keratoconus

Information retrieved from: <http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/keratoconus.cfm>; <http://www.nkcf.org/>; <http://www.allaboutvision.com/conditions/keratoconus.htm>

What is Keratoconus? Keratoconus is an atypical condition in which the normally round, dome-like cornea (the clear layer covering the eye) gradually thins and develops a cone-like bulge (see illustration). Keratoconus literally means “cone-shaped cornea”, and is often referred to by the abbreviation “KC”. Light enters the eye through the cornea, which focuses (refracts) light rays to produce clear vision. Because the shape of the cornea is altered, vision becomes distorted, making every day activities difficult.

Typical Cornea

Keratoconus



What Causes Keratoconus? Some researchers attribute the cause of Keratoconus to genetics, but the true cause is still unknown. KC has been linked to eye injuries, such as excessive eye rubbing, specific eye diseases such as retinitis pigmentosa, and systemic diseases such as Down syndrome.

What is the Prevalence of Keratoconus? The actual incidence of Keratoconus has not been determined as yet. A recent estimate has shown that it occurs in 1 out of every 2,000 individuals in the general population. Keratoconus occurs in approximately 10 percent of persons who already have an affected family member. It is not limited to a certain geographic area, as cases have been found all over the U.S. and the rest of the world. There is no known significant cultural or social pattern.

What are the Signs and Symptoms of Keratoconus? The rate of onset varies. It often progresses slowly for 10 to 20 years and then stabilize or stop. Keratoconus typically affects both eyes with symptoms varying in each eye. In its beginning stages, KC causes eye irritation, slight blurring, distortion of vision, increased nearsightedness, astigmatism, glare, and increased sensitivity to light. Occasionally, it advances rapidly with sudden swelling of the cornea and development of corneal scarring. This scar tissue causes the cornea to lose its smoothness and clarity. As a result, significant visual impairment occurs.

Spotlight on

How is Keratoconus Diagnosed? Keratoconus is generally first diagnosed in young people at puberty, in their late teens or in their early twenties. An eye care specialist will often detect KC at a routine eye exam. Subtle forms of keratoconus may require a corneal topography for accurate diagnosis, while more severe forms of keratoconus may be diagnosed using a standard slit lamp. Other tests may be needed to determine the shape of the cornea for treatment purposes. Two examples of such tests are keratometry and computerized corneal mapping. In keratometry, a circle of light is focused on the cornea; the resulting reflection is then used to determine the cornea's curvature. In computerized corneal mapping, a picture of the cornea is taken and then used to generate a topographical map of the surface of the eye.

What is the Treatment for Keratoconus? Treatment often depends on the severity of KC. It can be treated by eyeglasses or soft contact lenses in the early stages to correct mild astigmatism and nearsightedness. As the condition progresses and the cornea continues to thin and change shape, rigid contact lenses may be prescribed so that vision is not distorted by uneven refraction of light entering the eye.

Another treatment option is an intracorneal ring, or Intac, which is a small curved corneal device that is implanted to help reshape or flatten the steep cornea. Intacs have been proven safe for use by the FDA. A newer option that has not yet been FDA approved is collagen cross-linking. This type of treatment is being investigated for its ability to stop the progression of keratoconus. Collagen cross-linking involves use of a special laser and eye drops to promote strengthening (cross-linking) of the collagen fibers that make up the cornea. This may help flatten or stiffen the cornea, preventing further protrusion.

In severe cases or when good vision is not possible with the above treatments, a corneal transplant may be needed or recommended. This surgical procedure replaces the diseased cornea with a healthy donor cornea. This surgery is only necessary in around 10 to 20 percent of patients. It must be noted that a transplanted cornea heals slowly. It can take up to a year or more to recover good vision after the procedure.

Where Can People Get More Information about Keratoconus?

The National Keratoconus Foundation: <http://www.nkcf.org>;

All About Vision: <http://www.allaboutvision.com/conditions/keratoconus.htm>;

Eye Smart: <http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/keratoconus.cfm>



Resources and Materials

New Article in the CVI Section of APH's Website

A popular section of the APH website is dedicated to disseminating information about the vital topic of Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). We've just posted a new manual by Donna Shaman, Occupational Therapist, Highline School District in Burien, Washington.

Entitled [*A Team Approach to CVI in Schools*](#), this manual strives to help children with CVI to better understand their visual world and increase their school participation through skillful and collaborative teaching strategies of the Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Find this article much more information about CVI at: <http://www.aph.org/cvi/index.html>



What's Happening @ Hadley School for the Blind?



- ✓ Courses online and on your mobile device; learn on the go, on demand!
- ✓ Seminars@Hadley presents live and archived webinars. Now, Podcasts too.
- ✓ Assignment Submission Line lets you submit lessons by phone
- ✓ Hadley – Utah State University collaboration provides courses for paraeducators and teachers of children who are blind/visually impaired

Check out these new courses:

Braille



- * The Essentials of Nemeth Code (ACE/HS)
- * Braille Music Reading (coming soon)

Business

- * Finding Employment
- * Self-Employment with a Minimal
- * Investment
- * Forsythe Center for Entrepreneurship
- * Modules, including Veterans Benefits

Hadley School for Professional Studies

- * Braille Teaching Methods for Children
- * Basic Nemeth Code
- * Braille Music Basics
- * Low Vision and School Age Children
- * ACVREP and CRCC approved courses and seminars

High School

- * New English and math courses

Independent Living

- * Human Eye 1 and 2

Technology

- * Develop Your Technology Tool Kit
- * Screen Readers: Listening Skills
- * Screen Readers: Web Browsing
- * Screen Readers: Formatting Word Documents
- * Using Excel (Updated!)



For more information visit www.hadley.edu or contact Student Services, 800-526-9909 or email student_services@hadley.edu to enroll.



TRANSITION INFORMATION

Life After High School: Preparing Your Child for What Comes Next

Retrieved from: <http://www.familyconnect.org/parentsites.asp?SectionID=78&TopicID=343&DocumentID=3907>

Young adults have many options when it comes to life after high school. Depending on their abilities and interests, some of the possibilities are: moving directly into full-time or sheltered employment ; setting up a household, marrying, and starting a family ; going to a trade school or pursuing other training to learn specialized skills ; attending a community college ; continuing on to a four-year college or university to earn a bachelor's degree;. Similarly, they have various choices about where to live, such as: at home; in a dormitory or fraternity/sorority house; in a nearby apartment or house; in another town or state ; and in a group home

To help your child prepare for life as an independent adult, it's important that you expect her to be one. Have the same expectations for your teen who is visually impaired as you have for other teens. Begin preparing early, regardless of what your child plans to do after graduating from high school.

No matter what the plan for the future is, to the maximum extent possible, all young adults need:

To take care of their personal living needs such as hygiene, grooming, money management, meal preparation, and shopping. Once your daughter is out on her own, she'll have to do these things herself. It takes time and practice to master these skills. Throughout her school years, it will be important for you and your child's teacher of students with visual impairments to work on the skills she'll need to live independently. Your daughter may need to schedule extra time to learn these independent living skills and apply what she's learned in her day-to-day activities.

To have strong orientation and mobility (O&M) skills to be able to travel to the places they need and want to go. You won't always be available to provide transportation, so helping your child gain independence in this area is important. You can get some ideas on how to prepare your teenager for nondriving or low vision driving on this web site.

To have strong social skills in order to interact appropriately with others, whether at a job or in a classroom. Your teen needs to know how to express herself or advocate in a positive way for what she needs, make others feel at ease about her visual impairment, and make friends. She also needs to know how to build healthy relationships and protect herself from negative or unhealthy interactions with others.

To use technology to complete many everyday tasks, such as using a computer to word process reports or letters and search the Internet, using an ATM (automatic teller machine), or operating a digital recorder. New technology is constantly appearing on the market. Your daughter needs to have skills to evaluate what tools work best for her, learn to use those tools, know how to get technical help when something goes wrong with any of her equipment or devices, and have strategies in place to use in situations when technology that she may prefer isn't available.

As part of the transition process you may want to discuss these issues with the other members of your child's educational team. Here are some of the concerns you may also want to explore:

Postsecondary education and training: Should our daughter continue her academic education or decide to get some other kind of training right after high school? Does she have the skills needed to be successful in these programs?

Housing and living arrangements: Where will she live after high school? Does she have the daily living skills that she needs to live independently?

Transportation: How will she get around and travel independently to and from work or school? Can she safely travel in the community without assistance now?

Work experiences: Will she go to work directly after high school? If so, what kind of work will she do and what are the best ways to prepare for the job she wants?

Social relationships, recreation, and leisure: How can she prepare for a satisfying, rewarding, and happy social life as an adult? Does she have friends and participate in recreation and leisure activities now?

Seeking answers to these concerns can help you and your daughter begin moving toward the next stage of a productive life for her.



Colorado Association for Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Correction

Information about Heather Parsons was left off of the Who Ya Gonna Call / Email / Text article in the August – September KIT edition. Please be aware of this information:

Heather Parsons at (269) 492-5573 or hwparsons@hotmail.com President of Colorado AER Chapter

AER Knowledge Center

AERBVI's newest educational resource, the AER Knowledge Center <<http://aerbvi.sclivelearningcenter.com/>>, lets you access session recordings from the AER International Conference 2012. If you missed a particular session at the conference or if you were unable to attend the event altogether, the AER Knowledge Center is the resource you need. Looking for professional development opportunities? The AER Knowledge Center helps you earn CE credits year-round.

