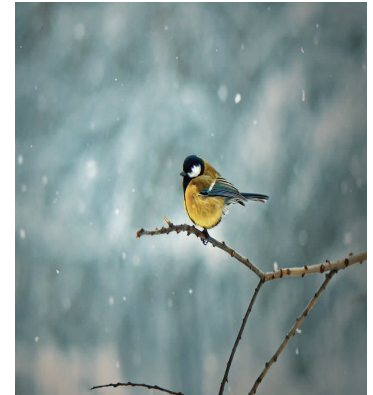


The Safety of Wings

By Tanni L. Anthony



The end of the year always brings time to reflect on the past year. What has stayed the same, what has changed? What has worked, what has not worked? What have I done, what have I not done? Did I do my best? What new things did I learn? How am I doing in this life of mine?

It is a good time to take stock, celebrate accomplishments, grieve for losses, and plan for the next steps to build on the good in in our work and in our personal lives.

A quote by Victor Hugo helps me think about this past year and to look ahead with a song in my heart. It reads, ***Be as a bird perched on a frail branch that she feels bending beneath her, still she sings away all the same, knowing she has wings.***

What a lovely sentiment and what a great self-motto for ourselves and to foster with the children whom we care about in our lives. To know that there are times when the bough can truly break or bend enough for us to lose our balance, we can count on our wings to take us safely to the next place. Our wings develop only because we are first taught to fly and then we have practice to fly – even in the wind. Especially in the wind. This is an important life lesson.

I thank each of you for another great calendar year and wish you continual self-melodies of happy songs and sturdy boughs, but even more importantly, strong wings to keep you aloft in the adventures ahead in 2016.

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

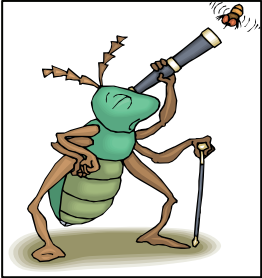
A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
November—December 2015

Editor:
Tanni L. Anthony, Ph.D.
State Consultant on
Blindness/Low Vision

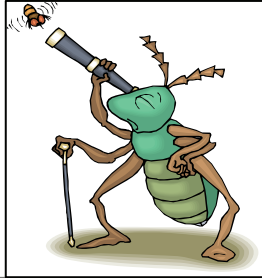
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Denver, CO 80202

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LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Schedule for 2015-16 Low Vision Evaluation Clinics

Region	Dates	Site Coordinator
Metro	February 25-27, 2016 Paperwork due by February 4	Rebecca Warnell and Wendy Schlageter
Northern	March 10-11, 2016 Paperwork due by February 22	Elaine Karns
Southern	March 31, 2016	Donice Fennimore
Southern	April 1, 2016 Paperwork due by March 10	Donice Fennimore

** The Northern Clinic has been rescheduled. Please note the new date and work closely with Elaine Karns to fill this clinic. It may be that we only have enough students to fill one day of the proposed two day clinic.

Attention all TVIs:

Please work closely with your Regional LVE Clinic Coordinators to ensure that all of the required paperwork is fully completed and turned into the clinic staff in a timely manner. You can also find the paperwork on the CDE website at:
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Vision_Activities.asp

Please be advised that if you are recommending a student to attend the LVE Clinic, it is your responsibility to prepare the student and parent for the appointment, attend with them, and ensure that you assist with any needed follow-up training of the prescribed device(s). Thank you for helping to ensure the success of the clinic for each student.

Your Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Team

Resources and Materials

Guidance Specific to Learning Disability

Editor Note: There are times when a student has both a visual impairment, including blindness and a specific learning disabilities. As such, the following information is important share.

The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) has released guidance to state and local educational agencies. This guidance clarifies that students with specific learning disabilities — such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia — have unique educational needs. It further clarifies that there is nothing in the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that would prohibit the use of the terms dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia in a student’s evaluation, determination of eligibility for special education and related services, or in developing the student’s individualized education program (IEP).

Below are links to the letter and to a Twitter feed and a Blog on the topic of Specific Learning Disability Awareness.

<https://twitter.com/EDPressSec/status/657580462592888832>

<https://medium.com/@usedgov/raising-awareness-on-specific-learning-disabilities-cc057dfef527#.6mn8wel7k>

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html?src=oc>

BRILLE SMARTWATCH

A South Korean company has developed DOTS, a smartwatch with a four character moving Braille display. The DOTS Braille watch will display the time and additionally, when connected to an iPhone or Android device via Bluetooth, the watch will notify the wearer through vibration that a text message has been received. The message will be translated into Braille and automatically displayed on the watch face. Dials on the side of the watch allow the speed at which the dots refresh to be customized from very slow to very fast. Unlike standard refreshable Braille displays which read one line at a time, the Braille dots actively pass by the user's fingers. The watch is scheduled to be released in December 2015 for a price of under \$300. For more information go to <http://fingerson.strikingly.com/>

Eight Magic Keys: Strategies for Students with FASD

This is a short 21-minute animated video that introduces the topic of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). It demonstrates key strategies that have been proven to help students who experience brain-based disorders become more successful in school and in life. Scenarios depicted in this video represent both secondary and elementary situations. Join Mario as he talks about what it is like to live with an FASD. Mario collects all of the 8 Magic Keys with the support of friends, educators and family.

For more information and to purchase, please go to:

<http://www.nofas.org/8-magic-keys-dvd/>



Resources and Materials

Independence Market

The Independence Market is the National Federation of the Blind's conduit for distributing their organizational literature to members and friends as well as to the general public. In addition to books and brochures, they sell various, mostly low-tech, blindness products. Products include:

[2016 American Action Fund Braille Calendar](#)

This comb-bound, pocket-sized Braille calendar measures 6 x 6 1/2 inches. Each calendar page includes the days of the month and lists major holidays. There is a page for personal notes in the back. This calendar is available free of charge.

[2016 Large Print Calendar](#)

This spiral-bound, large print appointment calendar measures 8 1/2 x 11 inches and has inside pockets. Each month is displayed on two facing pages and features two-inch blocks for each day of the month. The months are tabbed and include a section for monthly notes as well as a three-month calendar overview. The calendar costs \$10.00 plus shipping and handling.

[New 2016 Easy2See Large Print Planner](#)

This organizer designed with low vision professionals in mind features easy to read large print. The spiral-bound planner, measuring 8 1/2 x 11 inches, features a page for each month as well as two-page weekly views from the end of December 2015 through the beginning of January 2017. Major holidays are listed on both the monthly and weekly views. Some pages for personal notes are also included. All the pages feature dark borders to make it easier to see the writing area. 20/20 pens will not bleed through the pages. The planner costs \$20.00 plus shipping and handling.

The new year will also bring a new Braille code. In January 2016, the Unified English Braille (UEB) code will become the official Braille code in the United States. To this end, the [American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults Handbook of Braille Contractions](#), which contains alphabetical lists of contractions, commonly used symbols, and Braille indicators, has been updated to reflect the changes in UEB. Two versions are available: Twin Vision® (Braille interleaved with print) and Braille only. Each version costs \$5.00 each plus shipping and handling. Many Braille users will find this handbook to be a helpful resource.

The Independence Market also carries [The McDuffy Reader: A Braille Primer for Adults Student Manual \(Unified English Braille Edition\)](#) by Sharon L. Monthei. This one-volume Braille instructional manual first presents the Braille alphabet and punctuation signs, and then introduces the contractions in logical groups. All contracted materials appear in correctly contracted Braille. A chart of contractions and a description of the rules of usage for each set of contractions are found in the back of the book. Also included is a list of Braille contractions and symbols which are no longer used by the Unified English Braille code, but which students will encounter in existing Braille materials. The Braille copy of the *McDuffy Reader* student manual costs \$20.00 plus shipping and handling.

For more information about the products they sell and the literature we distribute, please visit them online or contact them by email at independencemarket@nfb.org or by phone at (410) 659-9314, extension 2216.

ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

AER O&M Division Call for Nominations

Are you an AER Member? The AER O&M Division Nominating and Election Committee is seeking nominations for the following positions on the Division Executive Committee for the 2016-2018 term.

- Chair, a commitment of four years (Special nomination and election due to the resignation of the Chair-Elect.)
- Chair-Elect, a commitment of six years.
- Secretary, a commitment of two years.
- Treasurer, a commitment of two years.
- District Director, a commitment of two years, representing the District in which you reside.
- Nominating and Election Committee Members (five members), commitment of two years.

If you wish to nominate a colleague, please seek their approval before submitting their name(s) to the committee. You can also nominate yourself.

The deadline for submitting nominations is February 1, 2016.

Please contact Eileen Siffermann Co-Chair, eileensiffermann@comcast.net for a Nomination Application. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact any member of the O&M Division Nominating and Elections Committee:

Meg Robertson, Co-Chair, mobilitymeg@aol.com
Mary Ball-Swartwout, maryswartwout@gmail.com
Mickey Damelio, mdamelio@fsu.edu
Erica Ihrke, Eihrke@leaderdog.org

Input Needed for O&M Tool

The American Printing House for the Blind is requesting your input about the development of an instructional tool to help instructors teach students how to evaluate intersections with no traffic controls. We need input from everyone: Ex Officio Trustees, supervisors, COMS, NOMCs, instructors who are not certified, and anyone else in the field. The survey is short. Please click on the link below to complete the survey.

