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KEEPING IN TOUCH!

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

May 2014

It's Independence Day!

By Tanni L. Anthony



As we approach the summer months, we begin to look forward to July 4th – our Independence Day. It is a time to celebrate our country's freedom complete with fireworks, picnics, and gratitude for our independence as a nation. To be independent is to be self-sufficient and self-reliant. It means to have freedom to make choices, to fulfill our potential, and to make our own mark on this world.

Our goal is to raise and support our children to become fully self-sufficient and self-reliant. This creed is so powerful that the field of educating children who are blind/visually impaired long ago developed a companion curriculum to the core general education curriculum. Educators define "core curriculum" as the knowledge and skills expected to be learned by a student by high school graduation. Generally the core curriculum consists of knowledge and skills related to academic subjects (math, science, English Language Arts, etc.). The Expanded Core Curriculum for Children and Youth with Visual Impairment (ECC) is the body of knowledge and skills that are needed by all students who are blind/visually impaired due to their unique disability-specific needs. The underpinning focus of the ECC is to build knowledge and skills to increase personal independence and success. What we all need to implement the ECC is time—and what better time than summer time!

There are many activities (see the Calendar of Events) that children and youth can become involved in over the summer months to increase their skills of independence. Summer is also a great time for families to really focus on building independence on the home front. Parents are key to encouraging / expecting a child's self-responsibility of getting dressed in the morning, helping with or completing household chores, making snacks or a meal for the family, getting around the neighborhood and community, etc. No matter the age, blindness/visual impairment should never be an excuse for a child not to be working on age-appropriate independence.

As summer approaches, think about how to maximize personal independence skills of our shared children.

Everyday should and can be Independence Day!

I thank you for another great school year! My best to each and every one for a wonderful summer ahead!

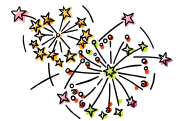
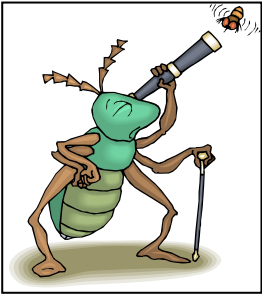


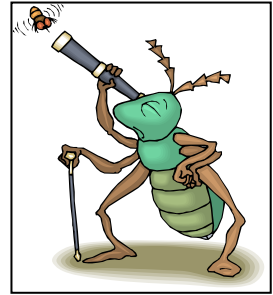
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LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



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 * Thanks to everyone who participated in a Low Vision Evaluation Clinic for this school year.
 * Your help in ensuring that our students with low vision receive the magnification tools that
 * they need is invaluable. If you participated in an LVE Clinic, please be sure to complete the
 * online survey that Tanni will/has sent to you. These data are key for the continuation and
 * improvement of the clinics.
 *
 * We are funding again for the 2014-2015 school year! Clinic dates will be posted in the August
 * September newsletter.
 *
 *

Thank you!

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

New Products from Digital Apex!

Are all your students with blindness/visual impairments receiving consistent assistive technology instruction? Achieving that goal can be difficult. See our newest tool in *TrainingWare* instructional materials for students with vision impairment for iPad, Windows 8, and Window-Eyes to see how vital consistent assistive technology instruction is throughout an organization or school district and how to achieve that goal! To view a sample to go: <http://mydigitalapex.com/trainingware/>.

Lack of accessibility to employer phone systems has been an on-going barrier to employment for people with disabilities. But, no longer! These two new incredible products enhance employment potential for individuals with impairments:

- Accessaphone, a solution for people with visual and physical impairment is here.
- ipTTY, a solution for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

To get more information and to view these items just click this link:
<http://mydigitalapex.com/accessaphone/>.





Spotlight on Hallerman-Streiff Syndrome

Retrieved from: <http://www.rarediseases.org/rare-disease-information/rare-diseases/byID/498/viewAbstract>,' http://www.rightdiagnosis.com/h/hallermann_streiff_syndrome/intro.htm,' <http://children.webmd.com/hallermann-streiff-syndrome>

What is Hallerman-Streiff Syndrome? Hallerman-Streiff syndrome (HSS) is a rare genetic disorder that was first documented in separate accounts in 1893 by two clinicians who recognized it as a singular distinct disease. It was later named for these two clinicians. HSS is mainly recognized by the pronounced malformation of the skull and face including the eyes, sparse or absent hair, abnormal skeletal development, and proportionate short stature. In most instances, children with this condition have normal intelligence; only 15 percent of reported cases had an intellectual disability. In rare instances, neurologic abnormalities, such as hyperactivity, or seizures, are present. Occurrence of the syndrome has been reported in comparatively equal numbers in both males and females, with 150 cases reported to date.

What Causes HSS? In almost all cases, HSS appears to have occurred randomly and for unknown reasons. Therefore, this syndrome is thought to be the result of a new spontaneous change (mutation) to dominant genetic material. For the affected individuals and their families, there is little evidence for HSS being a recessively inherited disorder in which both parents are carriers of the mutation. Because of the elusive way in which it is inherited, it remains difficult to determine an exact risk of recurrence.

How is HSS Diagnosed? Signs of HSS may appear shortly after birth or during the first year of life because of the disorder's physical symptoms. Confirmation of HSS may be made by clinical evaluation. Affected infants have abnormal shape and shortness of the head, a prominent forehead and/or sides of the head, and eye (ocular) and dental anomalies. A relatively small head, face, and underdeveloped cheekbones have also been reported. Typically there is abnormal widening between certain skull bones and delayed closure of the cranial "soft spots" (fontanelles). Other abnormal skeletal features in addition to short stature include winged shoulder blades, scoliosis, and hyper extensible joints.

Specific description of features includes a high, narrow palate; a small lower jaw with a receding chin; and a narrow pointed nose with small nostrils and underdeveloped nasal cartilage that becomes more beaked (convex) with age. Jaw abnormalities cause tongue retraction or downward displacement, a narrow upper airway, and an abnormally soft windpipe. These underdevelopments may result in, feeding, swallowing, and/or breathing problems, upper airway obstruction, severe respiratory infections, and other mild to potentially life-threatening complications. Some severe respiratory cases have resulted in heart failure due to the enlargement and strain put on the heart. Dental problems associated with the disorder include natal or neonatal teeth, delayed eruption or absence of permanent teeth or extra teeth, abnormal tooth and root development, and severe and/or early tooth decay.



Degenerative skin changes (atrophy) are often present and are mainly limited to the scalp and nose. The skin in these areas may appear unusually taut and thin, and the blood vessels may seem unusually pronounced.

What are Vision Implications with Hallerman-Streiff Syndrome? Nearly all individuals with Hallermann-Streiff syndrome (80+ %) have microphthalmia (very small eyes) and bilateral congenital cataracts (opacity of the lenses). The eyebrows may be hypoplastic and the eyelashes likewise are sparse. The lid fissures often slant down and telecanthus has been noted. The distance between the two eyes appears reduced. Blue sclerae (the white part of the eyes), nystagmus (involuntary back and forth movement of the eyes), strabismus (eye deviation such as an eye crossing), and glaucoma are present in 10 to 30% of individuals with this diagnosis. The ocular defects may result in varying degrees of visual impairment or, in some cases, blindness.

What is the Treatment for Hallerman-Streiff syndrome? The treatment of HSS is directed toward the specific symptoms that are apparent in each individual. Treatment may require the coordinated efforts of a team of medical professionals, such as pediatricians, craniofacial surgeons, eye specialists (ophthalmologists), dental specialists, and/or other health care professionals.

For optimal vision, early surgical removal of cataracts may be recommended to help preserve vision; however, some investigators indicate that the frequency of spontaneous cataract absorption may be underestimated in those with HSS, suggesting that it may occur in up to 50 percent of untreated patients followed up through five years of age. These physicians may advise waiting for possible spontaneous cataract absorption in selected cases, particularly for patients with significant microphthalmia. Regular close ophthalmology follow-up is strongly recommended to identify and treat other eye abnormalities like nystagmus, ptosis and entropion, which may require surgical intervention to avoid developing a lazy eye (amblyopia) and allow appropriate development of vision. Further investigation is needed regarding the frequency of spontaneous cataract absorption and optimal treatment approaches.

What are the educational implications of Hallerman-Streiff syndrome? Early intervention is important to ensure that children with Hallermann-Streiff syndrome reach their potential. Special services that may be beneficial include special remedial education, special social support, physical therapy, and other medical, social, and/or vocational services. Children will need to be evaluated for their eligibility for special education services, which may well include the services of a certified teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI) and a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS).

Additional resources:

Hallerman-Streiff syndrome: <http://www.hallermanstreiffsyndrome.com/>

Little People of America: <http://www.lpaonline.org/>

Resources and Materials

Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!

National Initiative to Encourage Developmental and Behavioral Screening

The U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services announced *Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!* – a National initiative to encourage developmental and behavioral screening for young children. This unprecedented multi-faceted initiative will assure that the wide range of adults who love, work, and care for young children are all on the same page and have an array of resources tailored to fit their needs and those of the families they serve. This initiative encourages early childhood experts to work together with children and their families. Early screenings check developmental progress and can uncover potential developmental delays. If a child's screening result shows risk, families and providers will be in a better position to pursue more in-depth evaluation, which is the first step toward getting help for a child who might need it.

Please click the following links for more information and resources on this new initiative!