Give the AER Knowledge Center a try with a FREE session recording from the AER International Conference 2012: NMSBVI O&M Inventory by Ron Later <<http://aerbvi.sclivelearningcenter.com/redirector.aspx?EID=yhKZnek2l3UTaOm%252bAdbMNMExnUXXRO97wVibtLgmhY4ypf/fuMmL2A==>>>

As a special thank you to our members, AERBVI is offering all its members 50% off the regular recordings price. Prices increase January 1, 2013.

Where Were You in the Summer of 1984?

Almost 30 years ago, vision professionals from AEVH and AAWB gathered in Nashville, Tenn., and AERBVI was born, as the two organizations merged. **July 30 through August 3 of 2014**, in San Antonio, AER will celebrate this landmark anniversary at the AER International Conference 2014 - 30 years!

Mark it on your calendar to attend, because this will be a blockbuster AER party! There will be the tremendous programming that you count on for your professional development and certification, a fantastic Host Night, tours of the San Antonio Lighthouse and the Texas School for the Blind, along with opportunities to visit the historical sights of the San Antonio area. We look forward to seeing all of you there ... Remember AER, July 2014 in San Antonio!

ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

Teach With APH Talking PC Maps



Help students learn street layout, explore businesses, employers, and other facilities in the area, and practice travel routes! Listen to the APH Webinar Training Series for activation instructions, teaching tips, and lesson plans.

The American Printing House for the Blind, in collaboration with the Sendero Group and Accessible World, is pleased to offer orientation and mobility specialists, teachers of persons with visual impairments, other professionals dealing with visual impairments, and students and adults with visual impairments a series of audio webinars on [APH Talking PC Maps](http://conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rsc9613dc89eb2). Webinars are scheduled on the second Thursday of each month from September 2012 through April 2013 at 4:00 p.m. Pacific, 5:00 p.m. Mountain, 6:00 p.m. Central, and 7:00 p.m. Eastern. To participate in these webinars, point your browser to: <http://conference321.com/masteradmin/room.asp?id=rsc9613dc89eb2>

The first time you attend a webinar, you will need to install a small piece of software on your computer. Do this by clicking the Download link on the above web page. After you install the software, click the link that says, "Click here to enter the Room."

If you cannot attend the webinar in person, webinars will be archived at www.accessibleworld.org. Look for the link for APH Talking PC Maps under the Archives heading.

If you have any questions about webinars or about APH Talking PC Maps, please contact Terrie Terlau by phone at 502-899-2381 or by email at tterlau@aph.org.

Remaining Maps Webinar Dates and Topics

Thursday 10/11/12, 7:00 pm EST: Setting Current Position and Basic Exploration

Thursday 11/8/12, 7:00 pm EST: What are Points of Interest and How Do I Use Them

Thursday 12/13/12, 7:00 pm EST: Side of Street Tracking and Moving by Point of Interest while Exploring

Thursday 1/10/13, 7:00 pm EST: Software-Created Routes and How to Create, Use, Save, Print, Emboss, and Transfer Them

Thursday 2/14/13, 7:00 pm EST: User-Created Routes and User POI and Intersection Annotations

Thursday 3/14/13, 7:00 pm EST: Using Maps in Classroom and O&M Instruction

Thursday 4/11/13, 7:00 pm EST: Using Maps in Transition Education (e.g., Budget Development and Career Planning) and On-the-job



ASSESSMENT NEWS



Colorado Accommodations Manual

The Sixth Edition of the Colorado Accommodations Manual is now posted on the Instructional Accommodations webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/Accommodations.asp>

Part I Instructional Accommodations includes Guidance, the Five-Step Process for educational teams, and a section of printable Tools, including a revised Alternate Standards and Assessment Eligibility Criteria Worksheet and a new Glossary of Instructional Accommodations chart. Part II relates to standard, restricted, and nonstandard accommodations used for the state summative assessment and includes information for TCAP, CoAlt, and ACCESS for English Language Learners.

TVIs, please take time to read the manual. There is specific information pertinent to all children with disabilities and specifically for children who are blind/visually impaired or deafblind. It is essential that the Individualized Education Program team understands allowable accommodations and the process for requesting, as appropriate, a nonstandard accommodation. All nonstandard accommodations should be made through the District Assessment Coordinators.

Ordering Special Format TCAPs

TVIs – please note this important information about when you will need to work with your District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) to order special format state assessments.

- Special Populations Books orders (contracted braille, uncontracted braille and 18 point large print) can be ordered from **October 31 – November 23, 2012**
-
- Extra-large Print (font size over 18 point) and High Contrast test booklets must be ordered **no later than November 15, 2012**

Please work with your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) to know the specific district deadlines for ordering accommodated materials for the statewide assessments. This will help ensure that students receive the test format that they need.



BRINGING PARENTS TOGETHER

Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conferences bring parents of children with disabilities (ages birth to 21) together with educators, administrators, health care and other Colorado professionals to share ideas, discuss concerns, celebrate successes and obtain information related to supporting their child in all aspects of life. PEP provides a variety of activities designed to engage participants, such as small and large group sessions that address a multitude of topics. Funded by the Colorado Department of Education, PEP is typically held three times each academic year—in the fall, winter and spring. In order to enable more families and professionals to participate, PEP conferences are scheduled throughout Colorado. Come to a conference and find out what the buzz is about.

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 or to Tanni Anthony, CDE ESSU, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1175, Denver, CO 80202. Or call and leave Tanni a voice message at (303) 866-6681.

PEAK Parent Center

Peak Parent Center is Colorado's federally designated Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). PEAK assists families and others through services like its telephone hotline, workshops, conferences, website, and publications. As a PTI, PEAK offers parent-to-parent support, but it does not hold support group meetings. We work one-on-one with families and also collaborate with state government and the education, rehabilitation, and medical communities to make system changes that improve outcomes for children.

To contact Peak:

**Address: 611 N Weber
Colorado Springs, CO 80903**

Phone: 719-531-9400

Fax: 719-531-9452

Hotline: 1-800-284-0251

E-mail: info@peakparent.org

Parent Advisors: 1-800-284-0251, parentadvisor@peakparent.org.

The fall edition of PEAK's electronic newsletter "SPEAKout" is available at:

www.peakparent.org/signup.asp

Sign up today to receive the newsletter regularly and to receive more information from PEAK.



Websites for Parents

Gathered by Jessica Mills Clark

Essential Assessments for Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired - <http://www.earubric.com/>. Features medical and educational information that help parents learn more about “The Eye and How We See” and related information. The rubrics and checklists can help parents become better advocates for their child by helping them objectively consider services received and assessments and will help them communicate more clearly with educators. There is also an overview of childhood visual disorders, how medications that influence visual functioning, and other detailed information.

Family Connect - <http://www.familyconnect.org>. This website has a “Tool Kit” that parents can easily download for information and practical ways to come to terms with their child’s vision impairment or blindness. The website also has easy to read handouts to help parents learn to support all areas of their child’s development. The website also has chats and other ways parents can connect directly with each other.

Making Sense of Baby - <https://www.makingsenseofbaby.com/>. This website helps parents understand how infants develop. They can enter their child’s age and move the mouse to “see”, “move”, and “touch” things just as their child does at this particular developmental stage. It serves as a is a great “hands-on” tool.

Quality Child Care Guide - <http://www.aeyc-sea.org/qualityguide2010.pdf>. This guide helps parents find quality child care and includes interview questions parents can ask when screening potential care providers (scroll to end). This is a great resource for parents returning to work.

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired - <http://www.tsbvi.edu/resources>. Provides a list of resources parents can easily access, including newsletters full of practical information. There is a link to information about learning styles and how to use information to help plan interventions (below).

<http://www.tsbvi.edu/resources/2267-observations-of-learning-styles-of-infants-and-toddlers-with-visual-impairments-or-deafblindness-using-information-about-how-children-learn-to-plan-effective-intervention>

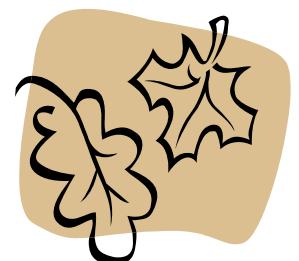
American Foundation for the Blind - <http://www.afb.org/default.aspx>. This website has blogs, information on recent legislation, descriptions of eye conditions, and even a “Career Connect” page for job seekers. This site also links back to Family Connect page..

Illinois Dept of Human Services Early Intervention Guidelines about Vision Development

http://www.morgan.k12.il.us/isd/hveio/documents/guidelines_vision.pdf. This guide is available on-line and provides parents with general information on vision loss, dual-sensory loss, policies, resources and tools.

UNC Receives a Personnel Prep Grant!!

The University of Northern Colorado and Dr. Paula Conroy are pleased to announce that we received funding in the 2012 OSEP's Personnel Preparation Grant competition. The new grant will award \$250,000 per year for a total of \$1,250,000 over 5 years. Seventy-five percent of this grant will go toward supporting student tuition in the TVI and O&M programs at UNCO. This grant is highly competitive so anyone who is interested should contact Paula Conroy at paula.conroy@unco.edu for more information. Funds are anticipated to be available as of January 2013.