They very much appreciate your help.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APHOM>

If you have questions, please contact Terrie Terlau, at tterlau@aph.org

Game Apps for Children with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness

Kid Friendly Software, Inc. is a company that has developed free game apps for ios devices. The first game they developed was Blindfold Ranger (<http://www.blindfoldracer.com>). This is an audio game where you drive with your ears instead of your eyes. Dozens of other accessible games that now comprise the Blindfold Games Series are now available in the iTunes App Store. All the games are designed for rapid audio play and were built with the help of visually impaired gamers. Now your blind/visually impaired kid can play games on his iPad, iPod or iPhone just like his sighted peers. Other games available include Blindfold Bowling, Blindfold Roulette, Blindfold Pong, Blindfold Simon, Blindfold Craps, Blindfold Dominoes, Blindfold Hearts, Blindfold Vee Ball and many more.

BLINDKID List: The BLIND KID e-mail list is a service of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children. The purpose of this list is twofold. First, The BLIND KID e-mail list is a sharing of information for people interested in the welfare and development of blind children. secondly, it is a means of communication between the members and supporters of the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children, to promote and discuss the activities of the Division, such as the Braille Readers are Leaders contest Future Reflections, and the like. There will also be occasional posts concerning issues of major importance to the blind as well as announcements concerning activities of the national Organization of Parents of Blind Children and The National Federation of the Blind.

You can join the BLINDKID list by going to: http://www.nfbnet.org/mailman/listinfo/blindkid_nfbnet.org



Standards

New Sample Curriculum Units Available this Month: The Office of Standards and Instructional Support will release additional Colorado teacher-authored instructional units based on the Colorado Academic Standards. These units include social studies, personal financial literacy, science, comprehensive health and reading, writing, and communicating. For the first time, one unit at each level (elementary, middle and high school) based on the extended evidence outcomes in reading, writing, and communicating will be available. Units will be available on CDE's District Sample Curriculum Project webpage by the end of November:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples>.

For more information, contact Karol Gates, interim director of standards and instructional support, at gates_k@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6576.

Postsecondary Readiness

Graduation Guidelines Resources: For a copy of the graduation guidelines menu of options, suggested timeline, implementation strategies, resources and promising practices, visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/graduationguidelines>. For information about hosting a conversation about graduation guidelines in your district or region, contact Robin Russel, russel_r@cde.state.co.us at (303) 866-2908.

State Assessment Information

Parent-friendly handout on CMAS: This first piece is a parent handout on CMAS that provides information about why we have new state tests, how are they used, and when parents will see results. This document is available in English and Spanish. District personnel are encouraged to either use the whole document or just select the pieces that will be most helpful to their community. They can be found at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/cmasfactsheet>

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/cmasfactsheetwhattoexpect-spanish>





- **One-pager for Superintendents:**
This document was created for school leaders to provide a quick overview of what tests students will take this year.
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/cmas2015-16at-a-glance>
- **Parent and Family Resources:**
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/resourcesforparents>
- **Back to School Toolkit** -- The toolkit includes the CMAS documents above as well as an Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document (in English and Spanish) and drop-in articles to help superintendents and principals communicate basic information about state tests with parents at the beginning of the school year. There is a link to this under News & Events on the homepage, and it is also available under Communications Tools at the bottom of the homepage. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/tools>



THE SEE THE FUTURE FUND
Scholarships for the Blind & Visually Impaired

“Education for Life” Scholarships (Since 1997)

To encourage and support the pursuit of higher education, which will enhance both career and personal success. \$490,000 has been awarded to over 97 Students. Applications due March 1, 2016.

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

www.seethefuture.org

Click on “Education for Life” then Click on “Application Information”

If you have any questions please call Tom Theune, OD
Chairperson of the

SEE THE FUTURE Fund at 719.471.3200 or email:

twtheune@comcast.net






Calendar of Events

2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|------|
| January 4 | Full Implementation of UEB in the United States! | 1004 |
| January 4 | Retirement of all EBAE CDE Braille Competency Testing Materials | 2005 |
| January 8-9 | UEB Refresher Course #1 — Denver area location
<u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony - (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us | 3006 |
| January 21 | Braille Challenge— CSDB
<u>Contact:</u> Diane Covington - dcovington@csdb.org | |
| January 22-23 | UEB Refresher Course #2 — Denver area location
<u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony - (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us | |
| January 28 | Denver Metro Braille Challenge - Colorado Center for the Blind, Littleton
<u>Contact:</u> Diane Covington - dcovington@csdb.org | |
| January 28-30 | Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference - Fort Collins, CO
<u>Contact:</u> David Ramer at ramer_d@cde.state.co.us | |
| February 11 –12 | UEB Refresher Course #3 — CSDB
<u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony - (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us | |
| February 17 | Vision Coalition —Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
<u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us | |
| February 25-27 | Metro Low Vision Clinic - Anchor Center for Blind Children in Denver
<u>Contact:</u> Rebecca Warnell— rewarnell@aps.k12.co.us or
Wendy Schlageter— wschlageter@aps.k12.co.us | |
| February 29 | Final date to order “Braille Format” for Dynamic Learning Map ELA or Math Tests | |
| March 2-6 | USABA/BOEC Winter Ski Camp for Blind Athletes
<u>Contact:</u> Courtney Patterson— cpatterson@usaba.org or (719) 866-3222 | |
| March 3-5 | American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference -Washington DC
For more information, please visit: www.afb.org/afblc | |
| March 10-11 | Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic —Ensign Center in Fort Collins
<u>Contact:</u> Elaine Karns— elk@psdschools.org | |

2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016

- March 21-26** **International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference**—San Diego, CA
Contact: CSUN Center on Disabilities at (818) 677-2578 or conference@csun.edu
- March 31** **Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic**—CSDB
Contact: Donice Fennimore— dfennimore@ppbooces.org
- April 1** **Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic**—CSDB
Contact: Donice Fennimore— dfennimore@ppbooces.org
- April 7-9** **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference** - Colorado Springs, CO
Contact: David Ramer at ramer_d@cde.state.co.us
- April 13-16** **Council for Exceptional Children Convention & Expo** — St. Louis, MO
For more information, please visit: <http://www.ceconvention.org/register/>
- May 1** **Deadline for Order Braille Books with the CIMC for SY 2016-17**
Contact: Jim Olson - jolson@csdb.org or (719) 578-2195
- July 20-24** **AER International Conference** - Jacksonville, FL
Contact: www.aerbvi.org

2017 2017 2017 2017 2017 2017 2017 2017 2017 2017 2017 2017 2017

- July 19-22** **AER International O&M Conference**—Pittsburgh, PA
Contact: <http://swoma.org/>

2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018 2018

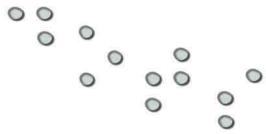
- July 25-29** **AER International Conference 2018, Reno NV**
Contact www.aerbvi.org

Call for Proposals for the AER 2016 International Conference:

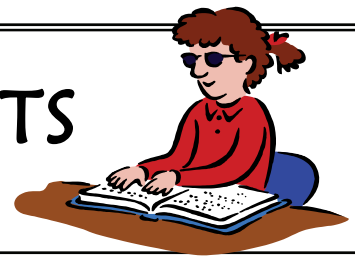
The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) invites you to share your knowledge, strategies and solutions during the AER International Conference 2016. This conference brings together vision professionals and others who provide services, education and programs aimed at helping persons who are blind or visually impaired to achieve the greatest level of independence and success. The conference will be held July 20-24, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront in Jacksonville, Florida.

