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# KEEPING IN TOUCH!

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

November—December 2012

November—December 2012

## What's for Science? SHARKS!

By Tanni L. Anthony



On November 9th, the Colorado Center for the Blind under the leadership of Youth Program Coordinator Brent Batron hosted a shark dissection opportunity for learners who are blind/visually impaired. It was a packed room with over 25 students ready to go, scalpels in hand and bodies donned with protective gear. I was one of the lucky people at the dissection tables—complete with a sleep shade over my eyes to prepare me for a full-tactile experience.

The instructors for the day were from the Arapahoe Community College biology program. Terry Harrison deftly guided us through the anatomy of the shark and our dissection instructions. I named my personal dog shark Ari (after “aromatic”) - though he calmed down in fragrance once we sprayed him with what I called a “fish febreze” liquid. Then I was ready to listen, learn, and fully explore. And explore, we all did as our instruments found their mark to open the shark for a first-hand (literally) understanding of internal organs. At one point, Diane McGeorge (first Executive Director of the CO Center for the Blind) teamed up with me and we took turns guiding each other’s hands to the nether regions of the shark’s anatomy.

The room was a-buzz with confirmation of finding stomachs, livers, and the like—as well as responding to Terry’s questions to us about what we knew about sharks and other marine life. There was some serious learning going on! These conversations held throughout the day well after the event, as people continued to talk about what they learned. I myself shared the intimate details about shark innards at dinner that night with my husband!

Thanks to the CCB for this great learning opportunity and highlighting the true accessibility of science for all kids. All kids benefit from true hands-on experiences and this was one very fine example of just that!

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# Bits From Bonnie

By Bonnie Snyder

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<http://TVIVIP.org>

I now have Windows 8 installed and I do like it. There is a moderate learning curve, but it really does not take much time to learn the program.

I was anxious to hear the “improvements” to the built-in screen reader, Narrator. For those who are unaware of this screen reader, it has been a part of MS Windows from XP on. It has always been very basic and the only voice available in XP was Microsoft Sam, which had mixed reviews. The Anna voice appeared in Vista and was carried over to Windows 7. It was so much better! Now, in Windows 8, you have the choice of three very high quality voices.

Additionally, Windows 8 Narrator works very well in Internet Explorer. It also reads text files quite well. It will be interesting to see if there are continued improvements with the Narrator’s quality and capabilities over time.

I did find that the open source screen reader NVDA works with Windows 8 very well. It can also pick up the voices that are available for Narrator. Also, I tried out JAWS 14 and Window-Eyes 8 (beta) and both work well with Windows 8. It’s nice to know that the screen readers were able to keep up with the changes in Windows.

I can say with great assurance that moving to Windows 8 should work out well for anyone who is interested in doing so.



***Wishing everyone a safe  
and enjoyable winter  
break! See you in the  
new year!***

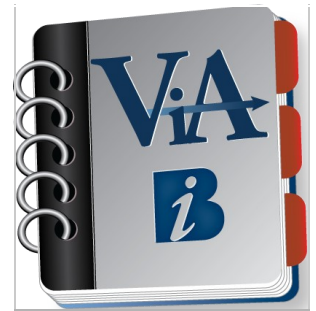
## **Braille Institute App**

Braille Institute is proud to present **ViA** (Visually Impaired Apps) for iPhone and iPad. ViA has been designed to help blind and low-vision users easily sort through the 500,000+ apps in the iTunes App Store. ViA gives visually impaired users a forum to discuss apps that are useful and creates an interactive community of avid iOS app users.

Get it for FREE:

1. Search "Braille Institute" in the Apple App Store or scan the QR code (on the attached flyer) for the download link.
2. Download and install ViA.
3. Start using it and spread the word!

Braille Institute  
1-800-BRAILLE  
[brailleinstitute.org](http://brailleinstitute.org)  
mobileapps



## **More Videos from Chase**



Nebraska's Chase Crispin and his teacher LeAnna MacDonald have just posted 2 NEW videos on the BookPort Menu! You are guaranteed to learn something you didn't know.

Part 1: [http://youtu.be/arHu0rv\\_LwU](http://youtu.be/arHu0rv_LwU)

Part 2: <http://youtu.be/TmY4HEbDQFo>

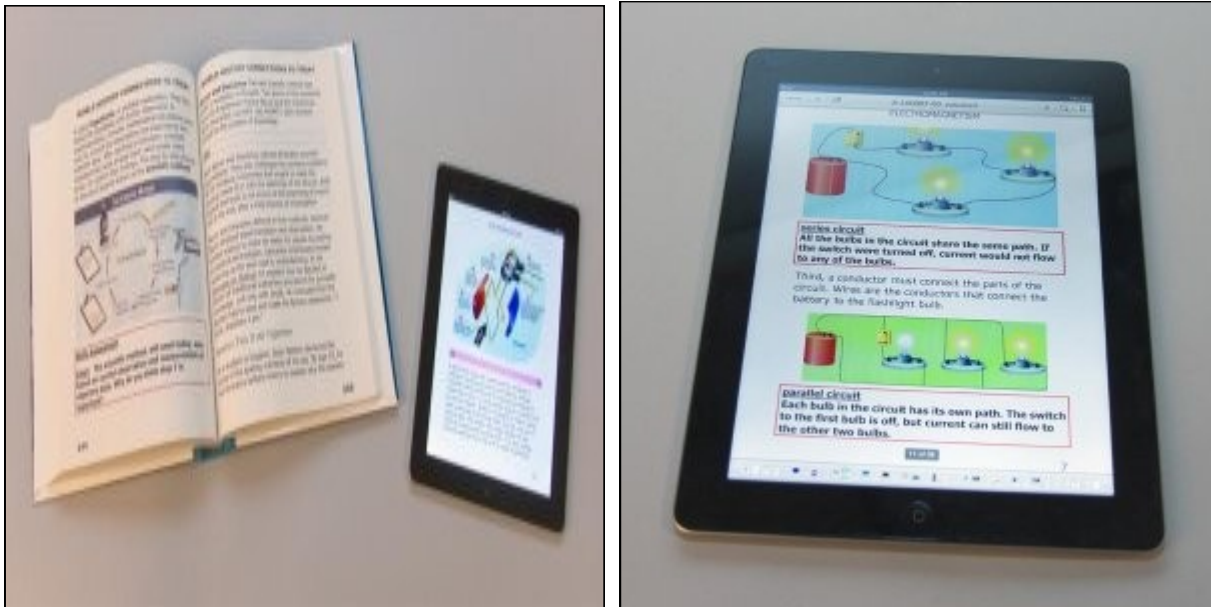


## **CVI Apps**

10 Apps for children with Cortical Visual Impairment  
Check out these apps at:

<http://pinterest.com/pin/143904150564706456/>

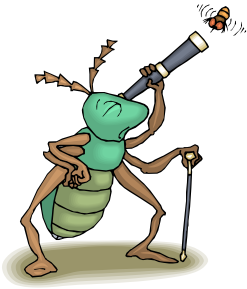
## Large Print Books Going Digital!