Kids Health - www.KidsHealth.org. The site has easy to read articles in English and Spanish. Articles are brief but informative and organized in easy to find tabs. Parents can find information on eye diseases, general information on how the eye works, as well as information on everything from nutrition to general illnesses to exercise and study skills. There are also pages for Teens and Children.

The Association for Retinopathy of Prematurity and Related Diseases - www.Ropard.org. This website has all the information and educational resources connected with Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) and other related diseases.

Wonder Baby - www.WonderBaby.org. This website is part of the Perkins network and is designed specifically for parents with children who are blind or disabled. The website includes Q&A from other parents, opportunities to network, relevant articles of interest and a variety of activity ideas for children with vision impairment.

Perkins School for the Blind - www.Perkins.org. Perkins School for the Blind is where Helen Keller was educated and continues to be on the cutting edge of education. The website features teaching resources, articles, news and events, training opportunities, and links to Wonder Baby.

National Consortium on Deaf Blindness - <http://nationaldb.org/>. This website is great for parents as well as professionals. There is a link to a page "DB 101" that includes brief tutorials which provide insight to what it might be like to be deafblind and how this could impact learning and development. It includes information on assessment as well as all developmental domains, environment, and motor and movement.



Perkins Training & Educational Resources Program presents

Two Brand-New Webcasts!

Advocating for Your Child's Needs
AND
Accessible Technology Options

In our new webcast, "**Advocating for Your Child's Needs: What Do You Need to Know?**" **Diana Autin, Esq.**, the Executive Co- Director of the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN), New Jersey's Parent Training and Information Center presents the companion guides that were developed by NJ SPAN based on the Deafblindness: Educational Service Guidelines. These companion guides include fact sheets, mini-guides and an IEP Meeting Checklist. These materials provide a framework to support the development of meaningful, appropriate programming for students with deafblindness. Go to:

http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts_Advocating_For_Your_Childs_Needs

Our second webcast for this month is "**Accessible Technology Options for the Reader Who is Blind or Visually Impaired**" with **Brian Charlson**, Technology Director at the Carroll Center for the Blind in Newton, MA. In this webcast Brian demonstrates a variety of devices that provide the capability of accessing books via speech, large print, or braille. Among the devices that Brian demonstrates are: the Victor Reader Stream, the Booksense, The Bookport Plus, the Kindle, the iPad and the iPhone. Go to:

http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts_Accessible_Technology_Options

DOTS OF INTEREST



Resource for Braille Music



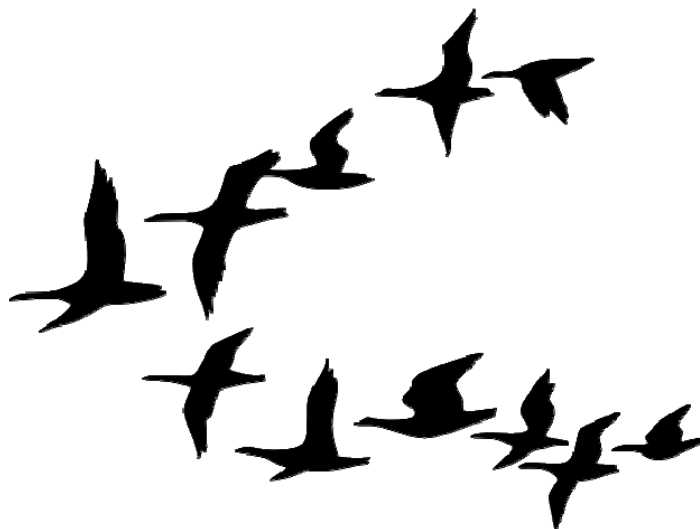
This website lists two sources to search for braille music that has already been done. It also details how to get music brailled that hasn't been done before. For more information, please go to: <http://blindreaders.info/brbooks.html>



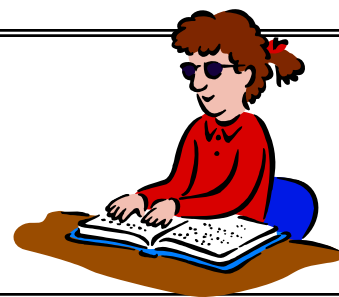
Braille Piano and Chorale Music Resource

The aim of the Prima Vista Braille Music Services is to make braille music more easily available to visually impaired musicians everywhere. Their website offers transcriptions of copyright music produced in partnership with some of the world's most innovative music publishers. They have developed their own software that works directly with publishers' production files. This means that when new printed music is published, the braille edition can be produced at the same time. They can also produce individual transcriptions if they don't already have a particular piece that is needed.. The Guardian newspaper recently produced this short film about Prima Vista, which also works well as an audio piece. Check it out to find out more about our work www.primavistamusic.com. The website for the Prima vista Braille Music Services is: <http://www.primavistamusic.com/index.php>

"It is a fact that that in the right formation of the lifting power of many wings can achieve twice the distance of any bird flying alone!"



DOTS OF INTEREST



News from BANA

BANA to Vote about Braille Code in November

At its fall 2012 meeting, which will be held November 2nd through 4th, the Braille Authority of North America will take a vote that will set the course for the future of braille codes in the United States. The direction under consideration is the adoption of Unified English Braille while maintaining the Nemeth Code for technical materials.

"We need to make improvements to reduce barriers that hinder timely and accurate braille transcription and to ensure that braille will remain a flexible, robust system that meets the needs of people who read and write braille in this digital age," said Frances Mary D'Andrea, Chair of BANA. "If the motion is approved, it would be the first step in the decision-making process, which will include developing a carefully formulated plan for transition and implementation of the code while as much as possible avoiding disruption for current braille readers."

The Board of BANA consists of appointed representatives from fifteen member organizations of braille producers, transcribers, teachers, and consumers. Detailed information about the background of the code issues can be found in the article "Evolution of Braille: Can the Past Help Plan the Future?" Links to this article are available on the BANA website home page at www.brailleauthority.org>. Print and braille copies of this article are available upon request. Please send an email to brailleauthority@gmail.com>, providing your postal mailing address and stating if you want a print or braille copy.

Additional information about UEB can be found at the website of the International Council on English Braille at www.iceb.org>.

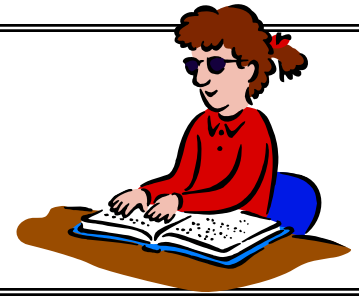
BANA to Hold Fall Board Meeting in Los Angeles

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA), which meets face-to-face semiannually, will hold its fall meeting on November 2–4, 2012, in Los Angeles, CA. This meeting is hosted by the Braille Institute of America (BIA), a BANA member organization.

BANA will host an Open Forum on Friday morning, November 2. This forum is the venue for participants to ask questions and discuss braille with the Board and to learn more about the workings of BANA. Members of the BANA Board want to hear participants' views about issues surrounding braille and its future. Braille readers, teachers, and producers of braille are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to participate in a round-table discussion with the members of the BANA Board. To reserve your space at the Open Forum and to help ensure accurate counts for handouts, contact BANA Chair Frances Mary D'Andrea at 412-521-5797 or by email at: literacy2@mindspring.com>.



DOTS OF INTEREST



(BANA Board Meeting, continued)

As always, interested parties are invited to observe the BANA Board meetings. Items on the Board's agenda include reports from all of BANA's committees as well as votes pertaining to the future of braille codes in the United States. One direction under consideration is the adoption of Unified English Braille while maintaining the Nemeth Code. To reserve a seat as an observer, please contact Frances Mary D'Andrea at 412-521-5797 or literacy2@mindspring.com. For additional resource information, visit www.brailleauthority.org



Touch of Genius

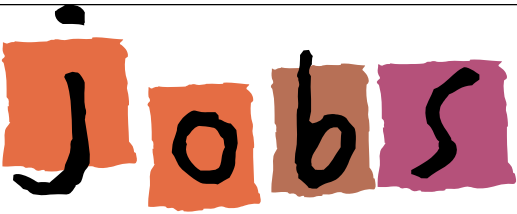
The National Braille Press would like to invite creative people to apply for a **\$20,000 award** to honor those innovating in the field of Tactile Literacy. The Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation was developed to inspire an innovator to continue the promotion of braille literacy for people who are blind or deafblind worldwide.



The prize will be granted to a group or individual for a new educational method, tactile literacy product, software application or technological advance related to tactile literacy. The Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation may be awarded for a completed project or anticipated concept that shows viability and will improve opportunities for blind people — projects such as the 2011 Co-Awardees Christine Short's *Feel the Beat: Braille Music Curriculum*, which uses the soprano recorder to teach the braille music code to blind students, and Ashok Sapre's Tactile Accudraw Graphics Set, a low cost, multifunctional, manual device for producing rich graphics and embossing braille notes. The Touch of Genius Prize for Innovation is provided through support from National Braille Press and The Gibney Family Foundation.