All presentation proposals are due by February 03, 2016. Acceptance notifications will be provided on or before March 12, 2016. Multiple proposals can be submitted. All presentation proposals must be submitted online via the AER Proposal Management System. To submit a proposal, please go to this weblink:

<https://ssl.linklings.net/conferences/aer/>



CONNECTING THE DOTS



Recent Actions Taken by BANA at Fall 2015 Meeting

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) held its 2015 fall meeting November 5–7, hosted by Horizons for the Blind in Crystal Lake, Illinois. During its three-day meeting, the BANA Board reviewed and acted on semiannual reports from its eighteen committees and considered their recommendations along with other items of business. Several committee members who attended the meeting presented their committee reports in person and dialogued with the Board concerning matters related to their work. Notable actions taken by the Board include:

Approval of Braille Music Code Revision: The Board unanimously approved a major revision of the music braille code, which had undergone the scrutiny of technical and Board reviews. After finalization of the electronic files, the new version of the music code will be available on the BANA website. The BANA Board commends the members of the music braille technical committee—all of whom are musicians as well as experts in music braille transcription and reading—for their tireless and concentrated work on this significant revision of the music code. You can see the actual vote to approve the revised music code at

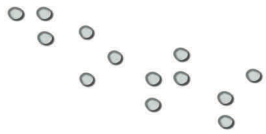
<https://www.facebook.com/Braille-Authority-of-North-America-120201874707328/?fref=ts>

Discussion of math and technical materials in braille: As a result of lengthy and in-depth discussions over several days, the BANA Board members representing United States organizations approved the following statement regarding braille math and technical materials as it relates to the adoption of UEB in the United States:

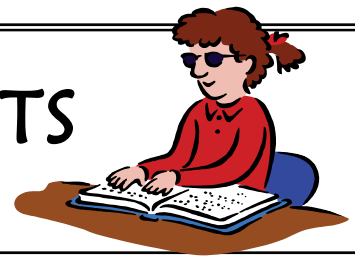
“The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) recognizes and appreciates the genuine concerns from the braille community regarding the transition to Unified English Braille (UEB). BANA stands by our original motion to adopt UEB as a complete code as well as the implementation statement issued in 2014 in which we expressed that the Nemeth Code remains integral to braille in the United States. The Board of BANA could not reach consensus regarding the establishment of a single standard code for technical materials for braille in the United States. The decision to use UEB or the Nemeth Code within UEB context for technical materials should be made based on braille readers’ individual needs.”

Editor's Note: *This above statement confirms both the recognition of UEB as a complete code (both literary and math) and the continued adoption of the Nemeth Code. IEP team members should continue to discuss how best to provide math instruction to students who are braille readers.*





CONNECTING THE DOTS



Provisional Guidance for Transcription Using the Nemeth Code within UEB Contexts

The method of switching between the Nemeth Code and Unified English Braille has been developed to ensure the continued viability of the use of the Nemeth Code for mathematics. The necessity for this adaptation, which is similar to the current use of switching to computer braille code for email addresses and the like, stems from two basic issues:

1) In current Nemeth code transcriptions, the nonmathematical text that surrounds the mathematics is based on English Braille, American Edition (EBAE), which is being replaced by Unified English Braille (UEB). If the surrounding text were to continue to be in EBAE, then, in order to use Nemeth Code, braille users and producers would need to be familiar with two sets of rules for contractions, capitalization, emphasis, punctuation, spacing, and so on. Such a requirement would be especially burdensome in the long term to future braille users and producers who learn braille according to UEB symbols and rules and would then need to learn old rules that have been replaced.

2) As the use of electronic means to read and write in both print and braille proliferates, the need for accurate translation both from print to braille and from braille to print becomes an increasingly critical consideration. An unambiguous switching method eliminates code conflicts and makes it possible for accurate translation in either direction to occur, so that mathematics can be communicated between print users and braille users using Nemeth Code.

Testing is ongoing to determine whether additional items should be addressed in this guidance. The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) also welcomes feedback about what else should be added from anyone using these methods.

For more details, go to: <http://www.brailleauthority.org/mathscience/math-science.html#updates>

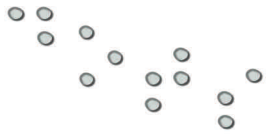
APH Tactile Graphic Image Library

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) has a Tactile Graphic Image Library (TGIL). It contains a pool of well-designed templates to aid with the creation of tactile graphics. TGIL 2.0 features improvements that make the website more accessible and more intuitive. APH has added a forum for tactile graphic discussions to aid in everyone's design and production needs. To begin using the free Image Library to find tactile graphic templates that can be enhanced for your needs, please register for this service. The database will continue to be populated with new images regularly. If you have images you would like to submit to the TGIL, follow the instructions found on the website. For more information, please go to: <http://www.aph.org/tgil/>

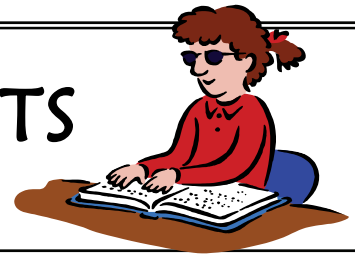
The Braille Tales Book Program

Braille Tales, an early reading program for preschoolers who are blind and visually impaired. Through a partnership between the American Printing House for the Blind and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, the Braille Tales print/braille book program is able to deliver a new, age-appropriate print/braille book every other month to the homes of enrolled children who are potential braille users. The carefully selected print/braille books support oral language development, enthusiasm for reading, and awareness of print and braille.

Children under the age of six who have a visual impairment OR have a parent/guardian with a visual impairment qualify for the book program. If you know families who meet these criteria, please visit their website at www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/apply/



CONNECTING THE DOTS



BANA Honors Darleen Bogart at 2015 Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference

Editor's Note: About 30 of us had the wonderful pleasure of meeting Darleen Bogart last January when she and Phyllis Landon came to Colorado teach our Technical UEB class. We congratulate Darleen on this hugely well deserved honor and take great pride that Colorado benefited from her expertise and guidance as we move forward with UEB implementation.

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) proudly presented its Braille Excellence Award to the Darleen Bogart—international braille advocate, braille transcriber, braille teacher, and Canada's National Braille Convenor. This well-deserved honor was presented on November 20th at the Awards Banquet hosted by the 2015 Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The 2015 Braille Excellence Award is presented in grateful recognition of Darleen's enormous contribution, not only to BANA and to North America, but to braille in a wider, global sense over several decades. Her extraordinary service and quiet leadership have helped braille remain viable and reliable while she has also been a leader in moving it forward and expanding its availability worldwide.

Darleen is the longest-standing member of the BANA Board and has served ably as its Chair as well as the leader of numerous BANA committees. Darleen's international contributions are vast, especially in the development of Unified English Braille (UEB). She was a member of the planning committee for the first two international meetings on English braille, 1982 and 1988, and served as host in Canada for the founding meeting of ICEB 1991. She was a founding member and President of the Canadian Braille Authority, now known as Braille Literacy Canada, and served as its representative to the ICEB Executive from 1991 through 2012.

Because of the breadth of Darleen's contributions and her far-reaching influence, it is difficult to isolate a singular accomplishment as her legacy. Perhaps her most notable service has been her steadfast leadership as Chair of the UEB Development Project from its 1991 BANA beginnings through its acceptance by ICEB in 2004. She then served from 2004–2010 as Chair of the Overarching Committee which completed the code. It was her wise and deliberative shepherding of UEB that led to its worldwide adoption and implementation. Through all this complex development and diplomacy, she has demonstrated deep commitment and respect for the evolving needs and views of all braille users, for her peers in the community of those who work with braille and on code committees, and for the traditions of braille as an elegant as well as time-proven working system. Of her work, Duxbury Systems founder Joe Sullivan wrote: "*Without Darleen at the helm, I am very doubtful that the hope of a unified code with worldwide acceptance could have been realized.*"

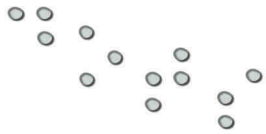
BANA created its Braille Excellence Award in honor of Louis Braille's 200th birthday and awarded it for the first time in 2009. This will be only the fourth awarding of this prestigious award that recognizes people or organizations that have developed or contributed to a code, have developed code materials or software that supports codes, and/or who represent the highest standards of braille production.



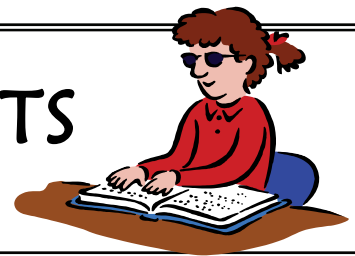
Braille Writer Repair Services in Colorado

Mark Carpenter provides braille writer repair services.

He can be reached at 719-634-8720 or carpdiane@yahoo.com



CONNECTING THE DOTS

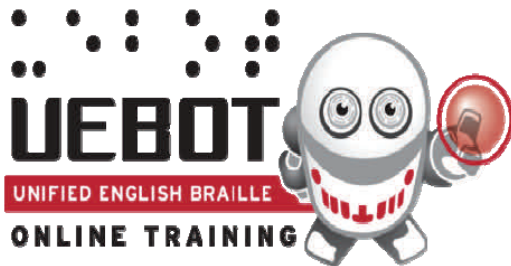


Announcing the release of **UEB Too—A Supplement to the *Braille Too* Curriculum** By Sharon Cross-Coquillet, M.S.Ed.; Co-author of *Braille Too*

UEB Too uses the format and organizational structure of the popular *Braille Too* program for teaching braille to secondary students who have been print readers, with new content that introduces the changes coming in 2016 with the implementation of Unified English Braille in the U.S. It can be used either in conjunction with *Braille Too* for students currently using that program to learn braille, **or as a stand-alone program to teach the UEB changes to secondary students who are already fluent in *English Braille, American Edition*.**

Release on a USB drive containing the complete print teacher's edition, large print student writing exercises, braille student reading exercises (Duxbury for embossing and BRF for use on braille notetakers), simbraille student writing answer key, and a table showing where to use *UEB Too* pages if using in conjunction with *Braille Too*. Allows individual teachers to print/emboss as many copies as needed for their students. Price is **\$60 USD** per USB drive plus shipping and optional insurance (UT sales tax charge if purchaser is not tax-exempt)

For more information, visit the BRL2 Publishing website at www.brl2.com, email info@brl2.com, or call 801-572-5427



The Unified English Braille Online Training program is a free program funded by the Office of Special Education Programs.