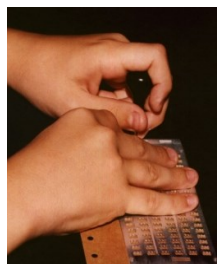
<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-departments-education-and-health-human-services-announce-birth-5-watch-me-thr>

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/list/watch-me-thrive/index.html>

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/watch-me-thrive>

Teaching Language Through the Medium of Language and Action

What do you do with a child who will only sing and is reluctant to explore objects with her hands? To teach a child with vision impairment through other modes of learning, check out the inspirational article on the site Paths to Literacy: <http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/teaching-language-through-medium-music-and-action>.



FREE SLATE PROGRAM

Does your student need a new slate and stylus? The NFB has started a new program whereby you can receive a free 4-line, 28-cell, Whozit metal slate and a round plastic stylus. The slate and stylus is the only device you can fit into your pocket/purse to take down notes, phone numbers, and the names of people you meet as readily as a person using a pen and paper. We believe Braille is vital to all blind individuals and should be available in every facet of a blind person's life. You can order your free slate by visiting <https://nfb.org/free-slate-program>. If you have questions, please e-mail us at nfb@nfb.org.

Childhood Occupations Toolkit Fact Sheets

To begin to reach out to families of diverse cultural backgrounds, two tip sheets that are included in the Childhood Occupations Toolkit <http://www.aota.org/About-Occupational-Therapy/Patients-Clients/ChildrenAndYouth.aspx> are now offered in Spanish:

<http://www.aota.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/AboutOT/consumers/Youth/BathTimeTipSheetSpanish.pdf>

<http://www.aota.org/-/media/Corporate/Files/AboutOT/consumers/Youth/BedtimeTipSheetSpanish.pdf>

just for PARENTS

Interactive Site for Parents

This is an interactive site sponsored by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and supported by the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children (their parent organization). If you have a question or need an opinion on raising a child who is blind this is the place to go. To check it out, go to: blindkid@nfbnet.org.

FamilyConnect

FamilyConnect hosts a variety of blogs written by parents who are raising children who are blind or visually impaired. Names on some blogs may have been changed to protect individuals' privacy.

This website also has a featured blog called A Parent's Voice featuring Susan LaVenture, NAPVI president, this blog is for you—parents of children with visual impairments. Susan talks about what it's like to be a parent, how to advocate for your child, what new resources she's found, and much more. FamilyConnect also periodically invites experts in all different aspects of raising a visually impaired child to make themselves available to answer your questions. For this blog and others, please go to: <http://www.familyconnect.org/blog.aspx>.

2014 8th Biennial LCA Family Conference

When: Friday, July 18—Sunday, July 20, 2014

Where: Embassy Suites Hotel, Waltham, MA

Hosted by the Foundation for Retinal Research, this will be a unique opportunity to learn the most current information on Leber's Congenital Amaurosis (LCA) directly from researchers and doctors working on treatment and cures. Meet other families who are affected by LCA. Plus, medical exams, ERG's and blood draws for gene identification will be offered! To find out more or to register, go to: www.tfrr.org.

Connecting Families

There are several organizations that can connect families to advocates in Colorado. PEAK Parent Center is Colorado's Parent Training and Information Center. PEAK has parent advisors on staff and can provide families with the names of advocacy organizations. For more information, visit:

- PEAK's website at www.peakparent.org.
- The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People (www.thelegalcenter.org) and
- The Arc of Colorado (www.thearcofco.org) are other resources for families looking for advocates.

If your family is looking for support groups and/or trying to connect with other families, Parent to Parent of Colorado is a useful resource - www.p2p-co.org.

The Parent Information and Resources page on the CDE Exceptional Student Services Unit's website has information about conferences and training opportunities. Every year CDE offers three Parents Encouraging Parents Conferences for families and educators throughout Colorado.

For more information, please visit <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 or to Tanni Anthony, CDE ESSU, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1175, Denver, CO 80202. Or leave a voice message at (303) 866-6681. Thank you so much!



NEWS

Congratulations to the following people on their 2014 CAER Awards, which were presented at the CAER Business Meeting and Awards Banquet on Friday, April 25th.

Patty Wagner (shown in picture) received the President's Award. This award recognizes outstanding leadership in service to people with visual disabilities. The current CAER Board President Heather Solberg made the selection for and presented this award to Patty.



Judy Mumford received the Gary Schmidt Award. This award honors and AER member who works directly with students/clients. Nomination criteria include; ethical standards, sense of humor, degree of excellence in job performance, and professionalism. The CAER Board and Janice Schmidt reviewed the nominations. Nancy Cozart presented the award to Judy.

JC Greeley (pictured at right) received the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is presented to professionals, who have given of themselves to clients/ students throughout their career and are preparing for retirement. Tanni Anthony read the nomination letter at the meeting and this award will be given to JC at her retirement tea on June 12th at the Anchor Center for Blind Children.



A big thank you to the following people for their great service on the CAER board during the 2013-14 school term: **Brent Batron, Sally Burch, Nancy Cozart, Barb Galgano, David Gooldy, Bill Muir, Heather Solberg, Mike Plansker, and Trina Boyd Pratt.** These individuals log in many extra hours on behalf of AER members in CO. A special thank you to **Heather Solberg** who served as President and **Mike Plansker** who served as the Past President this past term. Welcome to new CAER board members **Ann Cunningham** and **Michelle Chacon!**



Family Learning Retreat 2014

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

33 North Institute Street
 Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
 719-578-2100; www.csdb.org
 June 13-15, 2014

The Family Learning Retreat (FLR) will be returning to the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind June 13-15, 2014. The FLR is a three-day retreat focused on families with a child who is deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired or deafblind. This is an opportunity for families to meet other families while networking, learning and having fun together.

Parents /adults will attend workshops with topics such as assessments, instruction and accommodations, creating and understanding IFSPs and IEPs, role models sharing life experiences, and by request, the moms and dads breakouts groups will return.

Children will participate in supervised recreational activities within the youth program. Check-in and dinner begin Friday June 13, 5:00-7:00 p.m. followed by an opening session. The retreat ends by noon on Sunday, June 15. Lodging will be available Friday and Saturday nights in the CSDB dormitories. Meals provided include Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast.

The cost of the Family Learning Retreat is only \$20 per adult and \$10 per child under the age of 18 years. Spanish and sign language interpreters will be provided upon request. Parents will be responsible for providing any assisted feeding or medical procedure their child requires. A nurse will not be available during the Family Learning Retreat.

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

Questions or to register, contact Mary at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind at mcuccaro@csdb.org or (719) 578-2270.

For Spanish speaking participants, contact Gloria Romero (719) 578-2288 or gromero@csdb.org.



ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

Pedestrian Guide Resource

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has developed *A Guide for Maintaining Pedestrian Facilities for Enhanced Safety* as part of its goal to reduce the tens of thousands of pedestrian injuries and some 4,000 pedestrian fatalities occurring each year in the U.S. by providing technology and tools to assist proponents in improving pedestrian safety and mobility. The *Guide* identifies effective and exemplary methods, along with barriers for pedestrian facility maintenance—what works and does not work based on experiences from local and state agencies. To view the guide in its entirety, go to: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/tools_solve/.



SAVE THE DATE

Institut Nazareth et Louis-Braille (INLB) and École d'optométrie (School of Optometry) of the Université de Montréal will host the 15th International Mobility Conference (IMC15) to be held in Montréal from July 6 to 9, 2015. The keynote address, delivered by Bernard Voyer, O.C., C.Q., Ph.D. (Hon.), F.S.G.R. (C.), Ch.L.H., is titled “Travelling in Challenging Environments: Reflected Thoughts about Determination and Perseverance.” In addition to this fascinating opening keynote is a diverse panel of experts and two exciting plenary sessions: the invited speakers of IMC15 will know how to stimulate exchange.

Bookmark IMC15 in your agenda! This Conference promises to put forward an innovative program that will promote the exchange of science and practice, on a Canadian and international level. This major international forum in orientation and mobility will allow participants to: **Gather Information, Learn, Share, and Network.**

For more information visit <http://imc15.com/en/>.

The Call for Abstracts will open on the website in October 2014. Do you have colleagues that would also like to submit an abstract? Invite them to subscribe to the newsletter to get the latest news about the Conference and upcoming deadlines. To submit an abstract and/or to subscribe to the newsletter, go to: <http://imc15.com/en/call-for-abstracts/>.



DOTS OF INTEREST



UEB Resource from Australia

RIDBC Renwick Centre is delighted to announce the launch of its first online training course in Unified English Braille (UEB), entitled “UEB Online for Sighted Learners”. UEB Online is an ideal course for professionals, parents and community members who wish to learn braille. It may be used by classroom teachers as a project for their students, or by specialist and mainstream educators and support staff who wish to obtain a qualification in braille.

UEB Online consists of 30 lessons that are sub-divided into two modules. The course may be accessed using a Mac or PC computer and any web browser (e.g. Safari, Internet Explorer). The course is not available via a tablet, e.g., iPad. Lessons are completed with a standard computer keyboard using a number of keys to replicate the keys of a braillewriter. Marking is fully automated so that learners receive immediate feedback as they progress through each lesson. There are a number of lesson support videos under “video resources” in the “resources” section of the course. The videos are also available via YouTube.

For those wishing a Certificate of Completion, RIDBC Renwick Centre offers certificates for each of the two modules, with a processing fee of AUD\$50.

Please visit <http://uebonline.org/> to sign up and get started!