Applications must be received by November 2, 2012. For more information and to download the application please visit www.touchofgeniusprize.org





IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for this school year. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings. If you know of an anticipated opening in your part of the state, please begin working to recruit someone into our field by ensuring he or she has an opportunity to learn about being a TVI and/or an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. This may be a paraeducator, a brailist, and/or a colleague already in the teaching profession. Please work with Dr. Paula Conroy to learn more about the UNC distance education / graduate program to prepare TVIs and O&M Specialists in Colorado!

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

Metro Region Jobs

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (2 FTE): Aurora Public Schools. Apply online at www.aps.k12.co.us. For more information contact Jo Cunningham at 720-271-9668 or Brenda Shepard @ 303 995 7913
- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (1 FTE): Jefferson County Public Schools. For more information, contact Karie Yenter in Human Resources at (303) 982-6515.

Southern Region Jobs

- ✓ **CSDB** is actively recruiting and accepting applications for positions for the 2012-13 school year. Those interested in TVI positions specific to early childhood, the School for the Blind, and/or the Outreach Program should contact Chelle Lutz at clutz@csdb.org or (719) 578-2114.

Northern

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** - 1 FTE - Position with Brighton School District. For more information, please contact Mary Gomez at mgomez@sd27j.org or 303-655-2925.

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





Calendar of Events

2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012

- Oct 25 - 27 **Colorado State NFB Convention** - Harvest House in Boulder
Visit: <http://cocenter.org/>
- Oct 25—27 **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference**—Vail, CO
Visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp>
- Oct 31 – Nov 23 **Window for Ordering Braille or 18 Point Large Print TCAP Tests with Your DACs**
- November 8 **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB
Contact: Veronica Crim - vcrim@csdb.org
- November 9 **Blind Students Dissect Sharks**—CO Center for the Blind, Littleton,
Visit: www.cocenter.org
- November 15 **Last day to Order a Extra Large (18+ Print) TCAP Test with Your DAC**
- November 16 **USABA 7th Annual Common Sight, Common Vision Breakfast**—Colorado Springs, CO
Contact: Mark Lucas - mlucas@usaba.org
- November 16 - 18 **2012 CAOMS Statewide Conference for O&Ms** - San Diego, CA
Visit: www.caoms.org
- November 30 **Making Connections that Work for You**—CO Center for the Blind, Littleton, CO
Contact: bbatron@cocenter.org
- November 30 - Dec 1 **NFB's Tactile Graphics Conference** - Baltimore, MD
Visit: www.nfb.org/tactilegraphicsconference
- Dec 3 - 4 **CDE Trip to National Braille Press** to Review the braille-format TCAP Tests



2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

- January 9 **CAER Meeting** – (via telephone)
Contact: Heather Parson - hwparsons@hotmail.com
- January 10 **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB
Contact: Veronica Crim - vcrim@csdb.org

More Calendar of Events

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

- January 11** **Vision Coalition** - Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Contact: Tanni Anthony - anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- January 24** **Colorado Braille Challenge** —CSDB, Colorado Springs
Contact: Diane Covington—dcovington@csdb.org or (719) 578-2225
- February 6** **CAER Meeting** – 5:30 – 8:30 CentreTech, Aurora Public Schools
Contact: Heather Parson - hwparsons@hotmail.com
- February 24** **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB
Contact: Veronica Crim - vcrim@csdb.org
- February 28-March 2** **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference** - (location TBD)
Visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp>
- March 1-3** **CSDB Snowshoe Weekend**
Contact: Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org or (719) 578-2225
- March 6** **CAER Meeting** – 5:30 – 8:30 (via telephone)
Contact: Heather Parson - hwparsons@hotmail.com
- March 14** **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB
Contact: Veronica Crim - vcrim@csdb.org
- March 20** **CSDB Career Day** — Colorado Springs
Contact: Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org or (719) 578-2225
- April 10** **CAER Meeting** – 5:30 – 8:30 (Nancy Cozart's home)
Contact: Heather Parson - hwparsons@hotmail.com
- April 11** **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB
Contact: Veronica Crim - vcrim@csdb.org
- April 25** **Vision Coalition** – location to be determined
Contact: Tanni Anthony - anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- May 1** **Last Day (Please and Thank You!) to order braille books with the CIMC for 2013-14 SY**
- May 2-4** **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference** - (location TBD)
Visit: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp>
- June 3 - 7** **Assistive Technology Conference**—Denver
Contact: TBD
- June 10-14** **Summer Institute on Deafblindness and SSN**—Denver
Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681
- June 13** **CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting** - CSDB
Contact: Veronica Crim - vcrim@csdb.org
- June 18—21** **WREIC/Northern Rockies AER Sensory Disabilities Conference**—Jackson Hole, WY
(more information to come)

More Calendar of Events

July 25—28

CHARGE Syndrome Conference—Scottsdale, AZ
Contact: <http://www.chargesyndrome.org/>

2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014

July 30-Aug 3

AER International Conference – San Antonio, TX
Visit: www.aerbvi.org



Visit The CHARGE Syndrome Foundation Website



SAVE THE DATES

**Professional Day
July 25**

**Conference
July 26 - 28**

**July 25 - 28, 2013
Scottsdale, Arizona**

It's hard to believe that we're only one year away from the 11th International CHARGE Syndrome Conference. No matter whether this is your eleventh conference or your first, a CHARGE conference is truly a wondrous experience.

At the 2011 conference we hosted more than 850 attendees including individuals with CHARGE, their families, professionals and 65 experts on CHARGE syndrome. When families and professionals get together to share and learn, wonder fills the air.

Let the wonder begin in your home: save the dates and commit to attending the conference. We'll have many more conference details in the months ahead so check the [Foundation website](#) often and keep an eye on your email inbox.





LET'S GO SKIING! (snowshoeing and snowboarding too!!)

Foresight Ski Guides would like to invite you and your visually impaired students to come skiing, snowboarding, or snowshoeing with us this winter at North America's premier ski resorts, Vail and Beaver Creek.

Foresight Ski Guides celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing affordable access for blind and visually impaired participants (VIPs, as we address them) to ski or board with our expert guides, some of whom have been guiding for more than 30 years!

We believe in "Challenge Recreation" whereby an individual attempts something that may be initially scary, but then is able to successfully conquer their fears and even master the sport. It's fun and hundreds have done it with us over our decade in existence. Fun yes, but our #1 priority is always safety.

The joy and excitement that is generated, coupled with some successful experiences, instills pride and builds self-confidence. Hopefully our VIPs will be more willing to tackle other challenges they confront in life and strive to excel in all they pursue. We know it can happen: we've seen the results with many of our young VIPs over the past seven years of working with CSDB students of all ages.

And we are growing. Recently, Foresight's president Mark G. Davis (also visually impaired) and Senior Program Coordinator Randy Witte presented in Bellevue WA at the 2012 Biennial AER International Conference. We generated a great deal of interest from schools for the blind and other agencies outside Colorado that would like to bring VIPs to Vail to participate with us this winter. We're taking this opportunity to reach out to you, our friends, colleagues, and neighbors in Colorado, to get a jump on the season as well as the out-of-staters!

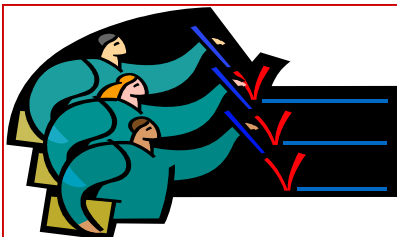
For Colorado VIPs: Foresight will provide its local VIPs with lift tickets, equipment rental, super-discounted lodging, and transportation assistance as part of its on-going outreach to Colorado students. Please contact us as soon as possible if you have even a whiff of interest.

Parents, please inquire about lessons/instruction for your child.

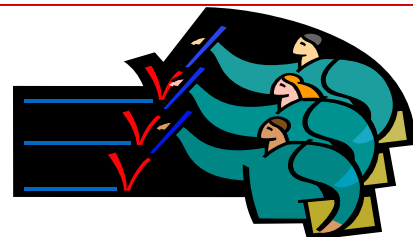
TVIs, please feel free to check us out on the slopes as well. We'd love to host you to see our program in action.

Please visit our website at foresightskiguide.org and to identify dates and availability as well as any other questions you have, please contact our President Mark G. Davis at 303-506-3859 or via email at: foresightskiguide@gmail.com>.

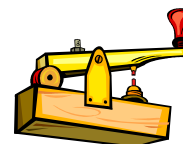




CHECK IT OUT!



Information Release:



NASDSE, September 24, 2012 – Bill East, Executive Director

Across the country, virtual schools and online education are gaining popularity at a rapid rate, yet little research exists on whether such methods are effective for students with disabilities. To learn more about this, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in the U.S. Department of Education funded the **Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities** in January of 2012.

The five-year grant project is a partnership involving the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning (KUCRL), the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST), and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE).

Together, these organizations will conduct research on how K-12 online learning impacts the access, participation, and progress of students with disabilities. Research outcomes are expected to inform the design, selection, and implementation of online digital curriculum materials, the systems that deliver and support them, and the instructional practices associated with their use, in order to increase their efficacy for students with disabilities and other elementary and secondary learners.