Length of Class: 1 week orientation; 4 weeks of content.

Pre-Requisite Skills. The course is designed for people proficient in English Braille American Edition. Individuals will be required to take an eligibility test in order to enroll in the course.

Format: The MOOC makes use of a custom designed MOODLE interface. All assignments will be completed using the program Perky Duck, and files will be uploaded for grading and feedback.

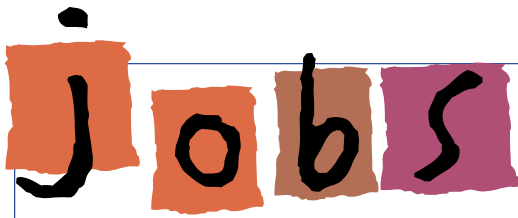
Accessibility: The course is designed to be usable with screenreaders. Video and audio content is accompanied by closed captioning. Files are saved as accessible PDF formats with embedded fonts to ensure accurate presentation and files are also saved as brf format.

College and Professional Development Credit

- All participants who complete the course will receive a certificate of completion.
- 10 ACVREP Professional Development credits will be issued upon completion of the course at no additional cost.
- Graduate credit available through NIU external programs at additional cost.

Offerings and Availability: Courses begin on the first and end on the last day of each month. Students are expected to log in and complete orientation material prior to the first of the month.

Go to <http://www.grad.niu.edu/grad/apply/atlarge.shtml> and follow the step by step instructions.



IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with anticipated vacancies for this school year or the one starting in fall 2015. 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 and COMS = certified orientation and mobility specialist

Northern Region—Jobs

- ✓ **Brailist** (1 FTE) for St. Vrain Schools. The contact person for more information about this position is Erica Bowman at bowman_eric@svvvsd.org

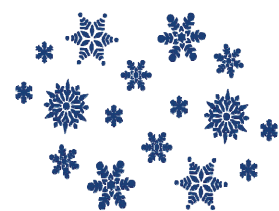
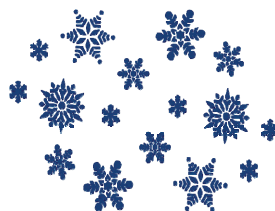
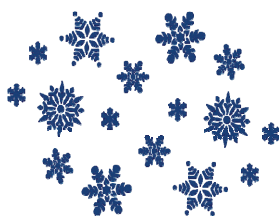
Southern Region – Jobs

- ✓ For details about what positions may be open at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, please contact Chelle Lutz at clutz@cldb.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

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!





TRANSITION INFORMATION

APH Executive in Residence

Dr. Martin Monson Completes Literature Review of Transition

During his Executive in Residence at the American Printing House for the Blind, Dr. Martin Monson reviewed the research available on transition and postsecondary education experiences of young adults with visual impairments. Dr. Monson completed a literature review on this topic, which is now available on the APH Website at <http://www.aph.org/about/executive-in-residence/monson/>

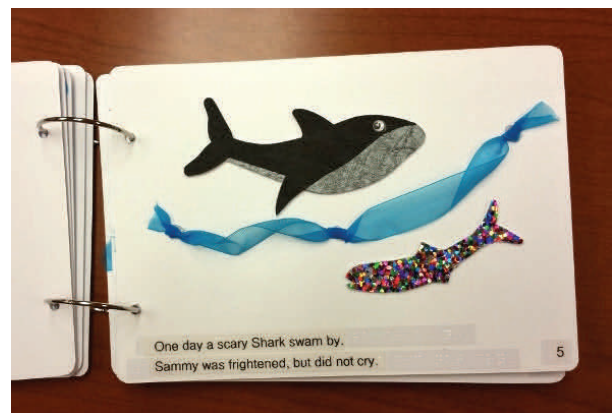
Typhlo & Tactus Tactile Book Contest U.S. 2015 Winner Announced

The American Printing House for the Blind was the U.S. national contact for the international biennial competition which was created to encourage improvement of the quality and quantity of tactile books for young children with visual impairments. The book selected to represent the United States at the international competition was created by Lori Gellhaus from South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Her tactile book, *Sammy the Sardine*, follows the adventures of a small fish as he swims along, dodging a shark and finding a new friend.

The biennial tactile book competition is conducted by [Typhlo & Tactus](#) (T&T), an organization comprised of Western and Eastern European nations that exists to improve the quality and quantity of tactile books available to young children with visual impairments in member countries. As a part of T&T's efforts, the organization has conducted a biennial tactile book competition each year, beginning in 2000. At first, the competition was open only to European T&T members, but in 2011, it was opened to a worldwide audience.

A panel of six judges met at APH in September and selected a book to send overseas for final adjudication by an international panel of children and adults with visual impairments, as well as professionals in the field. A single winning entry will be chosen, along with ten shortlisted books. Selected books may be featured at the T&T website, and appear in posters and promotional materials used by T&T.

The next opportunity to enter is 2017, so start preparing now!





TRANSITION INFORMATION

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITIES

No Barriers USA is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing people of all ability levels the support and tools necessary to overcome physical limitations and conquer their greatest challenges. Two exciting opportunities for fun and adventure are planned for youth in the summer of 2016.

The Summit (June 23-26, 2016) For people with disabilities of all ages and their families. The Summit is a long weekend filled with hands-on clinics, product demonstrations, outdoor excursions, films, art, and more. In 2016 the event will take place at Copper Mountain. Action adventure clinics will offer many choices including such things as kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, biking, horsemanship, archery and much more. Clinics in the arts will include painting, pottery and more. Healthy eating, meditation, yoga and inspirational speakers are also featured. Registration is not yet open, but you can be put on a listserv to receive updates by contacting www.nobarrierssummit.org. The cost for participation has not been announced, but based on past Summits can be expected to be in the neighborhood of \$200 per person.

Grand Canyon Sound Academy (July 24-August 4, 2016) Twenty teenagers, ages 15-19 who are blind/visually impaired or fully sighted will take part in a 12 day expedition to the heart of the Grand Canyon. The first three days will be spent camping on the rim of the canyon where they will build relationships, practice camping and hiking skills and conduct service projects. For the next 8 days the teens will raft the Colorado River learning about the sounds of nature and working on student driven projects with scientists from the National Park Service. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, all participants will receive a scholarship equivalent to \$2,700! The cost for participants is \$300 plus travel to and from Phoenix, Arizona. The early application deadline is December 4, 2015. Don't delay...this program will fill up quickly! The application form can be found at:

<https://nobarriersusa.wufoo.com/forms/2016-leading-the-way-grand-canyon-sound-academy/>

Technology News

Survey for Web Based Talking Typer



Attention TVIs, rehabilitation specialists, and parents:

The American Printing House for the Blind is developing a cross-platform web-based version of Talking Typer. To help insure the product meets your needs, please take a brief survey and let us know what features are important to you. The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/talkingtyper>



CHECK IT OUT!



The popular course, presented by Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy, is based on the use of The CVI Range, a functional vision assessment used to determine the degree of affect of the visual and behavioral characteristics associated with CVI. Course participants will be provided information on the use of The CVI Range and will have the opportunity to score a video based CVI Range assessment. The course will also include information pertaining to the causes of CVI and program planning/interventions for individuals with CVI.

To learn more click on the link: http://www.perkinselearning.org/earn-credits/online-class/cortical-visual-impairment?utm_campaign=pd%20offerings%20october%202015&utm_source=terp&utm_medium=email

Earth Science Tactile Graphics Field Test

APH needs TVIs to evaluate a collection of images designed for the production of Earth Science Tactile Graphics for middle school and high school students with visual impairments. The final product will be a set of full color tactile images with labels in print and braille.

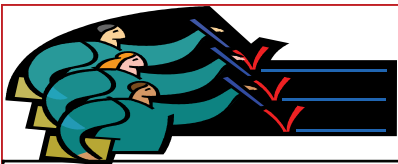
The collection includes 41 images. For the field test, four of the images have been made into tactile graphics, and the rest are presented as print graphics only. We ask that you evaluate all the print images for content and augment appropriate lessons with the tactile graphics which your students can assess as well.

We plan to send out field test materials and a link to the online survey form before the holidays in December 2015. If you have students with whom you can participate in this field test evaluation during **January and February 2016**, please email the following information to Rachel White at rwhite@aph.org

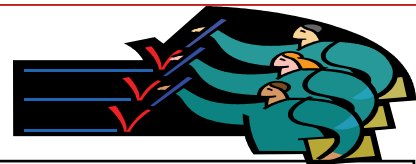
- Your full name
- Your professional title
- School or Agency name
- School or Agency mailing address including city, state, and zip code
- Email address
- Best phone number to reach you
- Number of your students who are able to participate
- Reading medium of participating students

Thank you, and if you have any questions, please contact:

Rosanne Hoffmann
STEM Project Leader
rhoffmann@aph.org
APH
502-899-2292



CHECK IT OUT!