Rev up your iPad! The American Printing House for the Blind's (APH) Large Print books are going digital! Louis and the APH File Repository are beginning to add the APH Large Print files to its collection, and over 200 LP files will be downloadable by the end of the year! The files, saved as PDF documents, can be used on iPads or iPods, laptops, and various accessible devices. The same great features are available: 18 point font, colors and images eliminated from behind text materials, clearer images, single column formatting, page or key word searching, and more. All of these features will provide your students access to the identical large print format, but in a much smaller carrying case.

**One important caveat:** These digital files are to be used electronically and **printing is not allowed**. And to let you know all the other legalese, APH has updated its Repository Agreement form to include large print digital files, so all EOTs will need to complete a new Agreement form before they can have access to these files. Use the "About E-Files" link on the Louis page to download a new form or email Linda Turner ([lturner@aph.org](mailto:lturner@aph.org)) to have one sent to you—or call us at 1-800-223-1839.

For 40% of the price, you can download an APH LP textbook straight to your iPad or computer.



# LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



## 2012 / 2013 CDE LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC DATES

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

### SAVE THE DATE!!

**Western Regional Early Intervention Conference On Sensory Disabilities** *in collaboration with* **Northern Rockies AER Conference**  
**Jackson Hole, Wyoming** **June 19 – 21, 2013**

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





## Spotlight on Treacher Collins Syndrome

Information retrieved from: <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/treacher-collins-syndrome>;  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0002624/>; <http://www.ccakids.com/Syndrome/TreacherCollins.pdf>

**What is Treacher Collins Syndrome?** Treacher Collins syndrome (TCS), also known as mandibulofacial dysostosis, is primarily a hereditary condition that causes underdevelopment of the face, including the eyes and ears. The disorder is named after British ophthalmologist Dr. Edward Treacher Collins, who first diagnosed it in 1900. The signs and symptoms of TCS range from almost unnoticeable to severe and vary in degrees from generation to generation and person to person. Some people born with TCS also have cleft palate (an opening in the roof of the mouth). In severe cases, this underdevelopment can restrict the airway, causing potentially life-threatening respiratory problems. Individuals with Treacher Collins syndrome usually have normal intelligence.

**What Causes TCS?** TCS is essentially a breakdown of the gene protein treacle which causes certain gene mutations. There are a couple of ways in which this can occur. First, TCS can develop as a new mutation. In this case, both parents pass on unaffected genes to their child, but early in the child's development a mutation of the gene occurs. In the second scenario, the child inherits TCS from one of the parents. Inherited cases are often not noticed until the child is born because the parent had such a mild form of TCS that it went undetected.

**What is the Prevalence of TCS?** Adults with TCS have a 50 percent chance of passing it on in varying degrees of severity to their children. TCS has been estimated to occur in 1 out of every 10,000 births. Parents who are unaffected by TCS may have a child with the disorder. The probability of the parents having a second child having the condition is extremely small.

**What are the Signs and Symptoms of Treacher Collins syndrome?** Children with TCS may have some, all, or varying degrees of the following: scalp hair that extends to the cheek bones, a defect in the eye extending to the lids, eyes that slant downward, sparse eyelashes, a very small jaw, large mouth, absent, small or unusually formed ears, and/or hand problems. Some affected individuals have additional eye and ear abnormalities that can lead to vision and hearing loss. The latter finding is why all children with TCS should have quality vision and hearing evaluations.

The degree of severity of vision loss occurs because of the presence of disorders such as glaucoma, strabismus (poor eye alignment), microphthalmia (small eyes), or gap (coloboma, which is a hole in one of the structures in the eye such as the iris, choroid, retina, and/or optic disc). A coloboma may occur in

# Spotlight on

one or both eyes; its effects on the severity of vision loss depend on the size and location of the coloboma.

Hearing loss occurs in about half of all affected individuals and is caused by defects of the three small bones in the middle ear, which transmit sound, or by underdevelopment of the ear canal. Most individuals experience an average of 40% loss of hearing in each ear. It is possible for children to hear without an external opening but the sound is muted.

**How is TCS diagnosed?** TCS is most often noticed at birth. In many instances, the infant or child may have difficulty breathing and require a tracheotomy. It is important to seek medical testing and/or treatment as soon as possible. The best resource for diagnosis and treatment is a craniofacial center, where several physicians work as a team to treat and manage problems involving the face and head. This team of physicians may include a craniofacial surgeon, an anthropologist, a geneticist, an ophthalmologist, an audiologist, a radiologist, and a pediatric dentist.

**What is the Treatment for TCS?** It is imperative that the child or infant get treatment for a coloboma and hearing loss. Eye ointments may need to be used at night to prevent infections; hearing aids enable better hearing and proper speech and language development. Several types of surgeries may be required to reconstruct the ears, rebuild the cheekbones, correct cleft palate, and enable better breathing and swallowing. The timing of the different surgeries varies according to age and severity of TCS. In addition the child may be eligible for special education services that include teachers of students with visual impairments and/or hearing impairments and appropriate related service providers.

## **Where can People get more information about TCS?**

### **Treacher Collins Foundation:**

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

### **Reflections on Treacher Collins syndrome:**

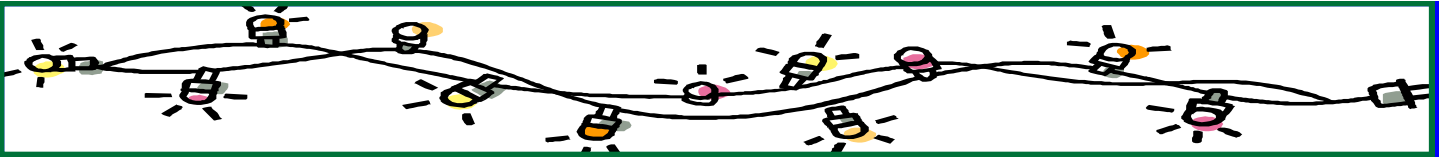
<http://www.treachercollins.org/tcs/Welcome.html>

### **The National Craniofacial Association:**

<http://www.faces-cranio.org/Disord/Treacher.htm>



# Resources and Materials



## TVIs' Thinking Together: Object/Concrete Books

Amber Rundle Kahn recently asked her colleagues on the CO TVI/COMS listserv about object/concrete books. The following sage information was shared from experts Christine Moe, Rita Albright, Sarah Bickford Vallese, Charlotte Javier, Ann Gillmeister, Sarah Sonnier, and Diane Fitzkee (thanks everyone!).

### Recommended Websites

<http://anchorcenter.org/story-of-the-month-preschool.aspx>

<http://www.tsbvi.edu/component/content/article/1737-what-is-a-story-box>

<http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/suggested-list-story-boxes-young-children>

### Examples of Specific Titles and Tips:

- ♦ ***Rhyming Dustbunnies*** by Jan Thomas. You will need some dust bunnies –They can be made out of 2" circles of very soft fleece - a dust pan and broom, and toy vacuum cleaner (you can use a sound recording of your own vacuum cleaner at home).
- ♦ ***The Easter Bunny's Assistant*** by Jan Thomas (you will need eggs, egg-colors or stickers, and a jar of something that smells awful to sniff every other page. One person used a very horrible patchouli perfume someone gave her with a few drops of eucalyptus - guaranteed to be just awful!
- ♦ ***Bebe Goes Shopping*** (with a small magnet board, visual and/or tactile cues with Braille indicating different foods/things you get at the store, and a purse to keep the "shopping list" in).