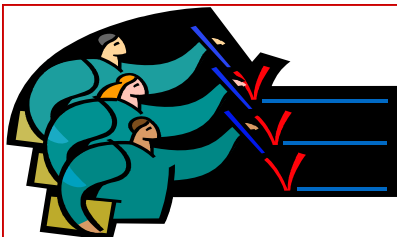
Updates on the Center's progress along with original research can be found at centeronlinelearning.org. For daily updates, follow the Center on Twitter @onlinecenter1

The C in Cool! Teaching Social Skills

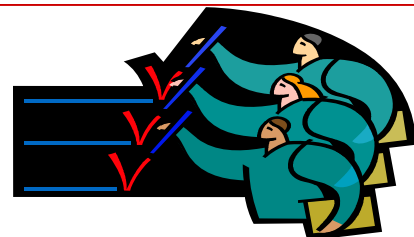
Here are examples of lessons highlighting social skills programming developed by educators and orientation and mobility instructors from around the U.S. The Texas Advisory Committee for the Education of Students with Visual Impairments challenged teachers, parents, COMS, and students with visual impairments to submit a short video on the theme, "Social Skills: Putting the C in Cool." This contest was open to people throughout the United States and Canada.

The 2012 winners have been announced. In the enclosed link you will find favorite lessons that you may use to teach social skills at home, school, or in the community. Take a look and help get the word out about this contest and the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) focus.

<http://www.dcmp.org/ai/socialskills/default.html>



CHECK IT OUT!



NEW NICHCY



BLOG!!

You Need to Know About NICHCY's Disability Fact Sheets

The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHCY) newest blog posts brief, detailed fact sheets that define disabilities, describe their characteristics, offer tips for parents and teachers, and provide connections to related information and organizations. Follow this link:

<http://nichcy.org/nichcys-disability-fact-sheets>

To see other NICHCY blogs go to: <http://nichcy.org/blog>.

Check out these great resources!

Events in November You Won't Want to Miss At the Colorado Center

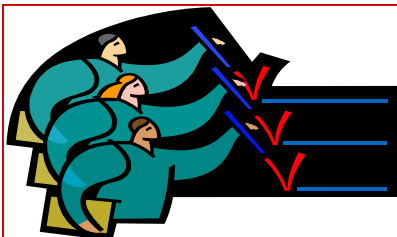


Blind Students Dissect Sharks

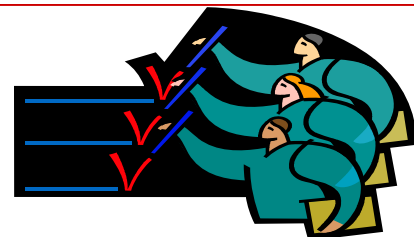
On **Friday, November 9, 2012 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm** the Colorado Center is hosting a shark dissection in partnership with Arapahoe Community College for students in middle and high school who are blind or low vision. According to Brent Batron, Youth Services Coordinator, "traditionally, science classes have been thought to be inaccessible to kids who are blind or have low vision but it is simply not true. These kids just need the opportunity to participate in science classes. By dissecting sharks these kids will have the opportunity, perhaps for the first time in their academic career, to be fully integrated into a science class." For more information go to www.cocenter.org or call 303-778-1130.

Making Connections that Work for You

All blind and visually impaired high school students, their teachers and their parents are invited to a one-day interactive seminar all about connecting...through the internet, social media, on the telephone and face-to-face. Meet successful blind people who are lawyers, teachers, financial analysts, college students and more! Over 15 employers will be available to talk about their place of employment and their job duties. There will be breakout sessions covering the technology age, "get that job", and how to effectively handle blindness in all situations. Join the conversations on **November 30, 2012 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm**. Lunch will be provided!! Please **RSVP by November 26, 2012** to Brent Batron at: bbatron@cocenter.org or call 303-778-1130.



CHECK IT OUT!



STAARS Online Information on Key Education Topics

STAARS is an online resource, developed by the Regional Resource Center Program (RRCP) Student Performance and Achievement Priority Team (SPA), providing current information on key topics and issues related to standards, assessment, and accountability, including requirements within the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Content is organized by topic and is not all-inclusive, but provides users with an introduction and overview of the issue, a references list, and links to suggested resources containing additional information. STAARS will be updated regularly to ensure the information and resources remain accurate, relevant, and reflective of the most current best practice and guidance available. To check out any of the following topics, please go to: <http://spa.sites.tadnet.org/pages/69>

STAARS Topics [Accountability](#); [Accommodations](#); [Alternate Assessment](#); [College and Career Readiness](#); [Common Core](#); [English Language Learners and English Language Learners with Disabilities](#); [Computer-Adaptive Testing \(CAT\)/Computer-Based Assessments \(CBA\)](#); [Enhanced Assessment Grants](#); [ESEA Waivers](#); [Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness](#); [Formative Assessment](#); [Growth Models](#); [Learning Progressions](#); [Out-of-Level Testing](#); [Peer Review](#); [Race to the Top](#); [Standards Based IEPs](#); and [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Calendar Time Survey

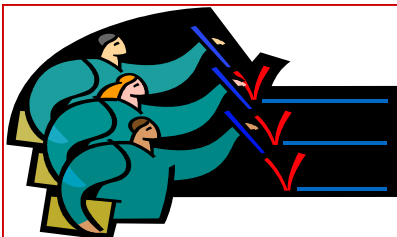
Based on input from an Early Childhood Focus Group that met at APH in August 2012, APH has developed a survey to ascertain the current practices of "calendar time" in the early childhood classroom. The results of this survey will guide APH regarding the next steps for development of a Calendar Time Kit.

January	February	March
April	May	June
July	August	September
October	November	December

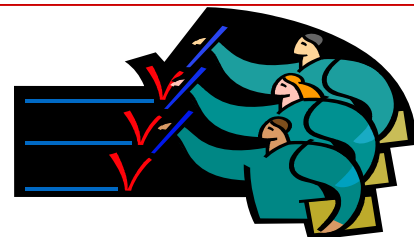
The survey is available via Google Drive: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?pli=1&formkey=dGZLeml3b0VILU1yWFF5X1pUaWFCWVE6MQ#gid=0>

We greatly appreciate your input on this topic. After completing the survey, simply hit "Submit" and your responses will be sent directly to APH staff.

Please contact Burt Boyer (bboyer@aph.org) or Monica Vaught-Compton (mvaught@aph.org) if you have any questions related to this survey.



CHECK IT OUT!



7th Annual Common Sight, Common Vision Breakfast For our athletes, a loss of sight is never a loss of vision...

Date: Friday, November 16, 2012

Place: DoubleTree Hotel
1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Time: 7:00—8:30 am

RSVP: mlucas@usaba.org or
Call (719) 866-3224

Guest Speakers: 2012 Paralympics Athletes Lex Gillette, Jen Armbruster and Lex's Guide Wes Williams

This year's guest speaker panel will celebrate the accomplishments of USABA athletes in the 2012 London Paralympics Games. Jen Armbruster is a six time Paralympian and one of the best goalball athletes to ever play the game. Jen is a three time Paralympics Medalist, World Champion and member of the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame.

Lex Gillette, a totally blind track athlete has acquired a world record, two Paralympics silver medals, eight American records and twelve national championships and a London 2012 Paralympics Games Silver Medalist in the Long Jump.

Wes Williams is the guide for Lex who trains and competes with Lex in the 100m, 200m and calls for him in the long and triple jumps. Wes is a California native and currently resides at the Chula Vista Olympic Training Center.

USABA Opportunities: USABA is seeking to enhance the opportunities for blind and visually impaired youth in Colorado by introducing them to sports, especially in the disciplines of goalball, cycling, track and field, cross country, Judo and swimming.

USABA's goal is to provide every blind and visually impaired youth in Colorado the chance to participate in sports with the aim of promoting independence, physical fitness, and the confidence and skills to participate in mainstream athletic activities. It is our hope to see each student be able to join regular physical education classes, participate in a wide variety of sports teams and use our community based programs as a springboard for future athletic achievement. USABA would like to partner with the O&M and VI teachers of Colorado so that every student who is blind and visually impaired can be reached. We would also like for interested teachers to participate as coaches or volunteers. This project is started by USABA's newest employee, Matt Simpson. Matt is a recent graduate of Washington and Lee University and played on the United States Men's National Goalball Team. He also has won both an IBSA World Youth Championship and a USABA National Championship. If you would like to help USABA reach our goal, please contact Matt Simpson, Membership and Outreach Coordinator, by e-mail at msimpson@usaba.org or by phone at (719) 866-3019.

Vision Coalition Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2012

Persons in Attendance: Tanni Anthony, Paula Conroy, Nancy Cozart, LaVerne Dell, Barb Galgano, Charlotte Javier, Jennifer Langely, Judy Mumford, Jim Olson, Everett Romero, and Angela Sims.