ADAPTIVE SPORTS CENTER

Ski and Ice Climbing Weekend in Crested Butte

By Brandon Mapes

This winter, the Adaptive Sports Center in Crested Butte, will be running a weekend-long ski camp specifically designed for middle school and high school youth who are blind or visually impaired. The camp will bring young adults together for a weekend of skiing and ice climbing in the Rocky Mountains. The Adaptive Sports Center will be providing two days of one-on-one ski lessons taught by professional adaptive ski instructors, as well as a day of ice climbing in Lake City. This camp will be all about building confidence and making connections with others who share similar experiences as a blind or visually impaired youth.

Connecting to the outdoors will be a large aspect of the camp. Yet campers will also focus on a variety of invaluable life skills throughout the weekend. Campers will shop for groceries, prepare their own meals, and interact in a team setting. Campers will advance their orientation and mobility skills as they learn to travel through the bustling town of Crested Butte, Colorado.

Writing and journaling will also be a priority during the weekend. Each evening, campers will be writing as they recall and relive the most exciting and perhaps the most challenging moments from the day. At the end of the weekend, campers will have a narrative to bring home and share with their friends and families.

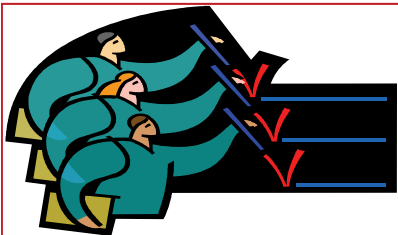
Enclosed you will find the following items to help you organize:

- A packing list
- An itinerary for the weekend
- A registration packet and waiver
- Ski rental form.

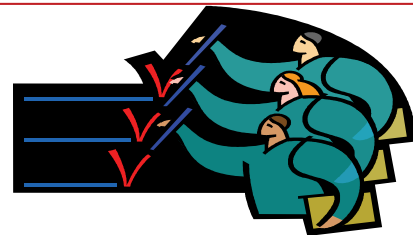
Please note: **All applications must be received by December 18th, 2015** and will be accepted in the order they are received. Students who are accepted to the camp will be notified in early January or sooner. Shuttle vans will be organized for transportation to Crested Butte on January 14th from central locations once the camp roster is set. Students will also be transported back to central locations from Crested Butte after the camp on January 18th. The cost of the camp will be \$50 per camper; checks can be made out to Adaptive Sports Center or payment with a credit card over the phone to Ben at (970) 349-5075.

Please mail registration, waivers and payment to:

ASC - Ben Banker
P.O. Box 1639
Crested Butte, CO 81224.



CHECK IT OUT!



TVIs Needed to Field Test and Expert Review a Prototype of the Health Education for Students With Visual Impairments Teacher's Manual

The American Printing House for the Blind is looking for TVIs with students who can field test a draft Teacher's Manual that details ways to adapt current health education curricula for students with visual impairments. The prototype includes 25 short videos (for teachers only) and a 125-page manual (including references and resource materials). TVIs are expected to view all videos, read the manual in its entirety, and complete an online evaluation form after implementing the suggested adaptations and activities with their students. APH is also looking for professionals in the field of vision impairment to serve as expert reviewers. We ask that you complete an online evaluation after reading the manual in its entirety and viewing all the videos.

We plan to send out prototype materials in **January 2016** and would like evaluations to be complete by the end of **May 2016**. If you are able to field test or expert review this prototype, please email the following information to Monica Vaught-Compton at mvaught@aph.org:

- Field Tester or Expert Reviewer
- Your full name
- Your professional title
- School or Agency name
- School or Agency mailing address including city, state, and zip code
- Preferred reading medium (print, large print, braille, or electronic)
- Email address
- Best phone number to reach you
- Number of your students who are able to participate (if you can field test)

Thank you, and if you have any questions, please contact

Monica Vaught-Compton at mvaught@aph.org

How are Brains Built

For a great video clip that explains how brains are built and the impact of a variety of challenges, go to YouTube and search for How Are Brains Built. The video clip details Executive Function Skills, which are essential for day-to-day function. This is a great review for parents and professionals who work with students who may have neurological compromise due to a variety of situations, including disabilities.

Low Vision Services

Thanks to the work of Dr. Anne Corn, there is a directory of Pediatric Low Vision Service Providers now located on the Texas School for the Blind website.

Check it out at <http://www.tsbvi.edu/lowvisionservices>



CHECK IT OUT!



Foresight Ski Guides

Foresight Ski Guides served upwards of three dozen students with blindness / visual impairment from more than five Colorado school districts during the 2014-15 ski season in Vail and Beaver Creek. Students came with school groups and their TVIs while others came with their parents and families. Every student learned how to ski and how to be guided by our expert guides. The photo on the right shows a young skier, Gracie Helton, in action with her guide nearby!

Foresight Ski Guides can partner with TVIs, school district personnel, and parents to address several important areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum for the Blind, as well as Colorado State Standards for Physical Education for your students.

Bring your students to Vail for the most fun they might ever experience, all while learning important life skills including a sport they can safely enjoy throughout their lifetime with family and friends.

Stay tuned or contact Foresight at (303) 506-6965 email us at foresightskiguides@gmail.com follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and visit their website at <http://foresightskiguides.org/>



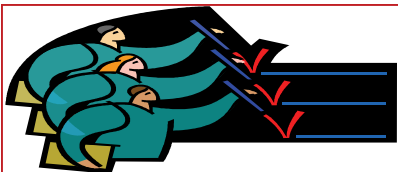
Updated Statistical Facts about Blindness in the US for 2013 Now Available on the NFB Website

Every week the National Federation of the Blind tenBroek Library receives emails and phone calls from people seeking information on a wide range of blindness-related topics. The most common questions they receive (for three years running now) have to do with numbers. College students, lawyers, grant writers, technology developers, market researchers, government and healthcare workers, inventors, and entrepreneurs all want to know one thing: how many blind people are there in the United States? Sometimes there are associated questions, like how many people read Braille or how many blind people are employed? The reasons for asking these questions may vary, but the answer is always the same: It depends.

The numbers gathered about blind Americans can differ greatly, depending on who conducted the survey, the methods that they used, and how they interpreted their findings. Even the definition of blindness used can have a huge effect on the data because it can drastically shrink or swell the number of people included in the survey. Despite the challenges involved, we understand the important role that statistical information about the lives of blind people, including the prevalence of blindness in the United States and other demographic information about blind Americans, can play in the projects of our researchers.

The staff of the tenBroek Library maintains a webpage of statistical facts about blindness for the convenience of our patrons, backed up by citations and with a list of scholarly resources to aid further research. This page has recently been updated with new information taken from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) from the US Census. The information from the ACS has been analyzed by the Cornell University Employment and Disability Institute and is the most current available at this time.

For more information, please go to: <https://nfb.org/blindness-statistics>



CHECK IT OUT!



A GREETING FROM SANTA... IN BRAILLE!

The National Federation of the Blind is once again assisting Santa Claus in writing letters to children in Braille. This program is a fun way for blind children to practice their Braille skills while receiving a holiday greeting from Santa himself. The Braille letter will be accompanied by a print copy (for mom and dad to read) as well as some other fun Christmas time activities. Parents of children under the age of ten can visit <https://nfb.org/santa-letters> and fill out the needed form. The form can also be printed and faxed to 410-685-2340. **The deadline for letter requests is December 18**, to ensure that a return letter in Braille is received before Christmas.

INTERESTED IN CRAFT LESSONS FOR CHILDREN WITH BLINDNESS/VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

The Krafters Korner, a division of the National Federation of the Blind, is interested in starting a crafting group for children who are blind and visually impaired. Many of the blind and visually impaired crafters in the division have taught crafts to children. The classes would be taught through virtual instruction (phone conference or computer classes). Currently they are trying to gauge if there is enough interest in this project to go forward. If you would like more information or have questions please email Marianne at marianne@denningweb.com

Without natural light cues, many people who are totally blind experience a circadian rhythm disorder that causes problems with sleeping. With this disorder it is common to have problems falling asleep and staying asleep. The time when the body feels like it needs sleep may shift over time and individuals may fight to stay awake at school or work. If your child is totally blind and has difficulty with regulating sleep patterns, you may want to talk to your child's pediatrician about tasimelteon (brand name Hetlioz), a new FDA approved prescription medication for Non-24 Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder. FDA approval for use by children is expected early in 2016.

For more information visit <http://www.hetlioz.com/>

Education Opportunity – NFB STEM2U

In partnership with museums and science centers, the National Federation of the Blind STEM2U will bring accessible STEM learning opportunities to blind and low-vision children in elementary and high school from across the United States. Furthermore, NFB STEM2U will offer learning opportunities to parents of blind children and educators working with blind students. Each of the regional programs will serve twenty blind elementary school students (the juniors) and ten blind high school students (the apprentices). All students will engage in hands-on, inquiry-based STEM learning. Moreover, the students will have the occasion to learn with and from blind adult role models about how to succeed in the STEM classroom and in everyday life. Apprentices (the older students) will also have the chance to develop and refine their leadership and mentoring skills as they give back through their work with the juniors (the younger students) throughout the regional programs. Our most recent regional program, STEM2U Phoenix, was held November 5-7, 2015, and was an inspiring success. Workshops and activities were held for teachers of the blind and visually impaired, parents of our juniors, and our juniors and apprentices to learn how science is accessible, or can be made accessible, in the classroom. Blind and low-vision students who are looking for more opportunities to learn about STEM while having fun with their peers from across the country should apply to attend NFB STEM2U.