**Other recommended Titles: *If You Give a Mouse A Cookie, The Napping House, Where's Spot, The Frog and Toad Books, Goodnight Moon, and There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bell, Three Billy Goats Gruff.***

A suggestion from one of our TVIs: "One thing I have also added in reading activities involving tangible objects are objects to represent "beginning/middle/end" and pair what is chosen with the objects as the story is retold. Then the child can participate in those writing activities that classmates do in retelling the story through pictures and/or writing. I have found it important to be consistent in using these tactual clues throughout a child's reading levels; so, what is chosen at the outset should be general and appropriate."







## CEC Releases New Position on Special Education Teacher Evaluation

Recognizing the need for high quality processes that will effectively and accurately gauge special educators' effectiveness in the classroom and drive continuous improvement and excellence, the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) has released our [Position on Special Education Teacher Evaluation](#), providing guidance for states and districts to consider as they endeavor to design and implement new teacher evaluation systems.



CEC's position calls for evaluation systems to:

- **Include Fundamental System-Wide Components.**
- **Identify the Complex Role of the Special Education Teacher.**
- **Measure the Use of Evidence-Based Practices.**
- **Recognize the Professionalism of Special Education Teachers.**
- **Continually Incorporate Findings From Research.**



CEC collaborated with a number of leading experts in the field of education, particularly in the area of teacher evaluation, and received input from CEC members, to inform the development of this position. We hope it will provide a better understanding of the many complex roles special educators play in the education of students with exceptionalities.

To learn more about the position and how to use it for your own advocacy, we invite you to participate in a webinar on Dec. 12 from [4–5 p.m. ET](#) or [7–8 p.m. ET](#) (**free for CEC members**). In addition the position will also be shared with other associations during a briefing in December and with policymakers to help them recognize the unique challenges facing the field.

Thank you for your support of CEC and for all that you do for children and youth with exceptionalities.

Council for Exceptional Children | 2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22202 | 888-232-7733



## TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!



### Perkins Training & Educational Resources Program present: **No More Confusion About Transition to Adult Services Webcast**

In this webcast, Beth Jordan from Helen Keller National Center's Kansas office shares her insights into "Preparing for Transition". Beth talks about the mandate for educational services versus the lack of a mandate for adult services. She provides a roadmap through the array of residential and employment service possibilities that exist and the need for early planning.

To view the webcast go to:

[http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?  
pagename=Webcasts No More Confusion](http://support.perkins.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Webcasts%20No%20More%20Confusion)



### HKNC YOUNG ADULT SUMMER PROGRAM

The dates for the 2013 Young Adult Summer Program at the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults (HKNC) are: **July 29th – August 9th, 2013**

For more information about this two week opportunity for students who are deafblind or have a dual sensory loss, please visit their website at [www.hknc.org](http://www.hknc.org) or contact Ellie Carlson at [Ellie.Carlson@hknc.org](mailto:Ellie.Carlson@hknc.org) or at 303-934-9037.



## It's Just Different Video Series 4

This is an installment in the video series called **It's Just Different**. Like most people who are looking for work, people with disabilities are no different in their desire for employment. A large percentage of individuals with disabilities have no visible disability. The videos take a look at hidden disabilities and how that affects employment.



Most of these videos are short 1 to 2 minute video vignettes. Please take a minute to watch and share these videos:

**Chanda** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjeqGaovg00&feature=plcp>

**1st Steps** - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwMJgZDujBg>

**Level playing field** - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JSeuUIjQBA>

**Work, No Problem** - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_gH26wDlpE4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gH26wDlpE4)

**What You Don't See** - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q1iCk7y3mo>

To see previous videos in the series, visit **It's Just Different** YouTube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/DVRDifferent>

Employers throughout Colorado are examining ways to meaningfully recruit and employ individuals with disabilities and creating inclusive workplace cultures. Much more can be accomplished, though, through local-level partnerships, effective candidate referral processes, and continued education.

Take a look and watch for more of the series, **"It's Just Different"**, sponsored by the Colorado Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. They welcome individuals to share comments and feedback about these videos.

# ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

## **TAPS - Teaching Age-Appropriate Purposeful Skills: An Orientation and Mobility Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments, 3rd Edition**



by Rona Pogrund, Debra Sewell, Heidi Anderson, Lisa Calaci, Mary Faith Cowart, Carolina Gonzalez, Ruth Ann Marsh, & Burnsteen Roberson-Smith. Major contributors include Ryan Conlin, Carol Dancey and Christopher Tabb.

© TSBVI 2012 -336 pages

For orientation and mobility specialists who serve students ages 3 to 21 who may also have other impairments. This curriculum includes goals, objectives, and teaching strategies as well as functional mobility tasks, for the following environments: home/living, campus, residential, commercial and public transportation, as well as an ambulatory devices section. The four-part set also includes extensive appendices containing a wide range of O&M related topics and a supplement that details street crossing strategies.

### **The four-part curriculum set includes:**

- ◆ Part 1: The Curriculum with Goals, Objectives and Teaching Strategies
- ◆ Part 2: Comprehensive Initial and Ongoing Evaluation
- ◆ Part 3: Appendices
- ◆ Part 4: Supplement: Street Crossings for Travelers Who Are Visually Impaired

The evaluation booklet can also be purchased separately. This booklet is intended for use with an individual student throughout his or her school years. The curriculum is spiral-bound.

## **TAPS – Comprehensive Initial and Ongoing Evaluation**

**The spiral bound evaluation booklet (118 pp.) is intended for use with an individual student throughout his or her school years and features:**

- ◆ Instructions to the examiner
- ◆ A student information form
- ◆ Interview questions for the student
- ◆ Interview questions for the parent, or guardian
- ◆ Interview questions for school personnel familiar with the student
- ◆ Score-sheets for functional mobility tasks
- ◆ Evaluation pages for the goals and skills from the curriculum organized by their domains: home/living environment, campus environment, residential environment, commercial environment, public transportation and ambulatory devices
- ◆ Plenty of spaces for comments



For more information and to order the TAPS Curriculum and/or the evaluation tool, please go to: <http://www.tsbvi.edu/curriculum-a-publications>

**Editor's Note:** The newest edition of TAPS is available in the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project's lending library, which is located at the CDE Exceptional Student Services Unit. To check it out, please be in contact with Cindy Kerr at [kerr\\_c@cde.state.co.us](mailto:kerr_c@cde.state.co.us)

# MORE ORIENTATION & MOBILITY



ASSOCIATION FOR EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION  
OF THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

**AER International All-Orientation & Mobility Conference 2013**  
*Exploring All Options*      December 11-14, 2013      New Orleans, La.