MISSION OF THE VISION COALITION

The purpose of the Vision Coalition is to bring the collective resources of the group together to address state priorities improving services to students who are blind/visually impaired.” (April 1998)

LEGEND OF ACRONYMS

CDE	=	Colorado Department of Education
CIMC	=	Colorado Instructional Materials Center
COMS	=	certified orientation and mobility specialist
CSDB	=	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
DVR	=	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
ESSU	=	Exceptional Student Services Unit
TVI	=	teacher certified in the area of visual impairments

MEMBERS OF VISION COALITION FOR THE 2012-13 SCHOOL YEAR

Anchor Center for Blind Children – Charlotta Javier
Colorado AER Chapter – Barb Galgano
Colorado Department of Education – Tanni Anthony
Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – LaVerne Dell
Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind – Adams School for the Blind – Jennifer Langely
Colorado Parents of Blind Children – Everett Romero
Metro TVI / COMS– Nancy Cozart
Northern TVI / COMS – Paula Conroy
Southern TVI / COMS – Judy Mumford
Western TVI / COMS – Angela Sims

We welcome new members Barb Galgano, Everett Romero, and Jennifer Langley. We thank Wendy Stoltman and Jamie Lugo for their past service with the Vision Coalition.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

Future Meeting Dates: Thursday November 8 in Aurora from 3:00-4:30; Thursday February 7 in Denver from 3:00-4:30; and A Thursday in April (date and time to be determined based on Dr. Ensenhauer’s schedule).

Our first meeting of the school year was on Friday, September 14th in Littleton. JC Greeley, from Anchor Center, shared information on the Teller Acuity Cards. TVIs that were present were able to dialogue about this assessment tool and have a little hands-on practice with colleagues.

Also at the first meeting, we were able to conference with Jim Olson at the CIMC through the magic of technology. This was the first time the metro group as tried to hold part of their meeting this way. Thanks to Nancy Knight and Jim for setting it up. It was quite successful and opened up possibilities to link people across the metro area, other speakers and even share regional meetings (northern, southern, western, and metro). Jim was able to go through the steps to access the CSDB website and CIMC phone system, forms and specific links, APH products, etc. TVIs were able to ask questions and share comments. It was valuable time.

Nancy Knight gave the dates of the metro low vision clinic. It will be held February 27, 28 and March 1st, 2012. This bumps right up with the snowshoe weekend. If anyone needs a student to attend the clinic and go snowshoeing, check with Nancy Knight regarding scheduling.

Discussion Item: *The Metro Region is looking for ways to include more people in their meetings. There may be ways to bring people to the meeting via technology. It could help with attendance within a region and even across regions. At a recent meeting, Jim was able to use CSDB's Microsoft Lync online meeting to join in the meeting over the internet. The Southern region meeting had several attendees join via the internet as well. If another district uses Microsoft Lync – then there is a way to have a federation between districts, allowing for full use of the Lync system. People with Lync access can use an online meeting option to invite non-Lync users to participate in the meeting they are broadcasting. Invited participants have three options for joining. They may join by phone (through long distance); through a web based option (through a browser); or by installing the full “Lync attendee package”. Another possibility is “Group Skype.” Jim will follow up with CSDB's Distance Learning Coordinator (Deb Branch) to get more information about how these types of technologies might work. Jim will also be in touch with the TVIs and school district contacts to learn who else might have Microsoft Lync in their school districts. It may also be possible for people to join a Lync online meeting via their own home computers with internet access.*

Southern Region (Judy Mumford)

The Southern Region TVI meetings will be hosted by the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind in the Lion Conference Building from 1:00 – 3:00pm on the following dates. Attendees will have the option of joining the meetings over the internet from a remote location of their choice using the Microsoft Lync Attendee package.

October 22, 2012
February 25, 2013

November 26, 2012
April 29, 2013

January 28, 2013

The September Low Vision Evaluation Clinic has been postponed at this time. There were only three students signed up and the paperwork was not complete. Jim and Donice will work with the southern region to determine if the clinic can be rescheduled.

Discussion Items:

Technology Choices: *There is local discussion about how to choose specific technology for our young children. For example, do children start out with tablets / laptops or braille notetakers. This is a national level conversation. Do we use mainstream technology or technology specific to blindness or both? Some Colorado districts are started with mainstreamed technology with the philosophy that it is the technology that the students will ultimately be seeing in the workplace and what is used by the broad population. Other district use both – taking into consideration the age of the student from a hand size perspective and how big the device is compared to the size of the child's hands. Another factor is the environment where the student is using the device – portability, for example, may be a factor for different settings.*

LaVerne will send us the link to the weekly newsletter technology resources that will be posted in the next KIT Newsletter. Thanks, LaVerne.

UEB Code: *There is a question about the Unified English Braille code and where we are as a country on the UEB. Great question! Tanni will ask Lucia Hasty to provide us with an update at our upcoming state conference.*

Western Region (Angela Sims)

Everyone is back to school and looking forward to the new school year. Kevin O'Brien is excited to be supervising Beth Myers in her teaching practicum in Delta County. Grand Junction hosted the Low Vision Clinic and everyone appreciated the Low Vision Teams efforts to make every student feel important. It's always nice to see students and their families having such a positive experience.

Discussion items:

State IEP Form: *Is there a specific reason why CDE includes the words print/ braille with the type of mode? (Regular print or visual mode; Print enlargement or visual mode with optical enhancement; Braille or tactual mode) This was not previously on our IEPs and the state IEP system has it listed. The concern is having print /braille as a choice can be very misleading for some people. Tanni has talked with our CDE lead person on Excent and they can make any needed changes.*

Another question came up about “how much time” is dedicated to the instruction of these modes. Tanni will go back and check the statute.

What do other districts do when they want to list a co-primary on the recommended learning and literacy mode? The current State IEP system does not appear to allow for a co-primary or co-secondary drop down for those situations where it is appropriate. Again Tanni will work internally to address this concern.

Do other school districts add specific accommodations for assessments or do they just use a drop down menu of options? The old systems allowed for drop-down menus that would be individualized for the student. Now there is forced fields for the summative assessment. Is there a place to add different accommodations? There is a fill-in block for the alternate assessment. Tanni will go back and take a look at how this works on the state form.

Braille –Format IEPs for Parents: Another question came up about providing the IEP in braille to parents. If the Procedural Safeguard document is needed in braille, the CDE will provide this document in braille. It would be the district’s responsibility to provide the IEP in an accessible format to the parent.

Students on 504 Plans: There has been a question raised about eligibility for the low vision clinic for a visually impaired student on a 504. The regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics are funded through IDEA Set Aside funds. As such, the clinics are reserved for students with IEPs.

Northern Region (Paula Conroy)

It has been difficult to pull together northern TVI meetings. It may be that a meeting with a strong-interest focus may be a good lure to get folks together. For example, a focus on technology and/or time with Jim previewing APH products might be a good way to pull people together.

Discussion Items:

Notetakers and TCAP: A question came up about using a notetaker on state assessments. Tanni talked to Mira Monroe in the CDE Assessment Unit who said that notetakers are considered a standard accommodation for the TCAP (with the spell check featured turned off and the student supervised). They must follow the same test security constraints as all Assistive Technology.

APH Quota Funds: There was also a question about Federal Quota Funds (administered by APH) – what can be purchased with it and what cannot? APH’s Educational Products Advisory Committee (EPAC) makes recommendations about which items should be available through quota funds and then these recommendations are reviewed and finalized with the federal government. If the item is commercially available through another means, it would not be available for purchase through quota funds. Colorado has students who have been identified with a visual impairment in 95 school districts. As such, there has to be a plan for equitable distribution of products purchased with quota funds. CIMC staff is in the process of updating procedures including product distribution. It was suggested that Jim draft a “Q and A” document on APH practices specific to Colorado. He will also be sharing information on APH / CIMC procedures at the CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment.

CAER (Barb Galgano)

CAER had its first formal meeting on September 5, 2012. With new Board Members assembled, we had a very productive meeting.

CAER Board Members 2012-14

President: Heather Parsons President-Elect: David Gooldy Past President: Mike Plansker Treasurer: Trina Boyd-Pratt
Secretary: Nancy Cozart Membership/Recruitment: Barb Galgano
Active Members: Paula Conroy, Bill Muir, Deb Carlisle, Sally Burch

Future meetings and locations, members invited & encouraged to attend! It may be possible to use some of the distance meeting technologies to include others in these meetings.

Thursday, October 4th 4-5:30 PM @ CDE State Conference
Wednesday, November 7th 5:30 PM @ Heather Parsons’ s home
Wednesday, January 9th 5:30 pm VIA telephone

Wednesday, February 6th 5:30 PM @ CentreTech, Aurora Public Schools
Wednesday, March 6th 5:30 PM VIA telephone
Wednesday, April 10th 5:30 PM Nancy Cozart's home
May TBD

CAER will be hosting an information table at the Colorado State Conference on Visual Impairment. Items on display will include: mini-grant opportunities, \$50 reimbursement for ACVREP certifications, how to be an active member, upcoming sponsored CAER events (see list below), website devoted to CAER, In-Kind Foundation information, and so much more!

Future Sponsored and Co-sponsored CAER events Just to name a few...

- * White Cane Day t-shirt Contest
- * CSDB & CAER Snow Shoe Weekend in Snow Mountain Ranch in the Granby area**
- * Eyecycle biking for the whole family!
- * Rock Climbing
- * Mini Grants (on or before November 7, 2012 and on or before April 10, 2013)
- * ACVREP initial and renewal certification (\$50 reimbursement of costs)

** For students who will be part of the Metro Low Vision Clinic AND who want to participate in the Snow Shoe Weekend, please make sure that Nancy Knight (our metro LVE Coordinator) has this information so care can be taken to schedule these kids on the first days of the clinic.