BRAILLE GIFTS

Are you looking for that perfect gift for your graduate? Check out the National Braille Press’s online shop for great gift ideas for any occasion:

<http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/publications/graduation.html?id=ohq4VxZy>.

APH Braille Book Corner

APH offers recreational books in braille (Quota funds can be used). The National Library Service has graciously granted permission for this offering. These titles have been added to the APH *Louis* Database where you can find thousands of titles produced in accessible formats. Go to:

<http://www.aph.org/advisory/2014adv03.html#P3>.

Colorado Braille Challenge Winners

Apprentice: Jasmine McCandless, Jefferson County RE-1, TVI Melinda Carter—1st; Victor Jiron, Denver County, TVI Melinda Holtz—2nd; Richard Scott, CSDB—3rd

Freshman: Jaden Diaz, Denver County, VI Elsa D Angelo—1st; James Bewley, CSDB—2nd; Tyrone Bagsby, CSDB—3rd

Sophomore: Deyannira Villa-Cazares, Denver County, TVI Marci Reid—1st; Elizabeth Koren, CSDB—2nd; Jaylen Anders, CSDB—3rd

Junior Varsity: Izayah Mendoza, Boulder County-St. Vrain Valley RE-1J, TVI Sally Burch—1st; Jordan Rodriguez, Jefferson County RE-1, TVI Jessica Hank—2nd; Christina Laty, Douglas County RE-1, TVI Shelley Moats—3rd

Varsity: Alyssa Foster, CSDB—1st; Destinee Brown, Denver County, TVI Melinda Holtz—2nd



DOTS OF INTEREST



2014 Book Angel Program

Register to receive **2 free braille books** for your child with BVI!

If your child/student is visually impaired, 21 or under, and living in the US or Canada, he/she is eligible to receive two free braille books each calendar year, so sign up today at: <http://www.seedlings.org/bkangel2009.php> or print out a registration form to send in later. The form may also be faxed to: 734-427-8552 or mailed to: Seedlings, PO Box 51924, Livonia, MI 48151-5924.

This program has been a huge success, bringing much joy to young braille readers. The children love receiving two free books that they can read and re-read to their heart's content. This is also a great way to introduce braille to toddlers with blindness/visual impairment and preschoolers who may become braille readers. Just sign them up for some of our Print-and-Braille books, and they will be able to enjoy reading time with their sighted friends and family members while picking up some important pre-reading skills. Book Angel orders will be filled as time and materials allow. The books will be shipped "Free Matter for the Blind." This program was made possible by Seedlings' generous donors.

GET READY FOR BELL 2014!

The BELL Program is a two-week day camp for blind/visually impaired children ages 4-12. The letters B.E.L.L. stand for "Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning", but for the kids, the letters stand for F.U.N. Braille readers of all levels will gain confidence in reading and writing while engaged in games, crafts and exciting outdoor activities. There are two camps this year: the first is in Colorado Springs from July 14-25 at Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind (CSDB); and the second camp is in Westminster from July 21—August 1 at the Rocky Mountain MS Center, located at 8845 Wagner Street.

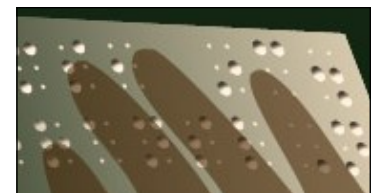
The programs are led by certified Braille teachers and others who love Braille and use it every day. There is no cost to attend, but families are encouraged to volunteer at least one day during the programs. Space is limited, so call soon to request an application. For more information contact Michelle Chacon at mchacon@adams50.org or call 303-456-9000.

View the program on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aBTNcasZPQ&sns=em>.

UEB Chart Available for Download from Duxbury, Systems, Inc.

For Duxbury's one page chart/list of UEB symbols go to:
<http://www.duxburysystems.com/braillechart.asp>.

or to go directly to the pdf of the UEB chart, here's the URL:
http://www.duxburysystems.com/images/ueb_black.pdf.



DOTS OF INTEREST



Motivating Braille Students Through Technology

By Dawn Wilkinson, M.Ed.

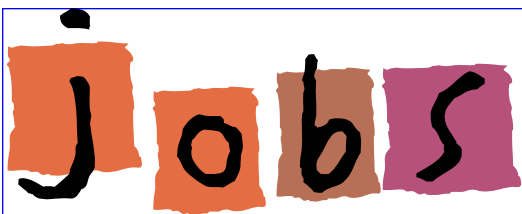
Students are motivated by technology, and beginning braille users are no different. Braille readers can be exposed to a level of literacy and learning that was never available before because technology has made braille more flexible than ever. Sighted students have an array of learning tools ranging from pen and paper to computer-based tutors and flashy tablets; for students with BVI, refreshable braille has opened the same opportunities. Paper and hardcopy materials will [remain] vital in print; [likewise] paper will remain vital to learning braille. Like their sighted classmates, young students with BVI also need hands-on time with devices such as notetakers in order to master beginning technology skills. The irony here is that notetakers for the blind preceded any such mainstream tablet for the sighted population, placing blind users ahead of the rest of the world for quite some time. Now that everyone seems to be operating within the mobile playing field, it seems only natural to keep notetakers and refreshable braille at the learning forefront for blind students.

Yet, there is hesitation to use these devices with beginning braille students despite the fact that no one gives a second thought to using technology with an early print reader. TVIs, therefore, must ensure that technology is utilized to its fullest potential, starting with the youngest braille students from the beginning. Based on student success using a combination of paper and notetakers, evidence shows that in student performance learning braille, results are equal to or slightly greater than traditional braille teaching methods. Student accounts credit the notetaker as helping with forgotten contractions, making it easier to work independently. Students stating that they had difficulty feeling the dots on paper reported that refreshable braille was much easier to read. Tracking problems was easily eliminated by using a refreshable braille display, and mistakes were reported as being easier to edit. Furthermore, there seems to be a notable increase in overall student interest and positive attitude toward learning braille.

The functional and social implications of implementing technology into the braille learning process are essential for independence and self-esteem. It is imperative to incorporate a refreshable braille display into practical activities, in and out of the classroom, whether linked to a laptop computer, iPad, or notetaker. This allows students to use braille and accomplish real-life tasks alongside sighted peers, making braille no longer an isolating experience. Both teachers and sighted classmates can see the braille student's work on a screen, just as they could look over the shoulder of a print student. Braille, therefore, is an integral part of mainstream technology and inclusion.

Today's notetakers bring mainstream applications into a compact one-piece solution, allowing braille users to easily connect with their sighted peers via technology. Access to email and the internet, as well as the ability to take notes and have instant access to books and files electronically, suddenly puts everything in braille. On-demand literacy is attainable with refreshable braille, in that all kinds of information can be instantly downloaded and read in braille, including through GPS.

A teacher might ask, "isn't this overloading my new braille reader?" It is unrealistic to expect children who are blind to learn braille only in controlled situations. The availability of refreshable braille, along with the basic technologies of the standard Perkins Braille, embossers, or slate with labeling tape, allow braille to be everywhere, giving equal access to the printed word. As educators and parents, it is our responsibility to ensure that refreshable braille is in the hands of EVERY braille reader, so that everything that pops up on the screen also pops up right under the fingers. Braille is readily available, it's portable, and technology, if implemented effectively, will ensure that braille lives on with enthusiasm in all of today's students.



IMPORTANT!

We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for this school year or the one starting in fall 2014. 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

Southern Region Jobs

- ✓ Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind is actively recruiting and accepting applications for the 2014-15 school year. For details about what positions may be open, please contact Chelle Lutz at clutz@csdb.org or (719) 578-2114.

Western Region Jobs

- ✓ **TVI/COMS** (1 FTE) for San Juan BOCES. Please contact HR Director Paula Sublett at (970) 247-3261 x 203 or psublett@sjboces.org.

Metro Region Jobs

- ✓ **Brailist** position in Adams 50 School District: For more information, please go to: <http://www.applitrack.com/adams50/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=ESP+-+Office%2fStudent+Support+Staff>
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (0.8 FTE) in Cherry Creek School District. Contact Dixie Periman at (720) 554-4250 or dperiman@cherrycreekschools.org

TVIs and COMSs—If you are getting ready to retire, please do not let your CDE teaching and support services licenses expire, as you are in a great position to keep contributing in the future with part-time or sub work. Please keep in touch with Tanni, if you are interested in this type of work after your retirement!