Applications for juniors are open for our San Francisco (March 3-5, 2016) and Minneapolis (May 19-21, 2016) programs. **The deadline is January 5, 2016.**

For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.blindscience.org/nfb-stem2u>

just for PARENTS

Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference

The Exceptional Student Services Unit (ESSU) at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) plan conferences throughout the year that are family-centered and designed to offer support, information, and education to parents and professionals. We call them PEP Conferences!

PEP and its conferences promote partnerships that are essential in supporting and including children with disabilities and their families in schools and the community.

The remaining conference dates and locations for 2015-16 are:

- January 28-30, 2016 - Fort Collins, CO
- April 7-9, 2016 - Colorado Springs, CO

Are you a Colorado parent or guardian who has a child with a disability? Are you a Colorado administrator, principal, teacher, medical or other service provider who is interested in the family-professional partnership? We encourage and invite you to participate in a PEP Conference.

Read what past PEP Conference participants have said!

"I was truly inspired with this conference! The amount of information and resources made available to us was so valuable. I could not be more grateful for the opportunity. My daughter will benefit big time!" – Parent

"It is probably the best educational conference I've been to because of the content and participants. I think administrators should be encouraged to attend!" – School Professional

For more information about the PEP Conferences, please go to:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/pep>

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 will or 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 please leave a voice message at (303) 866-6681. Thank you so much!

just for PARENTS

Family, School, and Community Partnering 2016 Online Courses

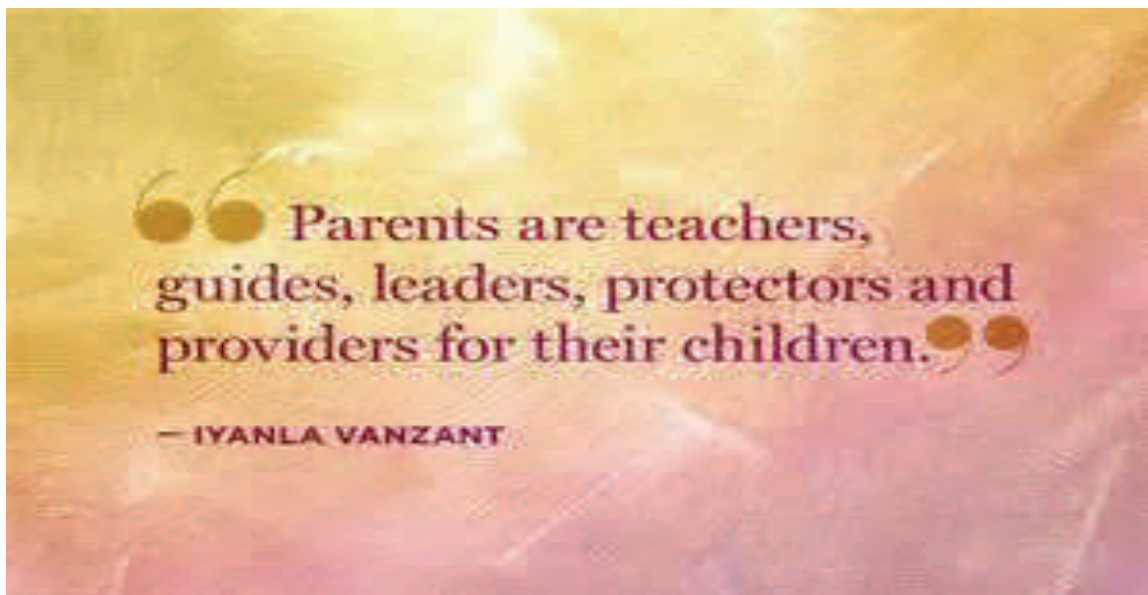
CDE is offering three online courses on how to effectively partner with families to support student learning. Each course has a specific focus, suggested audience and time frame. There is an emphasis on immediately applying the information to a participant's site or situation through data-based action planning. There is no cost for registration. Participants may earn continuing education hours or may audit (for no credit). If desired, Adams State University credit is an option (for a fee).



Participants may choose to enroll with teammates or learning partners. Specific course information can be found at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/rti/family>

POWER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Power at Your Fingertips is a family-friendly introduction to Braille from the American Printing House for the Blind designed in partnership with Visually Impaired Preschool Services (VIPS). Through this course parents will learn how to bring Braille literacy into everyday routines to give their preschoolers a head start while learning the basics of the Braille code. Available at www.aph.org for \$19.00.



VISION COALITION MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2015

Persons in Attendance: Deb Andrews, Tanni Anthony, Paula Conroy, Nancy Cozart, LaVerne Dell, Elaine Karns, Paula Landry, Jamie Lugo, Jim Olson, and Angela Sims

Person Absent: Sara Noel

Special Guest: Tina Martin

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 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

- Anchor Center for Blind Children – Paula Landry
- Colorado AER Chapter – position currently unfilled
- 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 – Jamie Lugo
- Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind Outreach – Sara Noel
- Colorado Parents of Blind Children – position currently unfilled
- Metro TVI / COMS– Nancy Cozart
- Northern TVI / COMS – Elaine Karns
- Southern TVI / COMS – Deb Andrews
- University of Northern Colorado VI Program – Paula Conroy
- Western TVI / COMS – Angela Sims

Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

On November 9th, metro TVIs met in Denver. The teachers are trying a new format this school year regarding meetings. The school district(s) that host are in charge of putting together the agenda, content, guest speakers, etc. Thanks to Cheryl Leidich and the Denver team for putting this meeting together!

Key Content included: In need of grant writing tips? Mimi Shaper shared handouts on Purchasing Using Medicaid Funds. Vocational Rehabilitation: -Tracy Rushing, MA spoke from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. For further information, her contact info is tracy.rushing@state.co.us and # 303-866-3491. They are moving departments effective Nov. 1 and they will be creating a blind unit. Starting in July they will need to spend a percentage on youth and transition. Document able disability, IEP, barriers to employment, require Vocational Rehabilitation services, and they need to benefit from services. Transportation is not a factor in determining eligibility for VR services. It is, however, a factor in developing a Plan. Photo ID and social security number (Get state ID before age 18). Apply when students' goals are switched from educational to vocational direction- no wait list now. Sue Williams is the only deaf-blind counselor in the state. Business Enterprise Program - training for the blind to work in government and cafeterias. SWAP- mild to moderate needs around employment. How can Vocational Rehabilitation help? Ask: What is appropriate, necessary and least cost efficient to achieve that goal.

Ken Neeve reviewed information on street numbering systems. Denver plus system, Broadway and Ellsworth zero lines take off the two zeros, tells you how many blocks away from zero line. If no indication, then assume north. Highways; N& S highway odd numbers, E & W highway even numbers. Reminders include

East	West
2400 Colorado	Federal is 3000 so 30 blocks,
4000 Quebec	Sheridan 5200
South	North
Mississippi 1100	1500 Colfax
Evans 2100	2000 Montview
Hampden 3500	most are not named



Discussion:

Regional TVI Meetings: It is hard to find time for regional TVI meetings. It is hard to find a location that does not require a lot of driving. There is such competition of high caseloads, new information within districts and from the state, induction programs, etc. It was suggested by one region to focus on fewer meetings so there is less pressure to meet monthly. The meetings may be better attended if they are held quarterly or each semester. It was also suggested to try distance technology to host meetings. People still really value the face-to-face opportunities with their peers.

Southern Region (Deb Andrews)

The Southern Region has been busy this semester. Five TVIs attended the Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference in Albuquerque and learned lots of new strategies for working with our students and helping them enjoy literacy. We have had some discussion in our regional meetings about 504 accommodations and we're working on an updated list of accommodations. The region is pairing with DVR to have a bi-annual meet-up/Q&A between DVR and our high school students to prepare them for the next phase of life. UEB is

also uppermost on our minds and on our fingers.

Another focus is on orientation and mobility – working to gather information about street systems, good examples for certain kinds of street crossings, etc. The DVR O&M specialists are key to this cross sharing of information.

Western Region (Angela Sims)

This year seems to be moving along very quickly. Everyone reports things are going well. We are all working on UEB and feeling okay with the transition. Donna Keale reports she has a high school senior who has started college classes who wants to become a TVI/COMS. She volunteers 1.5 hours every day w/ one of our students, then when I am there once a month we talk about the TVI world. She is working on the Australian Braille Course. Way to go, Donna! Keep her excited about the TVI/COMS world!

There are still TVI/COMS job opportunities on the western slope and we are about to add one more...Sarah Sonnier has decided she will retire at the end of this school year. She has been doing what she loves for 40 years but has decided it's time to move on to other adventures. She will be greatly missed!