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

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

## WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME AND PRESENT!

Please consider what you can share with us at the conference. Do you have . . .

- innovative programs or strategies to share?      ideas for helping students achieve success?
- expertise or experience in a specific topic?
- experience as a consumer or instructor or administrator we'd benefit from knowing?
- an idea for a panel or brainstorming session for a topic of concern?

We will have presentations, interactive sessions, workshops and posters, and are considering half-day or day-long workshops before / after the conference. We hope to have sessions presented by newbies and consumers as well as experienced professionals and researchers. We are particularly interested in interactive or hands-on sessions!

**DEADLINE for proposals for presentations: NOVEMBER 30, 2012**

### **How to submit your proposal??**

AER's home page at [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) will have a link to the Web site to submit your proposal. We have streamlined it to make it as easy as possible to encourage you to submit your proposal for a session.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact [aer@aerbvi.org](mailto:aer@aerbvi.org)

## ***The White Cane Freedom March***



To the Tune of: "As Those Caissons Go Rolling Along"  
(song reprinted from the E-Connector, November 2012)



Over hill, over dale, we will hit the concrete trail;  
As our white canes go tapping along.  
Down the block, cross the street, walking on our own two feet;  
As our white canes go tapping along.  
On the job or at home, wherever we may roam,  
Yes, independent and free! NFB!  
We can find our way at night or in the day;  
As our white canes go tapping along.



# 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.

## **Access PARCC Sample Items and Tasks Online**

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) now has sample assessment items and tasks available online, providing educators, parents, and students an initial look at the types of items that will appear on next-generation assessments. The sample items are intended to help teachers, administrators, and policymakers implement the Colorado Academic Standards and prepare for next-generation assessments. They are not intended to be used as practice tests and do not provide a comprehensive picture of how the new assessments will look. PARCC will continue to release items and tasks over time to represent the full range of assessment items and tasks that will eventually be included on the assessments. For more information and to view sample items and prototypes, visit the link below. For more information, please go to: <http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes>



## New Assessment Update

New content assessments are being implemented in 2014 for science and social studies and in 2015 for English language arts and mathematics.

### Science and social studies:

- The new science tests will be administered in grades 5, 8 and once in high school and social studies in grades 4, 7 and once in high school.

The new science and social studies tests are intended to be administered online.

- ◆ Tests will include selected response items, constructed response items, and – for the first time – simulations and performance-based tasks. Staff previewed several samples of these more interactive and engaging performance tasks.
- ◆ In order for local districts to administer the science and social studies assessments online, an online readiness survey is being administered. Each district has identified a district technology coordinator who will complete the survey.
- ◆ There will be opportunities for districts to be involved in the development of the new tests including item writing, item review, cognitive labs, field testing, anchor paper selection and data review.

### English language arts and mathematics:

- Colorado serves on the Governing Board of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) which is creating tests in English language arts and mathematics for states to use grades 3-11 beginning in the spring of 2015.

To view the October 18th presentation to the State Board of Education on this topic, please go to: [http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cde/Board.nsf/files/8YYK424FF235/\\$file/Board%20Assessment%20Update%2012%20\(final\).pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cde/Board.nsf/files/8YYK424FF235/$file/Board%20Assessment%20Update%2012%20(final).pdf)



## **Update on the Colorado Content Collaboratives**

The Colorado Content Collaboratives are a four-year initiative of P-12 educators from around the state who are coming together to identify and review the creation of fair, valid, and reliable measures of student learning, which are aligned to the new Colorado Academic Standards and may be used in the context of Educator Effectiveness evaluations.

- Cohort I Collaboratives for Dance, Drama & Theatre Arts, Music, Reading, Writing & Communicating, Social Studies and Visual Arts began their work on Feb. 1 and concluded their initial identification and review of assessments in July. They will be reconvening this fall to refine their work and address areas where there is a lack of approved assessments.
- Cohort II Collaboratives for Comprehensive Health, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, World Languages, and Career and Technical Education began their work on July 23 and are expected to conclude their initial identification and review of assessments in November.

The assessments identified by the Content Collaboratives will be available through a resource bank that will be launched in late fall. To learn more about the Content Collaborative work, go to: [http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cde/Board.nsf/files/8YYTP277A3C6/\\$file/CC%20State%20Board%20presentation%20-%2010172012%20-%20Final.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cde/Board.nsf/files/8YYTP277A3C6/$file/CC%20State%20Board%20presentation%20-%2010172012%20-%20Final.pdf)





## MORE ASSESSMENT NEWS

**Reading, Writing and Mathematics Summative Assessments:** Colorado is a governing member of the multi-state assessment consortium, Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC is developing computer-based English language arts assessments in grades 3 through 11. The consortium is also developing mathematics assessments in grades 3 through 8 with two separate high school tracks (1. algebra I, geometry, algebra II and 2. integrated I, integrated II, integrated III). As a governing state, staff from the CDE, the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), and Colorado educators will be actively working with individuals from the U.S. to develop common assessments.

These assessments are expected to be administered for the first time in the Spring of 2015. Until the PARCC assessments are ready for implementation, Colorado will continue to administer the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) to measure student achievement in reading, writing and mathematics.

PARCC has issued guidance designed to inform schools and districts as they make annual instructional technology purchases. The PARCC Technology Guidelines and FAQ are available on the CDE Assessment Unit's homepage at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/index.asp>.

**Science and Social Studies Summative Assessments:** New science and social studies assessments will be computer-based and designed to measure the Colorado Academic Standards, adopted in 2009. These assessments will be administered for the first time in the Spring of 2014.

To allow maximum flexibility at the local level in determining scope and sequence in teaching the high school social studies and science standards, the science assessments will be administered in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school, and the social studies assessments will be administered in grades 4 and 7 and once in high school.

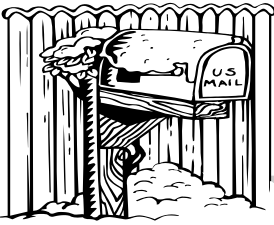
**Alternate Assessments:** New science and social studies alternate assessments will be administered operationally in the spring of 2014 and will be designed to measure the Extended Evidence Outcomes of the Colorado Academic Standards. In accord with the summative assessment design, the alternate science assessments will be administered in grades 5 and 8 and once in high school, and the social studies alternate assessments will be administered in grades 4 and 7 and once in high school.

**English Language Proficiency Assessments:** Colorado will administer the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment exams, W-APT and ACCESS for ELLs® to measure student acquisition of the Colorado English Language Proficiency standards. These assessments will be implemented in the 2012-2013 school year.

For more information about state assessments, please visit

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/index.asp>.





# just for PARENTS



## 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. For more information, please go to:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp>

## 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, please help us out and send Tanni these changes.

Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our mailing list up-to-date! Send changes to [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us) or to Tanni Anthony, CDE ESSU, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1175, Denver, CO 80202. Or leave 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](mailto:info@peakparent.org)**

Parent Advisors: 1-800-284-0251, [parentadvisor@peakparent.org](mailto:parentadvisor@peakparent.org).