Calendar of Events

2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014

- June 6—August 1** **Earn & Learn/Summer for Success College Prep Programs**—CO Center for Blind
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org
- June 8—12** **Ready, Set, Go Summer Camp (6th—8th graders)**—CSDB
Contact: Donna Keale at 719-330-7387 or dkeale@csdb.org
- June 9—10** **SWAAAC Summer Symposium 2014**—Adams 12 Conference Center, Thornton, CO
<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/programs/atp/Events/Documents/2014%20Symposium%20Brochure.pdf>
- June 9—27** **Confidence Camp for Elementary Kids**—CO Center for the Blind
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org
- June 13—15** **Family Learning Retreat**—CSDB
Contact: Laura Douglas at - ldouglas@csdb.org
- June 15** **CIMC due date for tech equip/textbooks** *Districts billed for unreturned items
- June 16-20** **2014 Summer Institute on Deafblindness**—Denver
Contact: Tanni Anthony— anthony-t@cde.state.co.us
- June 27—28** **3rd Annual American Conference on Pediatric CVI**—Omaha, NE
Visit: www.childrensomaha.org/upcomingconferences
- July** **CIMC to begin invoicing AUs** for equipment /books not returned in complete, usable condition (includes missing/damaged volumes)
- July 1** **CIMC to mail invoices to Special Education Directors** for student assessment fees based on 1/6/14 enrollment of students identified as VIIB
- July 1—6** **NFB National Convention**—Orlando, FL
Visit: www.nfb.org/registration
- July 13—15** **ACB’s 2014 Audio Description Project Conference**—Las Vegas, NV
Visit: [http://adprester.acb.org/.](http://adprester.acb.org/)

More Calendar of Events

2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014 2014

- July 14—25** **NFB of Colorado B.E.L.L. program**— CSDB, Colorado Springs, CO
Contact: Michelle Chacon at mchacon@adams50.org or 303-456-9000
- July 14—August 1** **Initiation to Independence Program (MS students)**—CO Center for the Blind
Contact: Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org
- July 18—July 20** **2014 8th Biennial LCA Family Conference**—Waltham, MA
Visit: www.tfrr.org
- July 21—August 1** **NFB of Colorado B.E.L.L. program**— Rocky Mountain MS Center, Westminster, CO
Contact: Michelle Chacon at mchacon@adams50.org or 303-456-9000
- July 30-Aug 3** **AER International Conference** – San Antonio, TX
Visit: www.aerbvi.org
- September 1** **Due date for AUs to submit payment** of CIMC invoices to CSDB

2015 2015 2016 2015 2015 2015 2015 2015 2015 2015 2015

- July 6—9** **15th International Mobility Conference**—Montreal, Canada
Visit: <http://imc15.com/en/>

2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016

- January 4** **Official Date for Full UEB Implementation in the United States!**

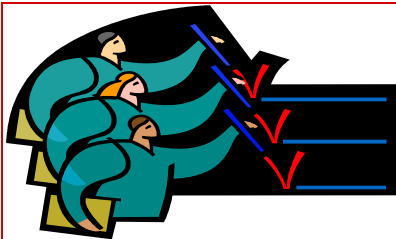


AER Conference 2014

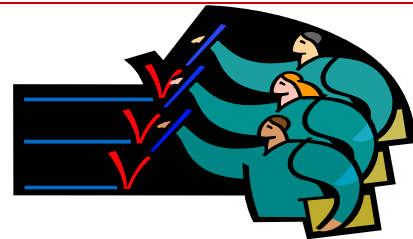
The conference will be held in the Grand Hyatt on the River Walk, a stunning venue for developing your expertise, networking with colleagues, and enjoying the sights and sounds of the area. We encourage you to make your plans early to attend this stellar event. More than 800 professionals and practitioners will be in attendance,

ranging from Educators, Vision Rehabilitation Therapists, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, Low Vision Specialists, University Preparation Professionals, to vendors and parents. This year's conference will include: keynote speakers on Recreation for Life, current technology and Non-24 Hour Sleep Disorder; "Learning Labs" to provide hands-on training in UEBC, iPad use, symbols and meaning, and more; dozens of division tracks focusing on field-specific areas; an Exhibit Hall, featuring vendors and products critical to your work; opportunities for CEUs required for certification and credentialing; tours of the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind and the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

For more information or to register, go to: <http://aerbvi.org/international2014/>



CHECK IT OUT!



32nd Annual CONFERENCE

Preconference Workshops • Over 200 Presentation Hours • State-of-the-Art Commercial Exhibits

Closing The Gap
OCTOBER 15-17, 2014
Preconference Workshops
October 13-14, 2014
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Closing The Gap has 18 preconference workshops for October 13-14, 2014! This year's offerings include a two-day PODD communication books workshop; a scanning and switch access workshop; a working memory/processing/

executive skills workshop; and workshops on writing, AT Team upgrading, Proloquo2Go 4 and Proloquo4Text, Rett Syndrome, autism and iPad integration, to name a few. In addition, the conference itself (October 15-17) will boast over 200 presentation hours (to be announced in July), labs (including an iPad lab!) and an expansive exhibit hall.

Many registration options and discounts are available:

- \$30 RETURN discount (by June 30th)
- EARLY, GROUP, PARENT and STUDENT rates
- BUNDLED WORKSHOP pricing (a \$60 savings!)

CEUs and academic credit are available as well.

Go to <http://www.closingthegap.com/store/registration/>.

To learn more about the conference visit our website: www.closingthegap.com.

New FAST Saturday Program at Colorado Center for the Blind!

CCB's new FAST (Fun Activities and Skills Training) Saturday Program meets the first Saturday of each month. Some Saturdays will focus on having fun as skills are developed, and other Saturdays will focus on a variety of challenge recreation activities. Upcoming programs are:

June 6—August 1: Earn & Learn Program and Summer for Success College Prep Program: These are 8-week residential programs for high school students that focus on Braille, cane travel, technology and daily living skills. Both will focus on non-visual techniques and will have challenge recreation activities. All students will attend the National Convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Orlando.

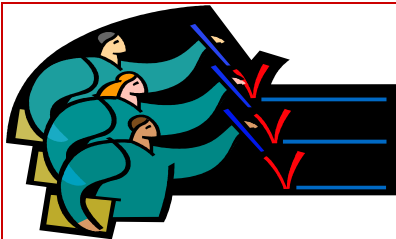
June 9—June 27: Confidence Camp for Kids: This is a 3-week day program for elementary aged kids. Space is limited so call or email for an application.

July 14—August 1: Initiation to Independence Program (Middle School students): This is a 3-week residential program that will focus on Braille, cane travel, technology, and daily living skills. The students will also participate in a variety of challenge recreation activities.

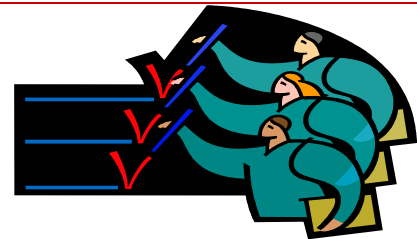
To RSVP to these events or if you would like to get more information on the summer program, contact Brent Batron at 303-778-1130 x 222 or bbatron@cocenter.org.

Music Over the Summer

The Colorado Music Festival and Center for Musical Arts (CMF & CMA) provides a broad spectrum of music education opportunities and world-class performances to citizens throughout Boulder County and beyond. CMF & CMA have the core belief in "**Music for All... For Life!**" The CMA offers many summer lessons, performance options and group classes. This is achieved, in part, through the Heartstrings Program, which consists of an Instrument Bank to provide low-cost instrument rentals and Tuition Assistance so that everyone can afford to participate. For more information go to: comusic.org.



CHECK IT OUT!



SWAAAC Summer Symposium 2014:

Assistive Technology for
Inclusive Literacy Instruction

June 9 & 10, 2014

The Conference Center at Adams 12, Thornton, Colorado

The Colorado Department of Education's SWAAAC program and Assistive Technology Partners are proud to announce open registration for the 2014 SWAAAC Summer Symposium.

Six exciting, full-day workshops featuring nationally renowned trainers, will explore instructional strategies and assistive technology interventions to support literacy learning for students with low and high incidence disabilities. In addition to the workshops, participants will enjoy a state-of-the-art exhibit hall, lunch and awards ceremony, professional networking and an opportunity to earn graduate credit through Adams State College.

Intended Audience: Assistive Technology Specialists, Special Educators, Reading Resource Teachers, Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Instructional Technology Teachers, UDL/Rtl Coordinators.

To download the full symposium brochure and access online registration please visit the SWAAAC website: <http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/programs/atp/Events/Documents/2014%20Symposium%20Brochure.pdf>.

COMMON CORE, THE MOVIE

A 40-minute film on Common Core comes out online today with the tagline, "The biggest reform you know nothing about." The movie was funded and produced by the Home School Legal Defense Association, which opposes the standards, and the trailer makes the Common Core look quite ominous. But standards supporter Mike Petrilli said he was pleasantly surprised to see that the filmmakers gave his arguments a fair shake and plenty of air time. Petrilli said he doubted the movie would influence public debate. "I think it will be preaching to the converted," he said. But Jim Stergios, a Common Core opponent, predicted the film would resonate widely and "have a tremendous impact." He said it should stir opposition among parents who home-school or send their children to private school - and who may not have thought much about the standards before watching the movie.

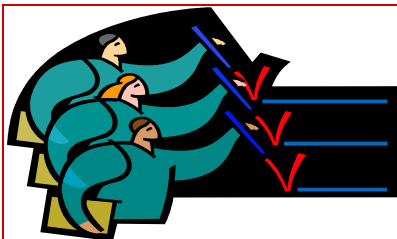
The film, called "Building the Machine," will be online at: <http://bit.ly/O5Q2uA>.

CSDB has a brand new website!

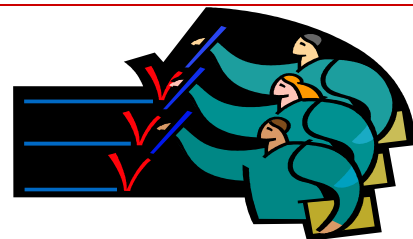
Follow these easy steps to get to the CIMC pages:

Step 1: Go to www.csdb.org

Step 2: Hover (DO NOT CLICK) over "Programs & Services", and click on "CIMC" on the drop down menu



CHECK IT OUT!