There may be some future options for how to do some of the CAER events regionally to help expand activities to TVIs across the state.

Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (LaVerne Dell)

All of the teacher specialists are being trained on the various uses of the iPhone and the applications that enhance accessibility. DVR is in the process of hiring a second teacher for the northern region to meet the needs of those living on the north eastern plains. Another staffing change in process is taking place in the Aurora office; which is having a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Blind in that office. This will greatly benefit the residents of Aurora by reducing travel time and having the counselor in their community.

Due to the geographical nature of Colorado, there are a number of individuals who live in communities that don't have public transportation. This impacts their ability to access and to participate in vocational rehabilitation services. To address this issue, DVR is working on a remote training program. This is where a participant will be trained remotely by staff based out of the Denver office, primarily in the use of assistive technology.

Ongoing efforts continue in the employer relations area, where DVR is working with employers to make worksites and computer systems accessible for potential and current employees who are blind/visually impaired. DVR also has a Randolph Shepard Program, which trains and licenses blind operators to manage food service/convenient stores in government buildings. This program is known as BEP (Business Enterprise Program.) The BEP program is working to expand the number of locations that are available for licensed operators to bid for.

Anchor Center for Blind Children (Charlotte Javier)

Anchor Center for Blind Children turns 30 years old this year!! Check out our website for [*30 Pearls of Wisdom*](#). Please tell Anchor graduates to contact us about a Reunion planned just for them on June 8, 2013. Congratulations to our Early Childhood Teacher, Lisa Roll who married Rick Moore on September 8, 2012. Also, Lisa Roll Moore and Stefanie Kirkwood started their TVI program this summer through Portland State University under Dr. James Bickford.

We have lots of structural change happened within our organization. Mindy Doyle-McCall is our new Program Director. JC Greeley is our new WOW (Wise Old Woman). Cathy Smyth is our Home Visit Team Lead. Sarah Bickford Vallese is Preschool Lead. Lisa Roll Moore is Toddler Lead. Welcome to Rachel Morris our new occupational therapist in pre-school.

CO Parents of Blind Children (Everett Romero)

The CO NFB Conference is coming up! The parents will be doing a session on socialization and anti-bullying. Jenn has a recommendation of someone from CSDB who might be a good speaker on this topic – she will share this information with Everett. The CO Parents of Blind Children meet on a monthly basis and provide get-together activities for families.

Discussion Item:

Parent Needs: Several years ago the Vision Coalition sponsored a parent survey to learn more about parent needs. Tanni will share the survey and its results with Everett. It might be a nice next step to bring the survey results to CPOBC to see if the needs are still the same or if there are new needs.

Colorado Instructional Material Center (Jim Olson)

(NEW) General CIMC phone number: (719) 578-2196 (this will ring every phone in the CIMC)
FAX: (719) 578-2207
Jim Olson, Coordinator: (719) 578-2195 / jolson@csdb.org
Debbie Haberkorn: (719) 578-2197 / dhaberkorn@csdb.org
Marla Garceau: (719) 578-2199 / mgarceau@csdb.org

Regarding the new general CIMC number of **(719) 578-2196**, this is not a new phone number for the CIMC, but it has been re-assigned to be the general incoming number. When you dial (719) 578-2196, every phone in the CIMC will ring at the same time. This is a good number to use when you need to talk to a live person and do not need to speak to one specific individual.

Important CIMC E-mail addresses:

cimcaphorders@csdb.org – Send your “APH Order Form” to this address. Please remember to send your confirmation email to this address to confirm when you have received your APH order completely.

cimcbookorders@csdb.org – Send your “Book Order Form” to this address for books in both large print or braille format. If you need to inquire about the status of a book order, please send an email to this address and not to an individual CIMC employee’s email. This will expedite a response.

cimcbrailers@csdb.org - *****NEW***** This is a new email account that was established during the summer of 2012. Send your “Braille Order” and “Braille Repair” forms to this address. If you have a need to inquire about the status of a braille, please email this address.

How to Get To the CIMC Website:

Go to: www.csdb.org Click on “Programs & Services”, “Outreach”, “CIMC”.
Click on the link for “CIMC Documents and Order Forms”

Send new "VI Registration" forms to: mgarceau@csdb.org

Send "Exit" forms to: mgarceau@csdb.org

Send order forms for APH educational materials to: cimcaphorders@csdb.org

Send order forms for braille and large print books to: cimcbookorders@csdb.org

Send braille order and repair forms to: cimcbrailers@csdb.org.

Contact Debbie Haberkorn (dhaberkorn@csdb.org) with your Low Vision Evaluation Clinic orders for prescribed devices up to one year after the date of the evaluation.

Contact Jim Olson (jolson@csdb.org) with your Low Vision Evaluation Clinic inquiries.

Improvements to the “VI Registration” form: All learners ages birth-21 who have been identified with a visual impairment should be registered with the CIMC as part of the statewide Colorado count of students who have been identified as blind/visually impaired. The “VI Registration” form has been revised into a fillable form with drop down menus that better aligns with our statewide count spreadsheet. The new form has been posted to the CIMC page of the CSDB website and can be located by going to: www.csdb.org, clicking on “Programs & Services,” “Outreach”,

“CIMC” and selecting the link to “CIMC Documents and Order Forms.”

Email new VI Registration forms as an attachment to Marla Garceau at mgarceau@csdb.org

Print and file a copy for your school district files

Send the original form, signed by your Director of Special Education, to the CIMC at: CIMC, 1015 East High Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80905.

Book orders for this school year (2012-2013): It has come to the attention of the CIMC that school district braillists are concerned about the quality of the braille purchased from certain vendors for students in Colorado. To date, the CIMC has not received a single notification from school districts about any errors within any books. If your district feels there are braille or formatting errors within a textbook, please do the following:

Send an email to cimcbookorders@csdb.org with the title of the book, the ISBN(s), the name of the transcription agency (listed on the title page of the book), and a description of the errors.

Mark the errors, clearly, so that CIMC staff and the transcription agency know the cells you are concerned about.

Feel free to mark directly in the book. Please flag or identify which pages contain the errors with sticky flags, paperclip, etc.

When the book is returned to CIMC, please clearly mark the box or the individual volume(s) so that CIMC is aware there are issues with the book. The title will then be annotated in the CIMC database so that it is not redistributed to another student before the errors have been addressed with the transcriber.

The sooner CIMC is notified, the better. This allows the CIMC to work with the transcriber to correct the files with less fiscal impact.

Book orders for next school year (2013-2014): 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 2013-14 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.

The CIMC is asking TVIs and district contact personnel to please be sure that a student is currently eligible for the APH quota before submitting an order for APH materials. Please do not use an eligible student’s status to order items for a non-quota eligible student. **Not every student who is blind/visually impaired in Colorado is quota-eligible.** For more information regarding eligibility requirements for the Federal Quota program, please visit www.aph.org.

The Statewide VI Registration Count & Federal Quota Count Process for 2012-2013:

The next Federal Quota count day is Monday, January 7, 2013.

October 5, 2012: “Round 1” - Administrative Units in Colorado will be mailed printed color-coded spreadsheets of their current enrollment data as reported by school districts to the CIMC. Spreadsheets will also be available for pickup from the CIMC exhibit table at the CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment Oct 4-6, 2012. TVIs and district contact personnel are asked to write updates directly on these original “Round 1” spreadsheets, print a copy for district files, and mail them to the CIMC by November 30, 2012.

November 30, 2012: "Round 1" VI Registration spreadsheets that have been updated by school district TVIs must be postmarked by November 30th and addressed to the CIMC.

December 31, 2012: CIMC will mail corrected "Round 2" VI Registration spreadsheets to district contact personnel. Once received, contacts are asked to keep the spreadsheets in a secure location until the Federal Quota count day, the first Monday in January of each calendar year. After count day, districts will be asked to compare their spreadsheets with their districts January 7th enrollment of students who have been identified as blind/visually impaired. The school district needs to tell the CIMC which students meet the eligibility criteria for the Federal Quota program (legally blind) that they want the CIMC to enter into the Federal Quota national database.

January 7, 2013: **FEDERAL QUOTA COUNT DAY!** Districts are asked to compare their current enrollment against the "Round 2" spreadsheets, make necessary changes directly on the printed spreadsheet, make a copy for their district files and mail the original "Round 2" form back to the CIMC by January 31, 2013 so CIMC staff can enter the information into the federal count database by the established deadline.

January 31, 2013: Deadline for returning corrected "Round 2" spreadsheets to the CIMC with updated student information specific to the January 7th count day.

Jim has asked TVIs and district contact personnel to PLEASE be sure that a student is eligible for APH quota funds before submitting an order to APH. **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

CSDB – BVI Outreach (Jim Olson)

We have started the last year of our three year strategic plan for Outreach Programs and Services. The four areas of the (Outreach) strategic plan are: (a) Distance Learning; (b) Parent and Student Support; (c) Professional Development; and (d) Technology. CSDB has hired a Distance Learning Coordinator, Deb Branch, to lead our efforts in the area of distance learning. Deb is a long time teacher and literacy specialist at CSDB. She has been the coordinator under the Outreach department for the Shared Reading Project (SRP) and Family Literacy Backpacks. CSDB has begun using technology to connect TVIs remotely to the monthly Southern Colorado regional TVI meetings. The CIMC has begun using the same technology to connect with individuals in school districts. CSDB will be broadcasting workshops from the Education Beyond High School Fair (Sept 26).