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

[www.peakparent.org/signup.asp](http://www.peakparent.org/signup.asp)

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





# Celebrating Excellence

**Nominate a colleague who has made outstanding contributions to the education of students with visual impairments for a DVI award**

**Nominations are due December 15, 2012 and should be submitted electronically (preferable) or in hard copy to:**

Loana Mason  
Special Education Communication Disorders, MSC 3SPE  
New Mexico State University  
P.O. Box 30001, Las Cruces, NM 88003  
loanam@nmsu.edu



**The Distinguished Service Award** is presented to a DVI member who provides exemplary leadership and commitment to the field. A letter should be submitted describing the reasons for nomination. Additional information and letters of support can be included.

**The Exemplary Advocate Award** honors a person who has done something of significance to promote quality of life for people who are blind and visually impaired. The nominee does not have to be a DVI member. A letter of should be submitted describing the reasons for nomination. Additional information and letters of support can be included.

**The Teacher of the Year Award** honors an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled licensed teacher of students with visual impairments or certified orientation and mobility specialist who works in any state approved or accredited day or specialized school serving students with visually impairments, including those with additional disabilities, ages birth through 21. The candidate must be a member in good standing of DVI. A letter of nomination should be submitted describing the reasons for nomination. Additional information and letters of support can be included.

**The Virginia M. Sowell Student of the Year Award** is in honor of Dr. Virginia Murray Sowell. Dr. Sowell trained professionals to improve the lives of individuals with visual impairments in the nation and beyond. She had a strong commitment to training quality teachers and orientation and mobility specialists. Her lifetime contributions to the profession mattered to countless numbers of children and adults with visual impairments. The candidate must be a member in good standing of DVI. A letter should be submitted describing the reasons for nomination. Additional information and letters of support can be included.

**The Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award** honors a person whose doctoral dissertation demonstrates technical soundness and continuity; a contribution to the field; and quality writing, re-search design, methodology, data analysis, and interpretation of results. DVI members who have completed a dissertation in 2011-2012 are encouraged to submit a summary for consideration. The summaries may not exceed 20 double-spaced typewritten pages and should include an abstract, introduction, methodology, data analysis, results, and conclusions.

**Recipients will be honored on April 4, 2013 at the DVI General Business Meeting & Social in San Antonio Texas**

# DOTS OF INTEREST



## UEB Update



CONTACT: Frances Mary D'Andrea, Chair, Braille Authority of North America,

Phone: 412-521-5797; Email: [literacy2@mindspring.com](mailto:literacy2@mindspring.com)

The transition to Unified English Braille (UEB) will not be immediate and will follow a carefully crafted timeline. Implementation plans will be formulated with the input and participation of stakeholders from the consumer, education, rehabilitation, transcription, and production communities. Plans will take into consideration the various aspects of creating, teaching, learning, and using braille in a wide variety of settings. The plans will be designed to provide workable transitions for all involved in braille use /production and to minimize disruption for current braille readers.

UEB is based on the current literary braille code and was developed with input from many people, primarily braille readers, who worked to achieve an optimal balance among many key factors. Those factors include keeping the general-purpose literary code as its base, allowing the addition of new symbols, providing flexibility for change as print changes, reducing the complexity of rules, and allowing greater accuracy in back translation. Letters and numbers will stay the same as they are in the current literary code. There will be some changes to punctuation, but most will remain the same. Some rules for the use of contractions will change. Nine contractions will be eliminated, and some contractions will be used more often. A FAQ providing more detail about changes is available on the BANA website.

After implementation, the official braille codes for the United States will be *Unified English Braille; Nemeth Code for Mathematics and Science Notation, 1972 Revision* and published updates; *Music Braille Code, 1997*; and *The IPA Braille Code, 2008*. More detailed information about the UEB and the motion that BANA passed can be found on the BANA website at [www.brailleauthority.org](http://www.brailleauthority.org).

*Editor's Note: The CDE Braille Competency Committee will be meeting in early December to discuss the UEB changes and our next steps for statewide implementation.*



## MUSIC



### Braille Software Program

Thanks to Tara Galow for sharing a web resource specific to the software program to us for music braille. The website is: <http://www.dancingdots.com/main/training.htm>



# 2013 Colorado Braille Challenge

Humanware  
national braille  
press

Seedlings  
Braille Books For Children

## SAVE THE DATE

January 24, 2013

# The Braille Challenge

a national program of the Braille Institute

WHO: Students who read Braille

WHERE: Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

Fine tune **YOUR** Braille reading skills.

Are you ready for the **CHALLENGE?**

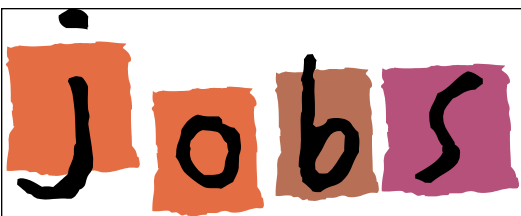
Diane Covington, [dcovington@csdb.org](mailto:dcovington@csdb.org)

Nick Pagani, [npagani@csdb.org](mailto:npagani@csdb.org)



*...Learning. Thriving. Leading*  
55 North Inland Street - Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
719-578-2100 [www.csdb.org](http://www.csdb.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](http://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](mailto:clutz@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2114.

### Statewide

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





# Calendar of Events

2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012 2012

**December 3 - 4** CDE Trip to National Braille Press to Review the braille-format TCAP Tests  
**December 18** Deadline to register for the Braille Challenge  
 Contact: Diane Covington—[dcovington@csdb.org](mailto:dcovington@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2225

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013 2013

**January 9** CAER Meeting – (via telephone)  
 Contact: Heather Parson - [hwparsons@hotmail.com](mailto:hwparsons@hotmail.com)

**January 10** CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB  
 Contact: Veronica Crim - [vcrim@csdb.org](mailto:vcrim@csdb.org)

**January 11** Vision Coalition - Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
 Contact: Tanni Anthony - [anthony\\_t@cde.state.co.us](mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us)

**January 24** Colorado Braille Challenge —CSDB, Colorado Springs  
 Contact: Diane Covington—[dcovington@csdb.org](mailto: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](mailto:hwparsons@hotmail.com)

**February 21—23** 2013 Texas Deafblind Symposium: Hands Matter—Austin, TX  
 Visit: [http://events.SignUp4.com/2013\\_TX\\_Deafblind\\_Symposium](http://events.SignUp4.com/2013_TX_Deafblind_Symposium)

**February 24** CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB  
 Contact: Veronica Crim - [vcrim@csdb.org](mailto: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](mailto:dcovington@csdb.org) or (719) 578-2225

**March 6** CAER Meeting – 5:30 – 8:30 (via telephone)  
 Contact: Heather Parson - [hwparsons@hotmail.com](mailto:hwparsons@hotmail.com)

**March 14** CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting - CSDB  
 Contact: Veronica Crim - [vcrim@csdb.org](mailto:vcrim@csdb.org)