The 2014 EHDI E-Book is Now Available

The National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management has released the 2014 Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) E-Book. This is the most comprehensive and current eBook ever. In addition to new sections, there are many revisions and updates of material from previous editions. This eBook represents the collective wisdom of many experts who are actively involved in EHDI. Some of the contributors are members of the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) Technical Assistance Network, and many others have shared their expertise in specific areas related to EHDI. All have exhibited a burning desire to see every EHDI program succeed in meeting the needs of children and their families. Their considerable expertise and willingness to contribute their time and energy to this important project is gratefully acknowledged.

The link is: <http://www.infanthearing.org/ehdi-ebook/index.html>



Two New Videos Illustrate Family Communication Features of TS GOLD

Results Matter Video Library: A two-part video series was just posted! The first features a teacher and a parent describing key family communication features and benefits in the TS GOLD assessment system. The second illustrates the use of TS GOLD during an actual parent-teacher conference.

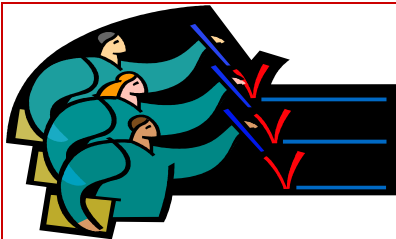
Family Engagement With TS GOLD (Runtime: 8:38) Watch a teacher and a parent describing key family communication features and benefits in TS GOLD. Go to <http://www2.cde.state.co.us/media/resultsmatter/RMSeries/FamilyEngagementWithTSGOLD.asp>.

Aiden's Parent-Teacher Conference (Runtime: 11:53) This clip begins with brief interviews of a teacher and parent discussing the importance of parent teacher conferences, and then shows ten minutes of an actual parent-teacher conference, which highlights how the teacher uses several features of TS GOLD during the conference and illustrates how the teacher describes the ways that families can participate in TS GOLD. Visit <http://www2.cde.state.co.us/media/resultsmatter/RMSeries/AidensParent-TeacherConference.asp>.

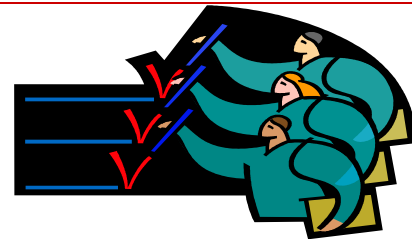
These clips can be viewed online and may be downloaded at no cost for use in educational and professional development activities. They are posted at the top of the page in both the **Practices Here and There** and **Using Technology for Authentic Assessment** sections of the library. There are more than 130 videos in the Results Matter Video Library. Check them out for increased knowledge on a variety of important early childhood topics.

CDE Webpage on Visual Impairment, Including Blindness

Tanni maintains a webpage specific to visual impairment, including blindness on the CDE website. All TVIs are recommended to have this webpage in their list of favorites! It has a host of information including the state eligibility criteria for visual impairment, including blindness; the forms for the regional low vision clinics; the braille competency testing procedures; local/state/national resources ... and a good bunch of other stuff. Please be sure to put this in your browser: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision>.



CHECK IT OUT!



AFB American Foundation TM
for the Blind

Expanding possibilities for people with vision loss

Be a Champion for All Children: Support the Cogswell-Macy Act!

All children need a champion in their corner—but kids who are blind, have visual impairments, or are deaf/hard of hearing, need more than most. Helen Keller, who worked at AFB for over 40 years, had a great champion and teacher in Anne Sullivan Macy. In celebration of Macy's birthday week, let's honor her memory by ensuring every child gets the specialized education and resources that will maximize his or her potential.

Visit www.afb.org/CogswellMacyAct today for information on the Cogswell-Macy Act, which will provide equal resources and access to opportunity for children with visual impairments or who are deaf/hard of hearing, and learn what you can do to help. Keep the momentum going! Share this message with your friends and listservs and on social media. We need as many senators and representatives as possible to support the Cogswell-Macy Act.

Attention All Audio Description Enthusiasts!

**American Council of the Blind (ACB) Audio Description Project Announces Its Third
Audio Description Project (ADP) Conference**



- *EYE* HEAR THE DIFFERENCE!" -



Riviera Casino and Hotel – July 13-15, 2014 – Las Vegas, NV

To Register: <http://adregister.acb.org/>

Registration Fee - \$175.00

- * A Tuesday, July 15 luncheon will be provided. Please contact jsnyder@acb.org concerning any special dietary requirements.
- * Registration for the ACB 2014 Conference and Convention is included.

NOTE: Individuals who register for the ADP Conference (July 13-15) as well as the AD Institute training sessions (July 16-18-tuition: \$450) qualify for a special discounted rate: \$550.00 For information on the AD Institute, visit <http://www.acb.org/adp/>.

Lodging: Reservations may be made at the Riviera Hotel via phone or online. Room rates are \$87 plus tax per night (single or double). Call (800) 634-6753 and mention the ACB convention; or go online: <https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=17104&Chain=6946&arrive=7/9/2014&depart=7/10/2014&adult=1&child=0&group=SACB7IB>. For questions or additional information, contact Joel Snyder at jsnyder@acb.org or call 202 467-5083 or 301 920-0218.

2014 NFB Convention

The 2014 convention of the National Federation of the Blind will take place in Orlando, Florida, July 1-6, at the Rosen Centre Hotel. The hotel is now accepting reservations; call (800) 204-7234. Preregistration is also now open at www.nfb.org/registration. Visit www.nfb.org/national-convention for more details as they develop.

Summer Training at CSDB!

Ready, Set, Go

Guided Practice with the Expanded Core Curriculum

DATE: JUNE 8-12, 2014



Pikes Peak and Garden of the Gods

Hiking

Bowling

Swimming

Bus Travel

Team building

Preparing simple meals

... and more!



Students, currently in 6th-8th grade who are blind or visually impaired, get active with CSDB's Ready, Set, Go.



Location: Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
33 North Institute Street/Colorado Springs, CO
www.csdb.org

Cost: \$50.00 (Minimum 5 students; Maximum 10 students)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MAY 30, 2014

RSVP to Donna Keale: 719-330-7387 ; dkeale@csdb.org

Vision Coalition Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2014

Persons in Attendance: Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart, LaVerne Dell, Barb Galgano, Elaine Karns, Jennifer Langley, Judy Mumford, Jim Olson, and Sarah Bickford Vallese

Persons Absent: Paula Conroy and Angela Sims, and Everett Romero

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

CAER = CO Chapter of the Association of the Education/Rehabilitation of the Blind/Visually Impaired
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 – Sarah Bickford Vallese
Colorado AER Chapter – Barb Galgano
Colorado Department of Education – Tanni Anthony
Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – LaVerne Dell
Colorado Instructional Materials Center – Jim Olson
Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind – Adams School for the Blind – Jennifer Langley
Colorado Parents of Blind Children – Everett Romero
Metro TVI / COMS– Nancy Cozart
Northern TVI / COMS – Elaine Karns
Southern TVI / COMS – Judy Mumford
Western TVI / COMS – Angela Sims

PROGRAM UPDATES

Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

We had our last meeting of the school year on Monday April 14th. This year the attendance at meetings was up overall. Certain school districts still have difficulty attending due to mobility lessons, student schedules, etc. There was a bit of discussion on whether we should switch days and/or time for our meetings. This is still being decided. For TVIs who want to attend regularly, please communicate your input to our coordinators, Jeannie Lei and Mimi Schaper. These two women have done a terrific job of organizing our metro meetings this year. They have graciously offered to be coordinators again for the 2014-15 school year. Thank you both!

During our April meeting, we had guests from Achilles International Colorado. This non-profit organization connects people with disabilities with volunteer runners and walkers. Our guest speakers were encouraging students of all ages, families and teachers to come and check it out. There are no dues, just simply fill out a form to join. This is one-way people who are using the fit bands to keep moving. Currently, this group has weekly gatherings for people with disabilities, including visual impairment at 2 locations. In Denver, they meet on Mondays at 6:00 pm at Washington Park in front of the recreation center. In Boulder, they meet at the public library on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. Below is the contact information.

<http://www.achillescolorado.org/>
achillescolorado@gmail.com

www.meetup.com/coloradoruns
Michael Oliva- Chapter President

Also at the meeting, there was a little show-and-tell. A simple and helpful way to assist students with centering titles is to have braille cell markers attached on the top of braille writers. Progressive Plastics LLC at 303-762-8420 have braille covers that provide teachers an opportunity to observe student hand/finger placement as they move across a page yet low vision students cannot see the dots. They also have mirrors available that are shatter resistant. The E-tran eye gaze is used to help qualify eye gaze of students.

Discussion occurred regarding CMAS. Teachers were sharing problems and/or concerns about on-line testing including technology compatibility and braille format test materials.

Judy Dickson shared her knowledge of systematic phonics instruction. She shared several resources and provided important information that can be put in to use with students. She is planning send specific links and other resources to the metro coordinators to send to TVIs. Thank you, Judy, for your preparation prior to our meeting and sharing your expertise!

Southern Region (Judy Mumford)

Rae Cunningham – CSDB braillist is retiring effective Friday, April 11, 2014. Rae was at CSDB for 33 years! We wish her all the best in retirement!

The CSDB Outreach team sponsored the 4th Sensory Safari at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo on Saturday, April 5th. We had 11 families with babies through 8-year-old children with visual impairment attend. A great time was had by all the families! There were many tactual exhibits available so the children were able to touch animal skins, skulls, bones, teeth - as well as touch some of the live animals. We made the Channel 5 news Saturday night.