Technology Loan Bank for the Blind and Visually Impaired: A "Looky +" portable electronic magnifier has been added to the loan bank.

***Discussion:** A question came up about who funds mentoring to braillists. CSDB Outreach Programs and Services has funds to assist personnel in becoming Library of Congress Certified. The person has to be registered through the Library of Congress and the National Federation for the Blind Jernigan Institute.*

Upcoming events:

<u>October 15, 2012</u>	White Cane Day	<u>January 24, 2013</u>	Colorado Braille Challenge
<u>March 1-3, 2013</u>	Snowshoe Weekend	<u>March 20, 2013</u>	Career Day (CSDB)
<u>June 2013</u>	Family Learning Retreat	<u>June 2013</u>	Sports Education Camp
<u>July 2013</u>	Low Vision Expo (co-sponsored with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation)		

Persons interested in short courses, should Laura Douglas at ldouglas@csdb.org

CSDB – School for the Blind (Jennifer Langely)

Five students are beginning Colorado On-Line classes in order to access classes not currently offered at CSDB. The dorms and Adams are collaborating on homework support. September 10th begins the afterschool program in the Adams Media Center with tech and instructional support.

Adams PRIDE is strong. Over 600 Pride tickets in the first month have been collected by our students. The students are demonstrating exceptional skills in independence and determination. The monthly high flyer gets *Lunch with*

Langley and the quarterly winner gets to be Principal for the Day. The Adams Family is implementing projects that cross into the home. Not just homework support, but projects that will increase the conversation about learning at home. Families that participate get their name placed into a drawing for a prize. Our upper elementary class is putting their Daily Living Skills to the test by making dog biscuits that they will be selling within the community. This project promotes math, communication and literacy! Way to go Mrs. Lugo's class! CSDB is focusing on incorporating Technology and Expanded Core Curriculum into each class and subject.

We have hired two new teachers. Kyle Berns is our Math instructor and Jessica Srdar is our music teacher. The day we offered the position to Kyle, he enrolled in the Hadley Braille course. He will be working on getting his TVI certification. CSDB is very proud to have both of these fine instructors. CSDB continues accept applications for a TOSA TVI. Please visit www.CSDB.org and apply, if interested.

University of Northern Colorado – VI Program (Paula Conroy)

Congratulations to our seven graduates in the spring 2012. Colorado graduates include Sherry Bainbridge, Anitha Muthukumaran, Wendy Unwin-Watson, and Yvonne Roll (now in NM). The Visual Impairment and O&M program faculty welcomed 20 new MA 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. There are also seven PhD students in the area of visual impairment now enrolled in our doctoral program. This is the highest number of students in any doctoral program nation-wide.

Faculty continues to work on individual projects. Paula Conroy visited Germany this summer for Diversity and Inclusion project. Kay Ferrell and Silvia Correa-Torres are finishing up the final reports for the auditory description project from last year. Doctoral students Kathryn Botsford and Cathy Smyth will be talking about the results at the VI conference in October. Paula and Kay will head to Thailand for the joint WBU/ICEVI Assembly in November for presentations.

Colorado Department of Education (Tanni Anthony)

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project: The project is in its fifth year of a five-year grant cycle. The project's mission is free technical assistance to parents and services providers 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.

Census: A total of 133 children and youth have been currently identified across the state. These learners, their families, and their service providers are eligible for free technical assistance through the grant project. The census forms will be mailed to district contact personnel in early October for our December 2012 Count.

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 and type in deafblindness in the search box, which will take you to a direct link to the project page. The website has a steady diet of new documents – so please check periodically to see what is NEW!

Summer Institute: The June 11-15, 2012 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs once again featured two internationally-recognized experts in the field of literacy and learners with significant disabilities. This five-day training was a stunning event and continued the trend to ensure that all students are providing literacy instruction. Dr. Karen Erickson and Dr. Penny Hatch will join us again for June 2013 for this important work.

CDE ESSU Approved Funded Projects

State Conference on Blindness/Low Vision
Orientation and Mobility Training
Braille Competency Testing and Mentor Support
Technology Consultative Support

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
Braille Format TCAPs
Vision Coalition
TVI Mentoring

Another training topic of high interest is the use of tablets with students who are blind/visually impaired. Tanni is working on details to offer a late fall or early winter training on this topic.

ESSU Co-funded CSDB – Blindness Projects

CIMC Low Vision Evaluation Clinics (CSDB staff)

CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment: This training will be held in Denver on October 4-6, 2012. The Thursday night session will involve a host of vendors. The Friday and Saturday sessions will feature our very own Lucia Hasty on the topic of creating and instructing on instructional graphics.

Annual O&M Conference: Thanks to the hard work of Patty Wagner, last year’s O&M training was held on May 25th. This training provided information and guidance pertaining to the features, design, and installation of accessible pedestrian signals (APS). Plans for the Spring 2013 Conference will ensue at the upcoming CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment.

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: Five clinics are funded again for school year 2012-13. Jim Olson will be the certified low vision therapist for the southern clinics and Wendy Stoltman will come on board as the new CLVT for the western, northern, and metro clinics. The first southern clinic and the western clinic have already occurred in this school year! We are off to a great start. Thanks to our low vision clinic team and to site coordinators Donice Fennimore (southern region) and Sarah Sonnier (western region).

Recruitment and Retention: We currently have 1 FTE openings in Aurora School District, 1 FTE in Jefferson Country, 1 FTE in Brighton School District, 1 FTE in Adams 12, and positions specific to CSDB.

Listservs: The CDE ESSU 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 braillists. If anyone has questions about the listservs, please be in touch with Tanni.

Eligibility Definition - Visual Impairment, Including Blindness: The ECEA Rules with the category name and eligibility criteria changes have been approved by the State Board of Education. The next step will be to receive the rule opinion from the Attorney General, which should come within the next 20 days, then CDE will file the permanent rules. It is expected that the approximate effective date will be mid to late October. Training on the new definitions and eligibility criteria will occur in January – June 2013 and be ongoing throughout the next school year. School districts have until July 1, 2016 to adopt the new definitions and eligibility criteria.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Work Activity: Mental Health Module

This is an activity that was left over from last year – the goal was to build some materials that might help support students and parents. Nancy, Judy, and Tanni will talk further at the upcoming state conference to brain storm a product.

Task	Person Responsible	Date Due
Send Tanni program report updates	All VC members	January 7, 2013
Send Tanni technology resource links	LaVerne Dell	September 26, 2012
Write a Q and A on APH Quota Funds	Jim Olson	November 15, 2012
Send Everett a cc of the Past Parent Survey	Tanni Anthony	Oct 1, 2012
Follow up with State IEP Questions	Tanni	October 15, 2012

Date and Agenda for next Meeting: January 11, 2013 at the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 Eligibility Training
 State Assessment – try to bring a person from our State Assessment Unit
 Debut of CIMC Policies and Procedures

Spring Meeting Date: April 25, 2013



colorado connections

- 🔊 Congratulations to **Anitha Muthukumaran** (Douglas County School District) for earning her CDE Certificates of Braille Competency! As of October 2012, 107 Colorado TVIs and braillists have demonstrated braille competency via the state test.
- 🔊 **State Conference Thank Yous!** A huge thank you to all the people who participated in Vendor Night of the recent State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment. It was a pleasure to host this event as an opportunity for conference attendees to learn more about the many resources available to us in Colorado. My thanks to: Audio Information Network, Auditory Description Grant Project, Beyond Sight, CAER Chapter, Colorado Assistive Technology Partners, Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Colorado Instructional Materials Center, CDE Technology Consultant, Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project, Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Outreach, Foresight Ski Guides, Freedom Scientific, Learning Ally, O&M Club, and Sensational SmartBoards.

Thanks to **Nancy Cozart, Barbara Galgano, David Gooldy, and Berta Wiedemeyer** for their onsite help on the front-end of the conference. These wonderful people helped to get vendor tables and/or the registration table organized.

WOW and thanks to **Lucia Hasty** who provided us with two days of top-notch information on the topic of creating and instructing tactile graphics for learners who are blind/visually impaired. Lucia - your expertise was most appreciated as was your dedication to make it all happen despite some challenging circumstances. Colorado is very grateful to you and for you!

Thank you too to **Ann Cunningham** for sharing her knowledge and art-enthusiasm with us! We have another local treasure in Ann

And heaps of gratitude for everyone who attended vendor night and/or the training days. Pulling all the logistics together for a statewide training is a lot of before/during/after logistics, but it is so worthwhile to see Colorado TVIs, COMS, braillists, and VI-paraeducators show up ready to learn and contribute. On a personal note, I am always so amazed at the questions people ask, the commitment people show, and the depth of knowledge in our state on behalf of educating and supporting kids who are blind/visually impaired or deafblind.



Welcome

New Faces in Colorado!



Becky Weger, was a Vision Technician in the Cherry Creek Vision Department for 6 years prior to joining the Jefferson County School District Team as a Tutor Interpreter. She is very excited to be able to continue working with students who are blind and visually impaired. When Becky is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family. She is also an avid reader and loves to learn new things!

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