## More Calendar of Events

2013    2013    2013    2013    2013    2013    2013    2013    2013    2013    2013

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>March 20</b>         | <b>CSDB Career Day</b> — Colorado Springs<br><u>Contact:</u> Diane Covington at <a href="mailto:dcovington@csdb.org">dcovington@csdb.org</a> or (719) 578-2225                            |
| <b>April 10</b>         | <b>CAER Meeting</b> – 5:30 – 8:30 (Nancy Cozart’s home)<br><u>Contact:</u> Heather Parson - <a href="mailto:hwparsons@hotmail.com">hwparsons@hotmail.com</a>                              |
| <b>April 11</b>         | <b>CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting</b> - CSDB<br><u>Contact:</u> Veronica Crim - <a href="mailto:vcrim@csdb.org">vcrim@csdb.org</a>   |
| April 18—20             | AFB Leadership Conference/Illinois AER Conference— Chicago, IL<br><u>Visit:</u> <a href="http://www.afb.org/afblc">www.afb.org/afblc</a>  |
| <b>April 25</b>         | <b>Vision Coalition</b> – Voc Rehab Office<br><u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony - <a href="mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us">anthony_t@cde.state.co.us</a>                                    |
| <b>May 1</b>            | <b>Last Day (Please and Thank You!) to order braille books with the CIMC for 2013-14 SY</b>   |
| <b>May 2-4</b>          | <b>Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference</b> - (location TBD)<br><u>Visit:</u> <a href="http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp">http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp</a> |
| <b>June 3 - 7</b>       | <b>Assistive Technology Conference</b> —Denver<br><u>Contact:</u> TBD   |
| <b>June 10-14</b>       | <b>Summer Institute on Deafblindness and SSN</b> —Denver<br><u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony at <a href="mailto:anthony_t@cde.state.co.us">anthony_t@cde.state.co.us</a> or (303) 866-6681   |
| <b>June 13</b>          | <b>CSDB Board of Trustees' Meeting</b> - CSDB<br><u>Contact:</u> Veronica Crim - <a href="mailto:vcrim@csdb.org">vcrim@csdb.org</a>   |
| <b>June 19—21</b>       | <b>WREIC/Northern Rockies AER Sensory Disabilities Conference</b> —Jackson Hole, WY<br><u>Contact:</u> website will be up soon  |
| <b>July 25—28</b>       | <b>CHARGE Syndrome Conference</b> —Scottsdale, AZ<br><u>Contact:</u> <a href="http://www.chargesyndrome.org/">http://www.chargesyndrome.org/</a>  |
| <b>July 29—August 9</b> | <b>HKNC Young Adult Summer Program</b><br><u>Contact:</u> Ellie Carlson at <a href="mailto:Ellie.Carlson@hknc.org">Ellie.Carlson@hknc.org</a> or at 303-934-9037                          |



2014    2014    2014    2014    2014    2014    2014    2014    2014    2014    2014

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>July 30-Aug 3</b>  | <b>AER International Conference</b> – San Antonio, TX<br><u>Visit:</u> <a href="http://www.aerbvi.org">www.aerbvi.org</a>                                |
| <b>December 11—14</b> | <b>AER International All-Orientation &amp; Mobility Conference</b> — New Orleans, LA<br><u>Visit:</u> <a href="http://www.aerbvi.org">www.aerbvi.org</a> |



**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**Western Regional Early Intervention Conference On Sensory Disabilities** *in collaboration with* **Northern Rockies AER Conference**  
**Jackson Hole, Wyoming** **June 19 – 21, 2013**

**FULL DAY PRE-CONFERENCE PROGRAMS JUNE 19, 2013**

**Cost \$35.00**

**“Assessment and Strategies for Infants, Toddlers, Students, And Adults with Sensory Loss”**

**The Van Dijk Assessment – Dr. Jan Van Dijk and Dr. Cathy Nelson will be presenting the new Research on Brain Development and Assessment strategies Utilizing the Van Dijk Approach for Students who are Sensory Impaired.** It has been scientifically proven that “The Van Dijk Approach to Assessment” brings out the best in a child. It was initially considered a “Van Dijk thing” that only he could conduct, based on his experience, knowledge and personality. The research of Nelson, Janssen, Oster & Jayaraman (2010) has convincingly shown, however, that after a rather limited period of training, practitioners are able to implement the assessment with fidelity in order to develop appropriate goals for their students.

**Auditory Neuropathy - Dr. Charles Berlin** - Simon and Garfunkel sang of the joys found in the sounds of silence. But children's silence--either due to a hearing problem or an inability to process in their brains what they do hear--leads to difficulties in understanding language that, without intervention, can affect kids their entire lives. Charles Berlin, Ph.D., the Kenneth and Frances Barnes Bullington Professor of Hearing Science and the director of the Kresge Hearing Research Laboratory at Louisiana State University Medical School in New Orleans, is renowned for his skill in diagnosing rare hearing problems in children and for identifying genes that cause deafness.

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM June 20 – 21, 2013**

**Cost \$125.00**

- ◆ **Instructional Strategies for the Student with Dual Sensory Loss / Multiple Impairments, Kathee Scoggin & Callie Spotted Elk**
- ◆ **Language & Brain Development, Jill Morford**
- ◆ **Autism in the Visual Impaired Population with Early Literacy, Megan Mogan**
- ◆ **Expanded Core Curriculum Instruction for Students with Multiple Impairments, Robin Keating**
- ◆ **SAM: Symbols and Meaning Kit, a Kit for Students with VI / Multiple Disabilities, Millie Smith**
- ◆ **Communication Matrix, Phil Schweigert**
- ◆ **Shaken Baby Syndrome and How It Presents in Children with Multiple Impairments, Phil Schweigert**
- ◆ **Working with Children Who Have Multiple Needs, Paula Pittman**
- ◆ **Co-Hear: Strategies for the Development of Pragmatics, Dianah Beams and Christie Yoshinago Itano**
- ◆ **Ski-Hi & Beyond the Big Books, SKI-HI & Paula Pitman**
- ◆ **Transportation & Independence, Penny Rosenblum**
- ◆ **Visual Conditions that Affect Adults and Appropriate Accommodations, Carol Baron**

And MUCH MORE!

Contact Joanne Whitson, [joanne.whitson@wyo.gov](mailto:joanne.whitson@wyo.gov)  
the website will be up soon!







FOR OUR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PARTICIPANTS

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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!

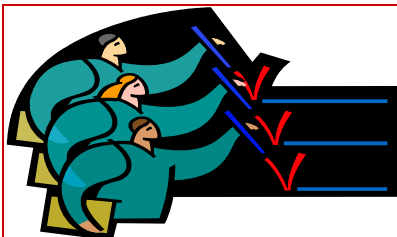
For Colorado VIPs: Foresight will provide its local VIPs with lift tickets, equipment rental, super-discounted lodging, and transportation assistance as part of its on-going outreach to Colorado students. Please contact us as soon as possible if you have even a whiff of interest.