Many families are interested in more opportunities to do things together in the future. Channel 5 announced the night before the Sensory Safari was happening and the zoo received multiple calls from families asking how they could participate.... so there is plenty of room to grow this adventure in the future.

Several TVIs and braillists have expressed interest in having a meeting for braillists in the fall. We have had one in the past that was greatly appreciated.

Discussion: There is interest in perhaps opening this up statewide. There is a CDE listserv for our braillists. If a CO braillist wants to be on the listserv, please be in touch with Tanni.

Ideas for a bowling activity and/or other family get togethers are being discussed for the fall.

The final CDE/CSDB Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic of the year for the Southern Colorado region was held in CSDB's West Hall conference room on Friday April 11, 2014. 4 students accompanied by their TVIs and parents received evaluations. 2 TVIs from El Paso County District 20 (Judy Mumford and Deb Andrews) brought two students and two TVIs from Pikes Peak BOCES (Karen Wood and Diane Fitzkee) brought two students from El Paso County District 49 school district (Falcon). Many, many thanks to the clinic staff, Donice, Debbie, Jim and especially Dr. Theune. It was a wonderful clinic for all participants, we learned so much.

Discussion: Tanni is sending out follow-up surveys to TVIs who had students participate in this year's clinics. These data are so important to determine the efficacy of the clinics. It was also suggested that TVIs work to have their supervisors observe students using their low vision devices. One TVI actually asked her supervisor to attend the LVE clinic to gain more understanding of the TVI's role and the student's need/use of low vision devices. Tanni talked about being more proactive with ensuring that the special education directors know about the clinics. Tanni will also follow up with special education directors to thank them for their TVIs' participation in the clinics.

Western Region (Angela Sims)

Hard to believe we are already winding down for the year. Exciting news from our side of the state... Brooke Miller (Mt BOCES) had a beautiful, healthy baby girl on January 24. It appears that being parents definitely agrees with Brooke and her husband. Congratulations to them!

Discussion: A question that has been brought up: How do we comply with the READ Act with a braille reader? The current approved standardized assessments are not accessible to a braille reader so what do we do to be in compliance? Tanni shared that there will be a statewide task force to address the READ Act for children who cannot currently participate in the state-approved screening tools to determine a significant reading deficiency. The Vision Coalition will address a procedure protocol for learners who are blind/visually impaired (as needed) in the next school year.

Northern Region (Elaine Karns)

The Special Service Provider (SSP) process for the O&M evaluation rubric is in full swing in Thompson SD. Teresa Barone is going to be a good resource when the process is complete! Several districts have asked about how we are to be evaluated on the TVI portion of our job, and asked if there will be another evaluation, dual, or as Poudre has suggested; being evaluated on alternate years with the teacher rubric. Poudre has a district SSP committee, which has met 4 times this year to look at how the rubrics for all SSPs will be implemented. This summer the rubrics must be realigned to match the 4 levels with the district evaluation since they chose not to go with the 5D rubric being used across the state.

CMAS/PARCC- Many expressed concern over the new online testing. Everyone wants to ensure that the assessments are fully accessible to their students and all are hopeful that there will be explicit guidelines or instructions on how to make it work prior to the day that testing begins.

One teacher who has tried PARCC trial test questions would like to see a large print version along with the braille version since the little magnifier was not too accurate, and the increased font does not allow equal access (what sighted child sees on one screen our students would need to scroll and try to find, then drag and drop to a place they cannot see.

Early Childhood/Anchor- We know they are short-staffed at the moment, but how are we to handle Child Find play-based assessments when they want to refer to Anchor and for us to state that the child's vision impacts his development-even when we have no eye report? Is there some guidance or training that could be given to guide TVIs?

Discussion: See the Anchor Center section of these notes

CAER (Barb Galgano)

CAER will once again be co-hosting the Orientation and Mobility Specialist of Colorado State Conference (OMSOC) to be held on April 24-26 at the Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton. CAER's annual general meeting and banquet will take place at that time as well on Friday April 25th from 6:00-9 PM. Good times, delicious food and awards will be presented. Please make plans to join in, we would love to have you! You do not need to be a current CAER to attend the banquet. See the CAER website (<http://co.aerbvi.org>) or contact Mike Plansker @ 303-870-7649 or mike.e.plansker@adams12.org for details.

CAER will be hosting a "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby!" photo matching fundraising event during the O&M Conference and banquet. It is sure to bring some good laughs for all who participate by submitting a photo or you might just want to take a chance at matching the baby photo to the current O&Mer before s/he took to the streets! Please see our website for full details on how you can participate!

Future fundraising event Wednesday June 11th @ Parkway Bar & Grill, 22775 E. Aurora Parkway CO 80016, 303-693-6200 www.parkwaybarandgrill.com from 5-9 PM. All proceeds will assist with the mini-grants program.

CAER is happy to sponsor the In Kind Donation Committee. This Committee receives low vision devices from donations and redistributes them to those in need. Please contact Bill Muir at douglas.muir@va.gov (970-302-7761) to find out what items the committee currently has and/or to apply to receive a device.

Final CAER Board meeting Tuesday May 6th 5:30-7 PM @ Heather Parson-Solberg's home, 4850 S. Swadley Court, Morrison. Members welcome!

Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (LaVerne Dell)

At the end of February DVR's waitlist began to move with approximately 500 individuals being moved off of it. In April, it is anticipated that another group of individuals will be moved off of the waitlist. Please continue to refer individuals, as their application date is one factor in how an individual is moved off of the waitlist.

Everyone is waiting to hear who the new representative will be for the Rocky Mountain Regional office of Helen Keller National Center. Ellie Carlson left this position earlier in the year.

Anchor Center for Blind Children (Sarah Bickford Vallese)

Anchor Center for Blind Children is proud to announce that both Lisa Roll Moore and Stefanie Kirkwood have completed their TVI graduate level training through Portland State University. They have both received waivers from several CCBs allowing them to provide home visits to infants and toddlers. Jen Klyczek will also finish her TVI program from UNC in May. We are very excited about the increase in home visits that will soon result from having more TVIs on staff. As the spring arrives, the preschoolers are enjoying getting their hands dirty in the garden and helping to pull weeds and plant flowers. We are also nearing graduation and are incredibly proud of the seven children that will be graduating this year and moving on to kindergarten.

There is currently a position opening for a Program Coordinator. The hope is that this position will be filled by July. JC Greeley will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Discussion: Anchor staff, Laura Merrill (El Colorado), and Tanni are working together to identify and address challenges in the field specific to Part B eligibility and services. There are many issues that need to be addressed including referrals to Anchor Center for Blind Children, who commits early intervention services on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), etc. It was suggested a flow chart would be very helpful to guide referral practice. This work will continue over the summer months.

CSDB – School for the Blind (Jenn Langley)

The School for the Blind Student Body Government (SBG) worked in collaboration with the CSDB Orientation and Mobility instructors to develop an educational session, as a community service, for the security staff at the Chapel Hills Mall. The SBG students presented how to appropriately ask and provide sighted guide and support to a person with a visual impairment.

At the beginning of the training, the SBG group introduced themselves and described their own eye conditions. The security staff members were amazed to hear all of the different varieties of visual impairments. They also expressed surprise that some students used white canes and some didn't require the cane. The security staff participated in a blindfold activity that simulated blindness. The activity provided the opportunity to role-play approaching someone who is visually impaired, and then practice sighted guide techniques. The security staff members benefited from this experience, as did the SBG students who were able to advocate for themselves while in a leadership role.

Under the leadership of our PE Teachers, Aimee Twaddle and Cody Kerekes, our student body participated in a 5K fun run/walk. They were energized and supported by their teachers, support staff and families. One student remarked that he ran one additional lap for good measure. Health and fitness are integral parts of the student's day. In each class, the students engage in brain gym and physical exercises and healthy eating and cooking are a focus in health and daily living skills classes.

Partnership with Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB) / National Federal of the Blind (NFB): Every other week members of the CCB/NFB visit CSDB to provide lessons in independence, leadership, diversity and fun. The students have practiced map navigation, cooking, braille art, use of cameras, making instruments, to cane or dog and how to prepare for college/workforce. Having blind mentors for our students has increased their drive and ambition for a successful future.

Upcoming concert/parent event May 13th. Parents are invited to learn about the technology their students are utilizing prior to the Spring Concert. Handouts on how to download Window Eyes along with a brief training book will be provided.

CSDB celebrated their 140th birthday on April 8, 2014. Students cheered, released balloons, composed wishes for CSDB and enjoyed cupcakes and fortune cookies filled with braille messages!

CSDB Outreach (Jim Olson)

CSDB's has a new website: www.csdb.org

New CSDB Channel on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/csdbchannel>

While there you can find videos on various subjects including O&M tips from Karin Hensel, braille and technology for the blind from George McDermoth and many other videos related to Behavior Supports for Blind/Low Vision, "Getting in the Game" with Matt Simpson (USABA, membership and outreach coordinator) and many other topics.

140th Birthday of CSDB: 1874-2014 Colorado was still a territory when "The Colorado Institute for the Education of Mutes" was founded by Jonathan R. Kennedy in 1874. With an appropriation of \$5,000 from the Territorial Legislature, Kennedy opened the school on April 8, 1874. It began with an enrollment of seven students; three of whom were his own children. In 1893, the school was renamed the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. Today, CSDB serves more than 500 students on campus and statewide. The Gazette newspaper article: <http://gazette.com/article/1517701>

Upcoming Events: Go to www.csdb.org for more information.