Northern Region (Elaine Karns)

Following illness, UEB classes, learning new software, and assessments ... the list is long, we finally have a new date for the Northern Low Vision Clinic. It will be held on March 10 & 11, 2016 at the Insights Skills Center in Fort Collins. We will try to set up a northern meeting in February with Kevin Hughes. We are completing December 1 counts and trying to write defensible IEPs.

One administrative unit has received notice from their DAC that CDE only has tactile graphics for PARCC practice tests grades 3-7. This district needs a braille PARCC tactile graphics and practice test for 8th grade. The TVI has contacted PARCC directly to find out if there are tactile graphics for the Braille practice tests for the higher grades.

Discussion:

Technology Resource: *Dr. Denise has offered to create on-line training around specific technology needs we find we have in our state. So, would it make sense to survey our regions and see if need(s) exist around specific topics relative to technology? She has been a good resource for screen readers and interfacing them with Excel, Google, etc. for me. TVIs. Currently there are no CDE funds to support a training for this year. If this is something that TVIs would like to pursue for next year, please gather the needed information from your regions and send to Tanni to explore as a possible CDE-funded training for the next school year.*

Blindmath: *There is a blindmath listserv that over the past few days has had quite a discussion around how students with vision impairments, especially those who are blind, are in transitioning from public school to higher education. Because this is a math listserv, emphasis has been on students in the STEM fields. The discussion was started by a TVI in New York. It's been quite interesting to hear how unsuccessful many are in math and science and computer programming classes due to not being able to have appropriate accommodations in place because the students themselves are not confident in knowing what to request for specific classes because accommodations have been put in place for them by their TVI in the past. The National Federation of the Blind has noted how large this problem is for students at higher education institutions and the high drop out rate or failure rate for students who are visually impaired in STEM classes especially. It was*

asked whether the CSDB outreach might consider a summer program that addresses challenges faced in post secondary settings. Perhaps it could include staff from local colleges from the office of students with disabilities; professors who would give an overview of expectations/content, etc. of various classes; current undergrad and graduate students, etc. This information will be shared with CSDB Outreach staff.

Tanni will also work with the CDE secondary transition team to find out more about what might be happening with specific Colorado IHE and Disability Offices to support students with disabilities. It is certainly an important issue and it is on both the radar of the NFB and American Foundation for the Blind.

New Music Code: BANA just approved a new music code and it is HARD from what I understand. Our Braille plates are now quite full! Does CIMC know of any training material soon to come out? Jim shared that this is a new change and there are no training materials posted at this time.

Low Vision Clinics and Students on 504 Plans: The CDE / CSDB Low Vision Evaluation Clinics are funded with IDEA federal funds. As such, they are not open for Colorado students who do not have an IEP.

Accurate CIMC Database: One of our goals of the CIMC registration is to update the field specific to the cause of the visual impairment. We are seeing our second leading cause of visual impairment to be nystagmus. Tanni has asked the TVIs to dig deeper on eye reports to identify the primary cause of visual impairment. TVIs may well need to go through the eye report and not report on the first conditions reported, but the root cause of the visual impairment. We want to target the PRIMARY cause of visual impairment and not other conditions such as refractive error or secondary symptom of nystagmus.

CVI Information Packet for MDs: A suggestion from our state conference on Cortical Visual Impairment is to create a piece for ophthalmologists and other eye care professionals regarding CVI diagnosis. The goal was to have some kind of written product that could provide an eye care specialist with information about CVI and providing written documentation of a diagnosis of CVI. The recommendation was to create something to go to eye care specialists (both optometrists and ophthalmologists) and neurologists). Elaine is interested in helping on this project. Tanni will also contact Dr. Enzenauer for his guidance on a next best product and process.

Sensory Learning Kit, Symbols and Meaning, and Tactile Connections are three in-sequence products recommended for children with additional disabilities with intellectual disabilities or very young children who are just learning to use symbols.

Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (LaVerne Dell)

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is moving to the Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). Within DVR there will be a unit establish specifically for serving individuals who are blind/visually impaired. This will include the teaching unit (the center in Denver and balance of state teachers in Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Grand Junction). It will also include the Business Enterprise AKA the Randolph Shepard Program. In addition there will be five counselors who will be spread across the front range. Julia Zanon will be the interim manager, at this time. The details are still in process.

Ellen Golombek, the Director of CDLE shared the following information with stakeholders: *Blind Services: In parallel with the Interim Committee on Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind, and utilizing input from both stakeholder meetings and the committee hearings, the DVR and CDLE management team will re-align DVR resources to provide a dedicated services organization structured to address the issues related to the training needs and supports of counselors, use of vendors, applications of assistive technologies, reduction of wait times for personal adjustment training . . . ultimately, better service to those with blindness. This organization will be a new unit within DVR, reporting to the DVR director.*

LaVerne shared that it would be helpful to gather information about the number of students who are between the ages 14-18 who are blind/visually impaired and who might be candidates for DVR services.

Anchor Center for Blind Children (Paula Landry)

Anchor Center welcomes new Executive Director, Heather Cameron! For the past 25 years, Heather has served in leadership positions for an array of nonprofit and governmental organizations, including Laradon, the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, Metro Volunteers, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Colorado, Mental Health America of Colorado, and Foothills Animal Shelter. Anchor Center's staff and Board of Directors are excited to begin this new chapter with Heather Cameron at the helm of our ship.

CSDB – School for the Blind (Jamie Lugo)

Steps to Success: Students participated in the Steps to Success event hosted by the Employability Center, the week of October 19th-23rd. It was a fantastic opportunity for students. All were able to enjoy workshops related to college and work-life choices. Students participated in field trips to UCCS, Colorado College, Critter Clips and Paul Mitchell Academies. It was a week full of activities and opportunities.

White Cane Day: October 15th, the School for the Blind students showcased their independence, at Acacia Park, by sharing poetry, a speech, and songs played by the Bulldog Band. An original song, about the white cane, was written and performed by the band, on this very special day. Brent Batron, from the Colorado Center for the Blind, was the keynote speaker. Community and family members participated in the celebration as well.

Movement Workshop: October 16th, Lindzey Barnes from the Summit Dance Studio, provided a movement workshop for elementary students in the School for the Blind. Students enjoyed enhancing their gross motor development, listening skills, musicality and creative spirits, while participating in the dance moves.

Black Forest League Honors Chorus: Middle School and high school students from the School for the Blind chorus class participated in the Black Forest League Honor Chorus Festival. Over 100 students from the Black Forest League (BFL) were selected to participate in this wonderful event. It was an honor to have one of our students selected for one of the two solos.

National Federation for the Blind (NFB) Convention: Students from the School for the Blind, participated in the NFB Convention October 29th and 30th. Thursday afternoon, the students experienced an action-oriented leadership seminar including cardio drumming, relaxation, self-defense, and dance stations. Friday, the students visited information booths and attended general session. A delicious lunch was enjoyed at the Antlers Hotel, and the afternoon consisted of team-building and getting-to-know-you activities.

Other Student Activities: November 9th and 10th, students from CSDB attended a conference on Bullying in Denver. The students each brought back wonderful ideas and shared some of these with our Board, regarding how we can assist in preventing bullying among students. November 13th, secondary students traveled to the Colorado Center for the Blind for a shark dissection experience. November 18th, CSDB hosted two goal-ball workshops, with the help of USABA, for students from Denver. December 8th, Secondary students and upper elementary students will participate in the annual winter program with songs, skits, and instrumental talents.

Staff is participating in Window Eye Training, UEB Training, and ASL classes, during Professional Collaboration Time

CSDB Outreach Services (Sara Noel)

Resources available to families and professionals on the CSDB website include Webcasts on the CSDB YouTube Channel ([YouTube.com/CSDBCHANNEL](https://www.youtube.com/CSDBCHANNEL)):

New:

- *Leaving a Legacy for Special Needs Families:* Attorney Paul Mason shares important information for families of students with special needs regarding essential legal and financial planning.
- *Learning from Role Models who are Blind or Low Vision:* The Role Model series includes nine individuals who are blind or low vision sharing their stories. Through these audio described and captioned role model videos, children learn self-advocacy, gain a better sense of identity and belonging, and positively relate to an adult who has similar life experiences. Parents and professionals gain insight and ideas for supporting their child/student in becoming a successful adult.

Comcast Weekly Broadcasts: Segments are broadcast on Southern Colorado Comcast Channel 20 on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. Each 30-minute segment is also available on YouTube in the Broadcast playlist.

Blind/Visually Impaired Topics:

- Family Orientation and Mobility: Describing Environments
- Getting in the Game: Getting Kids With Disabilities off the Sidelines and onto the Playing field
- Behavior: Where to Start? Basic Strategies and Supports
- Music Therapy Strategies with Students with Visual Impairments and Various Exceptionalities
- See the Future Fund
- Off-Topic/On-Topic
- That's Me
- Braille: Parts 1-3
- Technology for Blind/Visually Impaired: Parts 1-3



We welcome any suggestions for presenters and topics of interest for future videos for families. Please contact: Deb Branch at dbranch@csdb.org with suggestions.