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

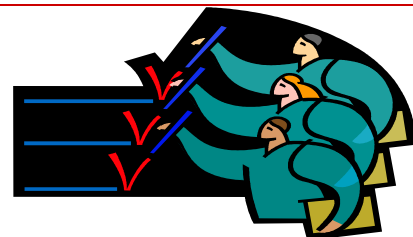
TVIs, please feel free to check us out on the slopes as well. We'd love to host you to see our program in action.

Please visit our website at [foresightskiguides.org](http://foresightskiguides.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: [foresightskiguides@gmail.com](mailto:foresightskiguides@gmail.com).





# CHECK IT OUT!



Reflection.  
Innovation.  
Action.

AFB LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE • ILLINOIS AER CONFERENCE  
APRIL 18-20, 2013 • RENAISSANCE CHICAGO DOWNTOWN

[afb.org/afblc](http://afb.org/afblc)

Join experts and colleagues for intensive pre-conference sessions on April 18 and full-conference sessions on April 19 and 20.

Topics include:

- Leadership
- Technology
- Education Rehabilitation
- Research

**AFB** American Foundation®  
for the Blind  
Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss



## ECEA Rules Posted

The ECEA Rules amendments approved by the State Board in September are effective as of October 30, 2012. These amendments include the changes to the disability categories.

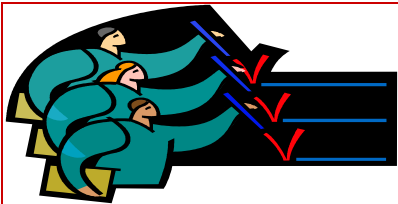
They have been posted to the following website at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/spedlaw/rules.htm>.

## Winter Video Contest Begins!

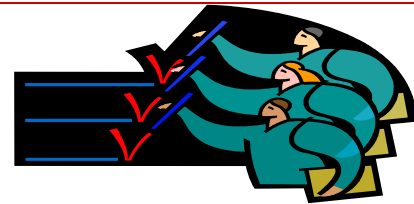
The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is announcing the deadline for their 4th Unforgettable APH Star Contest. Send them your videos demonstrating your favorite APH products by February 13, 2013, and you'll be eligible to win cash prizes.



Read all you need to know about the contest in our Unforgettable APH Star page at: [www.aph.org/contest](http://www.aph.org/contest). While you are visiting the page, check out at the wonderful videos from our previous contests.



# CHECK IT OUT!



## Global Explorers



### LEADING THE WAY TRIPS FOR TEENS

#### Raft the Grand Canyon or Trek to Machu Picchu

Leading the Way is a nationally-recognized leadership program offering travel, adventure and service opportunities to blind and sighted students ages 15-21. In the summer of 2013, teams will explore two destinations: the Peruvian Highlands and the Grand Canyon. On the Peruvian Highlands expedition (ages 15-21), you will experience Quechua culture in the city of Cusco and the Sacred Valley, then spend the next four days hiking through spectacular mountains and ancient Inca ruins, including the famous citadel of Machu Picchu. On the Leading the Way Rim to River expedition (ages 15-19), you will spend time on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon engaging in meaningful service and cultural immersion, then experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: rafting the majestic Colorado River. Applications are available at the Leading the Way website at:

[http://www.globalexplorers.org/programs/leading\\_the\\_way](http://www.globalexplorers.org/programs/leading_the_way)>.

**Applications are due by November 30!**

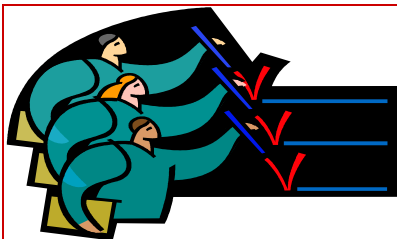
### CO Preschool Program News

Colorado Preschool Program staff have developed support documents to link the new Colorado Academic Standards for preschool with the early childhood best practices that are already present in high quality early childhood care and education settings. These supplementary documents are designed to assist preschool educators with effective implementation of the preschool standards by sharing examples of activities for children and illustrating connections to the Colorado's Discipline Concept Maps. The documents can be found at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cpp/qualitystandards.htm#Support>

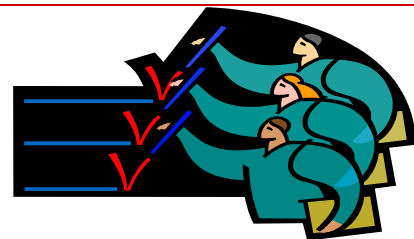
### **ABC Network Coverage of Hadley Music Courses!**

On Thursday, September 27, a piece about Hadley's new braille music courses aired on WLS/ABC 7 (A link to watch the segment is below). ABC's Karen Meyer, the channel's disability reporter who is deaf, interviewed Hadley instructor Linn Sorge who will be teaching the courses and Ruth Rozen, who wrote the courses. "Braille Music Reading" is offered tuition-free for visually impaired individuals through Hadley's Adult Continuing Education (ACE) and High School (HS) programs. The course consists of 14 lessons. Assignments are submitted in text with the option of playing/recording short musical examples. After completing the course, students will be able to read single-line music.

Hadley is offering "Braille Music Basics" to a sighted audience through their Professional Studies (HSPS) and Family Education (FE) programs. The information in this introductory course does not enable students to professionally transcribe print music, teach music, or teach braille. However, after completing the course, students can enthusiastically support and encourage a music student who is blind and learning to read music independently. APH was a proud partner with this project. Link to video: [http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/disability\\_issues&id=8827061](http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/disability_issues&id=8827061)



# CHECK IT OUT!



## Announcing! U.S. Entries Invited in 2013 T&T Tactile Book Competition

to learn to read yes, but to read what ???  
 ...Učít se číst, ano, ale co ???  
 ...Leren lezen, ja, maar wat lees je dan ???  
 ...Jos opin lukemaan, onko mitään luettavaa ???  
 ...Nauczyć się czytać? Tak. Tylko co czytać ???  
 ...apprendre à lire oui, mais à lire quoi ???  
 ...imparare a leggere sì, ma che cosa ???

***Get your creative wheels turning! Create and send APH a tactile book that makes a winning and appropriate book for children with visual impairments, birth to 12 years!***

United Kingdom  
 Czech Republic  
 Netherlands  
 Belgium  
 Finland  
 Poland  
 France  
 Italy



Typhlo & Tactus (T&T) is an international organization that exists to improve the quality, quantity, and availability of books with tactile illustrations. As part of T&T's efforts, the organization conducts a biennial tactile book competition. First held in 2000, the 2011 T&T competition included more than 350 tactile books from 16 countries, featuring a wide range of types of tactile illustration (many with collaged textures), appealing visual elements, print/braille text, and innovative designs and formats.

THE INTERNATIONAL TACTILE-ILLUSTRATED BOOK PRIZE  
 In partnership with .CEVI

In 2013, the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) will participate for the second time, agreeing to be the United State's national contact organization—publicizing the competition, directing U.S. participants to competition guidelines, and accepting and judging U.S. entries. A panel of U.S. judges will review each entry sent to APH and select the top 5 books. These will be sent to Helsinki for review by an international jury including individuals with visual impairments and professionals in the field. A single winning entry will be chosen, and 10 additional books will be recognized. Selected books may be featured at the T&T website, appear in posters, or in promotional materials used by T&T.