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|-----------------|--|
| May 4 -9 | Close-Up – Blind |
| May 13 | Southern Region TVI meeting (12:00-2:30p.m., Lions) (Tentative, contact Carol Davidson) |
| June 13-15 | Family Learning Retreat |
| June 8-12 | Summer Enrichment: "Ready, Set, Go..." Daily Living Skills, guided practice with the Expanded Core Curriculum (Middle School) - Contact Donna Keale (719) 330-7387. Please leave a voice mail message. |
| June 19 | Low Vision Expo (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation/CSDB, Colorado Springs) |
| July 14 - 25 | BELL: A Summer Braille Camp for Kids (Colorado Springs) - Contact Diane McGeorge at (303) 321-4268 or rmcgeorge@comcast.net |
| July 21 - Aug 1 | BELL: A Summer Braille Camp for Kids (Westminster area) - Contact Diane McGeorge at (303) 321-4268 or rmcgeorge@comcast.net |

Strategic Plan (Outreach) update meeting held 04/15/2014: A meeting was held to update committee members of progress made on Strategic Plan goals between October to March specific to the Outreach Strategic Plan.

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (Jim Olson)

New CSDB Website:

The new CIMC pages of the CSDB website are even easier to access -it only takes two clicks to reach the newly revised CIMC web pages. Go to www.csdb.org and click on "Programs and Services", click on "CIMC". Please be aware that it is still a work in progress but all of the forms you know and love are there today along with clear explanations of CIMC procedures. A new front page will be posted shortly and we are working on adding some captioned pictures.

Our new website format is composed of 6 pages:

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (1) An Introduction To The CIMC | (4) CIMC Brailers and Braille Paper |
| (2) CIMC Student Registration | (5) CIMC Book Orders |
| (3) CIMC APH Orders | (6) CIMC Calendar |

All of the CIMC forms have been posted on the appropriate page according to topic. If you need to register a student, go to the “CIMC Student Registration” page. If you need to order an APH product, the order form can be found on “CIMC APH Orders”. We tried to keep it simple yet informative. All of the CIMC forms have been posted in three file types for your preferred accessibility: Word Document, PDF format, and Plain Text format. We hope you like it! Please send CIMC your feedback – we want our website to be a great resource for you and we need your suggestions to improve it.

Book Orders for 2014-15 School Year due By May 1, 2014!

The State Controller’s Office has set May 16th as the last day to enter Purchase Orders into the State’s financial system: TVIs: Please share this information with your Directors of Special Education, Curriculum Departments, and classroom teachers. As you know, May 1st is the deadline for braille book orders for next school year. The State Controller’s office has set May 16th as the last day to enter Purchase Orders into the current COFRS financial system due to a transition to a new financial system that will begin July 1st.

If you need a braille textbook for next school year, we need you to plan accordingly.

- According to state purchasing guidelines, anything purchased over \$5,000 this fiscal year will need to have a purchase order in COFRS by the May 16th deadline.
- We know this complicates the way we purchase books for you but the SCO sets the policies for the entire State. We are not the only agency having to follow this.

Again, this only affects purchase orders for \$5,000 and larger. Textbooks from APH never cost that much. Reprints from vendors can but not usually. This will definitely affect any NEW TRANSCRIPTION work (especially Math and Science titles). So, if you need a braille book that we are going to have to have produced – we have to negotiate with the braille vendor and write the Purchase Order before May 15th to have our accounting office enter it into COFRS by May 16th - or we will NOT be able to start that process until next fiscal year (and you know by then that all of the vendor’s production queues will be filled to capacity) and you probably WILL NOT HAVE THE BOOK AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Remember, we can source books for you at any time: If your district is not sure which reading book a student will be placed in next year, as an example, email us the ISBNs from both options and we can source them for you. This helps us because it gives us some kind of idea of what types of orders will be heading our way and it helps you because we will email you pretty quickly with some sort of update on the title’s availability.

A little data for you about book orders:

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|-----------|--|
| 2011-2012 | 30% of the total orders delivered throughout the school year were submitted by May 1, 2011. |
| 2012-2013 | 33% of the total orders delivered throughout the school year were submitted to the CIMC by May 1, 2012. |
| 2013-2014 | It’s so close we are going to call it 50% - of the total orders delivered for this current 13-14 school year as of 4/15/14 were submitted by the May 1, 2013 deadline. |

All Technology Products Need to be Returned to CIMC at the End of the School Year:

New APH products: "Spangle Tangle: Play and Explore", Catalog Number 1-08755-00 (Kit) 7-08755-00 (Large Print Guidebook with CD). A Homegrown Series Video: "ToADally Awesome! Your ToAD Questions Answered," available from the CIMC Professional Lending Library on a 30-day loan period. From the DVD jacket: The one-and-only APH ToAD Kit mascot, Squire ToAD, invites viewers to learn about APH's versatile ToAD Kit (Tools for Assessment and Development of Visual Skills). Squire is especially excited because APH Low Vision Project Leader Elaine Kitchel answers your questions! Approximate run time: 16 minutes.

Discussion: If there are any concerns about the quality of braille books, please go to the CIMC website and use the "CIMC Book Orders" to relay this important information back to the CIMC. We want to know about braille errors so that we can work with the vendor to fix the errors. The CIMC does not have internal braille proofreaders; this work is completed at the vendor-level. If there are problems with a book the CIMC absolutely needs this information as soon as possible so it can be reported back to the vendor. This information is also helpful as the CIMC determines who to contract with for new productions as we plan for next school year!

University of Northern Colorado – VI Program (Paula Conroy)

Paula is on sabbatical. We wish her a great sabbatical experience!

Colorado Department of Education (Tanni Anthony)

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project: The project is thrilled to announce that it has a new award for five years. The new five-year cycle is October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2018. The project's mission is free technical assistance to parents and service providers of children and youth, ages birth through 21 who are deafblind or who have both a vision and a hearing loss. The project has a lending library and a website with a multitude of electronic resources that are available to families and educational personnel.

Census: The December 1, 2013 Census data is currently being finalized. It appears that we have 134 learners birth through 21 years with combined vision and hearing loss.

Project Webpage: The webpage url is <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-DB.asp>.

Summer Institute: The 2014 Summer Institute on Deafblindness and Significant Support Needs will be held in the Denver area on June 16-20th, 2014. We will once again feature two internationally recognized experts in the field of literacy and learners with significant disabilities. This year, Dr. Karen Erickson and Dr. Penny Hatch will provide two 2.5 days of advanced sessions on *Literacy for Students with Deaf-Blindness and/or Significant Supports Needs*. The participants who attended the level-one trainings held during June 2011, 2012, and 2013 will be invited to this level-two training. If we have openings, we will open it to new participants.

Western Region Early Intervention Conference: The next WREIC will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in September 16-18, 2015. Both Tanni and Gina are on the planning committee and the CO DB Project will sponsor Suzette Wright from the American Printing House for the Blind to speak on the topic of emergent literacy for young children who are blind/visually impaired.

Annual O&M Conference: The conference will be held on April 24-26 at the Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton. Featured speaker will be Craig Phillips on the Trekker Breeze. Concurrent to Craig's time with COMSs on the streets will be presentations by Francey Liefert (assessment), Tanni Anthony (motor development), Michelle Chacon (echolocation), and Trina Boyd Pratt and Pat Lewis on making and using low vision simulators.

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: We have just finished our fourth low vision clinic of the year. One was cancelled. Tanni is collecting efficacy data of this project via an electronic survey.

Recruitment and Retention: We have openings /contact work at CSDB, Cherry Creek, Brighton, Adams 14, NW BOCES / Moffat, Sterling, and San Juan BOCES. Janice Schmidt is retiring from Adams 14, Judy Dickson is retiring from Cherry Creek, and JC Greeley from the Anchor Center for Blind Children. Congrats and thanks to these very wonderful ladies!

Listserves: 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 COMs. The second one is specific to Colorado braillists. If anyone has questions about the listservs, please be in touch with Tanni.

Specialized Service Professionals (SSPs): The current draft is posted on the CDE website for feedback. The website is: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatoreffectiveness/specializedserviceprofessionals>

IPad Training: The training entitled, *IPad Strategies for Students with Visual Impairments* was held on January 24 and January 25, 2014. Close to 60 TVIs across the state attended the training with featured speaker Tara Mason.

State Assessments: Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart, and Sarah Sonnier returned to the National Braille Press in early December 2013 to preview the 2014 braille-format TCAP assessments in the area of reading, writing, math, and science. This was the last of such trips specific to TCAP as the new assessments begin to be piloted in Colorado and the TCAP tests are phased out of the assessment framework. A work team of Tanni Anthony, Michelle Chacon, Nancy Cozart, Shelley Moats, and Sarah Sonnier convened in mid-February 2014 to preview the new Colorado Measures of Academic Success assessments in the area of Social Studies and Science. A work team comprised of Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart, Amy Gunning, and Shelley Moats (plus experts from UT and WV) worked very closely with the Dynamic Learning Maps team during April 3 and 4th to address accessibility issues with this national assessment consortium.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CDE ESSU Tentatively Approved Projects for School Year 2013-14

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics	Newsletter
Orientation and Mobility Training	Braille Format TCAPs
Braille Competency Testing and Mentor Support	Vision Coalition
Unified English Braille Code Training	TVI Mentoring
Webinar (Technology How Tos)	

CSDB – Blindness

CIMC	Low Vision Evaluation Clinics (CSDB staff)
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UEB Training

Tanni updated the VC members on her current work to bring UEB experts to Colorado to train our TVIs and braillists on code changes. It is challenging to find the right forum for all of us! Tanni will follow up with two proposed speakers based on the VC member's recommendations for next steps.

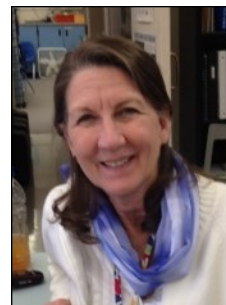
State Assessments

Information was collected about challenges with state assessments for both learners who are braille readers and those with low vision who will participate in the online assessments. This information will be shared with the CDE Assessment Unit. Tanni will continue to collect information from the TVIs who have been / will be involved in test administration.

Next Meeting Date: To be Determined for Fall 2014

In Gratitude and Honor, We Give Our Thanks

Judy (Wiepert) Dickson from Cherry Creek School District is retiring this May. Judy trained as a teacher for students with visual impairments (TVI) 35 years ago. Over the years, Judy has seen the vision profession transform into a very different field. As a young teacher, Judy worked beyond her usual job duties to raise funds for her groups of students with visual impairment to fly to California each year. This was in the early 1980's; many of those students are still in frequent touch with Judy. It is evident that Judy had a lasting influence on her students' lives.



Teaching students to read became Judy's passion. She took additional coursework on the Lindamood Bell program, along with Steve Tatums's FAST program, Orton Gillingham and Barbara Wilson's reading curriculum (and many more). Judy realized that the key to learning to read was knowledge of phonics. She worked a number of years as a reading specialist with students with learning disabilities. Judy successfully taught students to read in cases where the district had concluded that the student was going to be a non-reader. Judy has been also a key participant in keeping the Cherry Creek Vision Department staff working as a cohesive team according to her CC colleagues. Her open communication within the group helps maintain friendly relations. Judy has proven to be an exemplary teacher who has drastically changed the lives of her students through her love of books and reading. Judy knows how to transform her students into individuals who are "hooked on books"! Thank you to Judy for all her amazing teaching gifts to students!



We say farewell and thanks to **Janice Schmidt** who is retiring from Adams 14. After 30+ years of teaching visually impaired students, Janice is planning to retire a second time! She began teaching in a rural community near Sacramento, California in 1977. She came with her late husband Gary to Colorado in 1983. Janice was a resource teacher for Denver Public Schools for 1 year. She spent most of her career as an itinerant teacher in Adams County School District 50. She worked 2 years in Brighton 27J, retired, and then came back for more! She will end her TVI career working part-time in Adams 12. Janice states that she has had some wonderful students over the years and has seen our field make tremendous progress in the area of computer technology. When she first began teaching, the Perkins Braille Writer was the only way that she had to produce Braille for her students. We thank Janice for all she has contributed and wish her all the best in retirement!

JC Greeley is retiring from the Anchor Center for Blind Children in May. As is fitting with "only JC," she gave this exclusive interview to the KIT via her daughter Kitty who captured every word. JC, you will be dearly missed!

JC: I was born a true baby boomer in 1948, the oldest and smartest of 4 children growing up in the foothills of North Carolina. I attended the University of Alabama, where I majored in home economics, for which I had received a scholarship from Betty Crocker. I still enjoy making mean cakes, but I ended up with a focus on child development. This was in the days before early childhood education. Much of my training came from the University of North Carolina and most of my training in visual impairment came from another UNC—the University of Northern Colorado.



Interview question: What motivated you to become a teacher of the visually impaired?

JC: Well, I wanted to be a marine biologist, but when I went out for the interview, I got so seasick, I knew that would never work. But I knew I wanted to make a name for myself so I went to Greeley and the

More In Gratitude and Honor, We Give Our Thanks

(JC Greeley, continued)

University of Northern Colorado. After 4 years teaching in Southern Maryland, which involved being a pilot teacher for the Head Start program, I knew I was ready to get a master's degree in a more specialized field. Special education was just beginning and scholarship money was available. The field of blindness intrigued me, and I liked dogs. I actually had never met a blind person before, but I was captivated by Helen Keller and had read *Follow My Leader* in the 5th grade from the Weekly Reader Book club. After my first encounter with a real student, after 2 years of training, I loved it and haven't stopped loving it since. I taught for 4 years in the 5 school districts in Adams County as a TVI and O&M instructor. Pam Aguilar was the only other teacher, and today 20 professionals fill our positions. I began to whittle down my interest and area of expertise to the youngest populations, which were not yet being served by any educational agency. For another 4 years, I was the preschool teacher for a class of deafblind children through SEMBCS. When it was disbanded, there were no existing services for young blind and deafblind children. Sue Larson, through the Department of Rehabilitation, had formed a parent group and realized the need for services before school-age. Anchor Center for Blind Children was created around kitchen tables of other interested parties, particularly the librarian from the Talking Book Library and the Delta Gammas Organization. In 1982, Anchor Center began; I have been there since its inception 32 years ago.

Interview Question: What have you done in your 32 years?

JC: Nothing. There were no precedents to follow, no legislative mandates, so we were guided by what needed to be done and what was right for the children and families we were working with. That has remained the guiding light for Anchor all these years. My father was the last doctor to make house calls. He frequently took his children into the mountains with him; these turned into my inspiration for the rural outreach program that I have so enjoyed. We started out with 4 children and 1 Sunday school classroom that we were allowed to be in 2 days a week—all the rest of Anchor's possessions were in the trunks of Sue's and my cars. So it is quite amazing to walk into the building at Anchor Center, which was designed solely for the visually handicapped population. When I look back over the last 32 years of Anchor Center, I am amazed and so pleased at all the wonderful children, families, and colleagues I have gotten to work with. If I had to say 1 thing that I was proudest of over my career, it would be all the different things I have seen happen that I got to be a small part of. I am proudest of seeing how much has happened naturally knowing that right things have happened

While I can't imagine life without lots of little children around, I look forward to not having to commute to work every day, working jigsaw puzzles whenever I want to, and finding a hobby.

Colleen Rae Cunningham, certified Braille Transcriptionist at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB), retired on April 17, 2014. Rae was a part of CSDB for 28 years, producing Braille for students and staff. Rae accepted many other tasks as well, serving as a representative on the Classified Staff Forum and the Employee Recognition Committee. She also took on the responsibility of scheduling staff and students for formal assessments for many years.

She has been a stalwart advocate for students who are blind/visually impaired, but also nurtured connections with many students who are deaf/hard of hearing. She has maintained connections with former students and staff, always ready to lend an ear, a hand, or a shoulder to cry on. Her caring heart has endeared her to many and she will be missed. We here at CSDB wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement. (thanks to Kathy Bristol for composing this important tribute to Rae).



colorado connections

- 🔊 There are so many reasons to celebrate braille competency in Colorado this past couple of months! Congratulations to **Elizabeth (Beth) Allred** for earning her CDE Braille Renewal Certificate. Yay to **Kaitlin Lombardi, Marti Rahn, Melinda Carter, and Erin Kerr** for doing renewal modules. Thanks to proctors **Lucia Hasty, Brenda Shepard, and Julie Wetzstein.**

- 🔊 **Judy Wiepert Dickson** will receive the Cherry Creek School District Golden Heart Teaching Award on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. She was nominated by teachers across the metro area and several students. Congratulations to Judy on this well-deserved honor and award!

- 🔊 Colorado was well represented at the recent International Preschool Seminar, held in Phoenix, AZ. In attendance were: **Tanni Anthony, Alice Applebaum, Kay Ferrell, JC Greeley, Paula Landry, and Cathy Smyth, and. Sarah Bickford Vallese.**

- 🔊 Wow - there are so many things to be thankful for on a most excellent CO O&M Conference. Thank you, thank you! Thanks to Brent **Batron** and **Julie Deden** for graciously offering the Colorado Center for the Blind as our training site. Thanks to **Alice Applebaum and the crew Anchor Center for Blind Children** for letting me borrow two portable screens at the last minute. Thanks to **Nancy Cozart, Barb Galgano, and David Gooldy** who showed up early to put the place together for our Thursday evening training. Thanks to our Thursday evening speakers on 3-D printing: **Abby Sangl, Kim Jeeun, and Jack Sweany**; to our featured all-day Friday and Saturday speaker **Craig Phillips** on a job well done with the Trekker Breeze presentation; and also to our concurrent Friday and Saturday speakers: **Francey Liefert, Tanni Anthony, Michelle Chacon, Pat Lewis, and Trina Boyd Pratt.**

- 🔊 **Barb Galgano** gets major applause for her membership recruitment and fund raising efforts. The "You Were a Beautiful Baby" activity was very fun. Thanks to **CAER** for hosting breakfast and treats throughout the day. Congratulations to the **CAER Board** (noted on the CAER page) for hosting a great banquet dinner. People really came together to reset the room into a lovely dining environment that allowed for our celebration of colleagues and wonderful cross-table conversations. Finally, huge thanks to all the people who stayed late to clean things up and load the cars: **Nancy Cozart, Barb Galgano, Trina Boyd Pratt, and Elaine Karns.** It was really a pleasure to gather, learn, share, and laugh with so many wonderful colleagues.

- 🔊 Colorado is so proud!!! **Dorinda Rife**, former CO TVI, has been named the current Superintendent at Perkins School for the Blind!



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