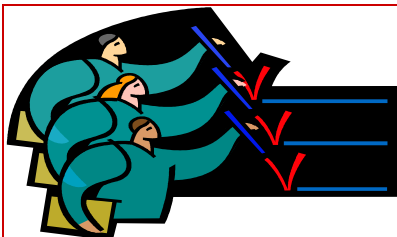
Start now! Completed books and a brief accompanying entry form must be received at APH by **July 15, 2013**.

Visit the APH website to obtain the necessary U.S. entry form, a summary of competition guidelines, APH contact information, and to download an informational flyer to post and share with others. The address is: <http://www.aph.org/edresearch/tactile-book-contest/>.

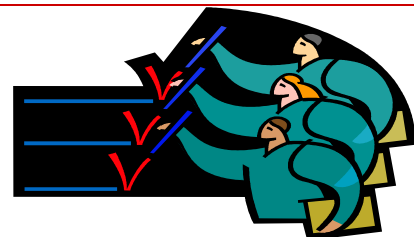
Visit the Typhlo and Tactus website (<http://www.tactus.org/>) to learn more about this international organization, see complete competition rules, and view results and photos of winning entries from the 2011 competition.

### **YOGA AND PEOPLE WITH VISION LOSS**

The Hadley School for the Blind has a free 1- 2 hour audio seminar on yoga and vision loss that was presented by a yoga instructor and yoga practitioner who is visually impaired – try <http://www.hadley.edu/seminardetails.asp?sid=42> . The pair also sells a 5 CD package.



# CHECK IT OUT!



## Hands Matter: 2013 Texas Deafblind Symposium

This year many of our sessions will focus on the importance of developing the tactile sense and hand-use in students with deafblindness. Many topics will be addressed in the breakout sessions including: student and family issues, professional development, and orientation and mobility.

TSBVI Outreach Programs is pleased to announce that Barbara Miles and Paul Hart will be the keynote presenters at the Symposium. Mr. Hart is from Scotland and has collaborated with Barbara and others on the Tactile Communication Network for Deafblind International. Other international guests include Ricard Lopez, a parent from Spain, and Guido Dettoni, a sculptor who created Deafblind Shape.

Other speakers include Jay Gense, Director of the National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness, and Kim Power-Smith, Divya Goel and Ashley Jackson who are deafblind. In addition, we have sessions by and for family members on such topics as self-regulation and pain and its relationship to behavior.

Family members, professionals, and paraprofessionals will enjoy hearing from educational and rehabilitation staff who are "in the professional trenches" and can offer first-hand suggestions about programming strategies. For more information on all of our speakers, sessions, special activities and other pertinent details, please browse all the tabs in this website.

### Registration Fee(s):

|                      |                  |                 |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Professionals:       | Early - \$200.00 | Late - \$250.00 |
| Family Members:      | Early - \$200.00 | Late - \$250.00 |
| Paras/Interveners:   | Early - \$25.00  | Late - \$75.00  |
| University Students: | Early - \$25.00  | Late - \$75.00  |
| Out of State:        | Early - \$250.00 | Late - \$300.00 |



We are now accepting registrations for this year's Symposium. (Late registration begins AFTER January 21st!)

Please share this link with colleagues and families who might be interested in attending. We have quite a spectacular line-up of speakers and special events. Please check out what we have to offer and help spread the word.

**Website:** [http://events.SignUp4.com/2013 TX Deafblind Symposium](http://events.SignUp4.com/2013_TX_Deafblind_Symposium)

## Colorado Academic Standards

For more information about the Colorado Academic Standards, please check to the standards back sheet at <http://bit.ly/TAMm5l>>. You can also visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/index.asp>>.



# 11th Annual Snowshoe Weekend

Students who have  
Visual Impairments,  
ages 8 – 18 years old

March 1, 2013, 4:00 p.m.–March 3, 2013, 1:00 p.m.  
YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, CO

Cost: \$50.00 / person

(A matching amount will be provided by the  
Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind to defer expenses)

Experience a snowshoe weekend  
in the mountains with  
old and new friends.

Registration Deadline:

**January 18, 2013**

Mail registration form and check to:

Diane Covington

CSDB

33 North Institute Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

dcovington@csdb.org

*Please make checks payable to CSDB*

Sponsored by



33 N. Institute Street ~ Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
719-575-8100, www.csdb.org



Colorado Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Parents are responsible for providing transportation to  
and from the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch.



# colorado connections

**Braille Renewal**—Hats off to **Paula LaBossiere, Debbie Mendoza, Roberta Weidemeyer, Elsa D’Angelo, Karen Jamison, Elaine Brown, Edie Smith, Anitha Muthukumaran** for completing braille renewal clock hours. Thanks to braille proctors **Julie Wetzstein** and **Lucia Hasty!**

Colorado TVIs had a great showing at the recent National Federation of the Blind of Colorado Conference. TVIs on the scene included: **Rita Albright, Tanni Anthony, Sherry Bainbridge, Michelle Chacon, Bertha Guerrero, Jennifer Langely, Mike Plansker, Trina Boyd Pratt, and Marty Rahn.**

- ◆ Many, many (and even more) thanks to the following COMS who took worked all day on November 7th to contribute to a **CO Teacher Quality Standards and Elements** Rubric specific to School Orientation and Mobility Specialists: **Tanni Anthony, Melinda Carter, Michelle Chacon, David Gooldy, Elaine Karns, Cheryl Leidich, Pat Lewis, Mike Plansker, Trina Pratt Boyd, and Sylvia Correa-Torres.** This was the first step in the Other Licensed Personnel Teacher Effectiveness work for the field of orientation and mobility. Thanks to **Courtney Cabrera** from the CDE Teacher Effective Unit for keeping us on track and facilitating a meaningful product

- ◆ **Shark Dissection**—Thanks so much to the Colorado Center for the Blind and Arapahoe Community College for teaming up to host an amazing shark dissection day for 25 kids and a few of us adults on November 9th. There were 12 students from CSDB and individual students from Boulder Valley, Academy 20, and Adams 12 school districts. Also in attendance were adult students from the CCB independence program. As noted in the title article, the group



learned the INs (quite literally) and outs of a dog shark. The session was highly informative and lots of fun. This is one of the many offerings of CCB's Youth Program that is coordinated by **Brent Batron.** Thanks to all who attended and participated. Thanks to attending school staff **Judy Mumford, Jan Megarry, James Bristol, Kyle Berns, and Jeremy Gartner.**

- ◆ Colorado is proud that **Dr. Paula Conroy** and **Dr. Kay Ferrell** attended and were featured speakers at the World Blind Union ICEVI meeting in Bangkok, Thailand this November –so proud of both of you!

***In our season of Thanksgiving—  
thanks to each of you and for all you do!***

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