The School for the Blind will have their Winter Program for Middle School-High School on December 8 at 6:30pm and for preschool-Lower Elementary on December 10 at 2pm. These programs will be broadcast on Youtube for families and/or students to watch.

The Braille Challenge registrations are coming into CSDB. Please be sure that everyone fully completes the registration forms. CSDB will host the Braille Challenge on January 21 and Colorado Center for the Blind will host a second Braille Challenge on January 28th. TVIs can also sign up students for their district. Apprentice level will be UEB only year.

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (Jim Olson)

APH News: The American Printing House for the Blind is pleased to announce Dr. Craig Meador as its next President. A former teacher and educational leader for children who are blind and visually impaired, Craig has served as APH's Vice President of Educational Services and Product Development since May 2015. Craig will begin as President on January 1, 2016, succeeding Dr. Tuck Tinsley III who will be retiring after 27 years of dedicated and innovative leadership at APH.

Since joining APH, Craig has led a team of 90 professionals in the areas of field services, communications, and research and product development. He has worked closely with the production and finance departments to improve APH's product development process.

Bob Belknap, APH Vice President of Development, will be visiting Colorado December 7– 10 to promote the "APH Braille Tales Print/Braille Book Program" (formerly known as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library). He will be visiting the Anchor Center for Blind Children on Monday, December 7th and the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and the Colorado Instructional Materials Center on Tuesday, December 8th.

NE Visits: Staff from the Nebraska Instructional Resource Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska will be travelling to Colorado to train with the CIMC staff about operational procedures and our library database system.

CDE/CIMC Counts: The Count 1 window has closed. The CIMC is in the process of updating edits submitted by Administrative Units and BOCES. Updated printouts will be mailed to districts on January 1, 2016 in preparation for the January 4, 2016 Federal Quota Census count day (the first Monday in January annually) of students with legal blindness. Count data, signed by Directors of Special Education, is due back to the CIMC on January 30, 2016.

Encrypted emails from CSDB: CSDB recently installed a new email filter that adds the ability for CSDB staff to distribute emails that are encrypted by typing the word "confidential" (without quotation marks) in the subject line of an outgoing email. All 'replies' from the original recipient are then also automatically encrypted. The CIMC has started sending out encrypted emails to our clients. If you receive one of these encrypted emails you will receive a message stating something like, "You have a new encrypted message from (CIMC staff member's email address) that has been encrypted for privacy and security by the Barracuda Email Encryption Service. To view the email message, click here to log into the Barracuda Message Center. You'll be prompted to either create a password or enter the one you may already have. You can also paste the following URL into your browser to access the Barracuda Message Center: The secure message will expire in 30 days." As the recipient you will only have to set up your username and password one time and all future emails should be easy to read. This new service will be exceptionally useful, especially for emails that fall under HIPPA guidelines.

NBA Fall Conference: Debbie Haberkorn and Jim Olson attended the National Braille Association Professional Development Conference October 22-24, 2015. Sessions focused on the new Unified

- Formatting Tactile Graphics
- Proposed Formats and UEB
- Mathematics and Science Braille (Supers, Subs, and Modified Expressions)
- Braille Formats; Diacritics and More
- Braille Formats/Textbook: UEB and Print Emphasis

- Using UEB in Technical Materials
- Nemeth in UEB
- DBT, BANA Template and UEB Translation

Book Orders for Next Year: It is never too early to remind everyone of the May 1, 2016 deadline for submitting book orders for the 2016-17 school year. If you can submit your book order NOW that is even better. Always use the most current version of all CIMC forms available on our website.

University of Northern Colorado – VI Program (Paula Conroy)

Congratulations to our 10 graduates this semester! Some of these students will continue on in the O&M program. Four out of ten December graduates are from Colorado! Tina Martin, Kyle Berns, Danielle Burden, and Tamara Miller are graduating in December!

We are starting the 4th year of our 5-year personnel preparation grant. Priority funding goes to students who are in the dual MA and O&M programs. The grant is full with a waitlist at this time. In order to be considered for funding support (note that full tuition is not covered), applicants must be fully accepted. We are currently submitting another grant application that will more easily fund students who are current TVIs and would like to add on the O&M nondegree licensure. These grant competitions are fiercely competitive, but we will continue to apply as we understand graduate tuition continues to increase everywhere. UNC has moved the Special Education VI Program to Extended Campus. By doing this, we are able to offer a set tuition rate for all students, instate or out of state and it cancels the additional student fees. For those of you who are not aware, universities across the nation collect thousands of dollars from scholars per semester via student fees in lieu of raising tuition rates. Federal funding and the UNC Graduate School require a minimum GPA of 3.0 to be accepted and to continue in the graduate program.

Dr. Harvey Rude has announced his retirement. He will retire in August of 2016.

Colorado Department of Education (Tanni Anthony)

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

- *Project Staff:* Tanni Anthony and Gina Quintana coordinate the grant project. Kathryn Daniels and Wendy Stoltman are the Technical Assistance (TA) Specialists. Shannon Cannizzaro is our Family Specialist. To request technical assistance during the school year and across the summer months, please contact Gina Quintana at (303) 866-6681 or quintanta_g@cde.state.co.us
- *Annual Deaf-Blind Census:* The December 1, 2015 Census forms have been sent to AU / agency contacts with the request that all forms are updated no later than January 15, 2016. Thank you in advance for helping to keep our census data up-to-date. All learners identified as having combined vision and hearing loss are eligible for free technical assistance.

- *Project Webpage:* The webpage url is <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-DB.asp>
- *Summer Institute:* The 2016 Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness is being planned for June. More details on the dates, topic, and speaker will be forthcoming at a later date.

Annual O&M Seminar: The 2016 O&M Seminar is being planned for the spring. More details on the dates, topic, and speaker will be forthcoming at a later date.

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: The Low Vision Evaluation Clinics have been scheduled for this school year. We are grateful for our returning LVE Clinic returning team of Dr. Tom Theune, Jim Olson, Wendy Stoltman, and Debbie Haberkorn. One clinic has been held thus far this school year. The northern clinic was rescheduled for March. We are looking ahead to the metro clinic, more southern clinics, and the northern clinic.

Recruitment and Retention: Most TVI/C OMS positions are currently filled in the state. If people are aware of any upcoming vacancies in their administrative units, they are strongly encouraged to be in touch with Tanni for proactive advertising and recruitment efforts.

Listservs: The CDE ESSU maintains three 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. The third is specific to Colorado TVIs and braillists. If anyone has questions about the listservs, please be in touch with Tanni.

Parent Database: We currently have about 280 parents registered on the CDE Parent Database. This is out of over 1,000 families across the state. The database is used only to mail out the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter and, on rare occasion, other mailings. It is important to keep it maintained with accurate addresses AND families of children with visual impairment, including blindness that are currently enrolled in Anchor Center for Blind Children or Colorado public school programs. As children graduate or families move out of state, we need to ensure that we remove those families. As new families come into the system, please help Tanni to be proactive with getting families registered on the database. This is a voluntary process – so families need to complete and sign their registration forms.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Braille Competency in UEB

The CDE Braille Committee (Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart, Lucia Hasty, Brenda Shepard, Sarah Sonnier, and Julie Wetzstein) is in the process of converting the CDE Braille Competency Test and renewal modules into UEB. We are hopeful the test and renewal modules will be finalized by the end of December 2015.

All Colorado TVIs must demonstrate braille competency in the UEB Code by May 2016. Three UEB Refresher Courses have been scheduled for January 8-9, January 22-23, and February 12-13th. The refresher course is limited to veteran TVIs who have already demonstrated CDE approved braille competency procedures in EBAE. This is a refresher course to do a cursory overview of key changes from EBAE to UEB. All participants are expected to be competent in EBAE and very familiar with UEB code changes. All new Colorado TVIs will demonstrate braille competency by taking the CDE Braille Competency Test in UEB format.

For those individuals who are in process of completing their 15 braille renewal modules, a minimum of the last 5 must be completed in UEB format. For all TVIs who will demonstrate their initial braille competency with the CDE Braille Competency Test in UEB format will be required to take all 15 renewal modules in UEB. As of January 2016, all CDE braille competency testing materials in EBAE will be retired.

UEB Math / Nemeth

From BANA website – an excerpt from their November 18, 2016 press release:

As a result of lengthy and in-depth discussions over several days, the BANA Board members representing United States organizations approved the following statement regarding braille math and technical materials as it relates to the adoption of UEB in the United States.



The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) recognizes and appreciates the genuine concerns from the braille community regarding the transition to Unified English Braille (UEB). BANA stands by our original motion to adopt UEB as a complete code as well as the implementation statement issued in 2014 in which we expressed that the Nemeth Code remains integral to braille in the United States. The Board of BANA could not reach consensus regarding the establishment of a single standard code for technical materials for braille in the United States. The decision to use UEB or the Nemeth Code within UEB context for technical materials should be made based on braille readers' individual needs.

This means that BANA continues to endorse two math codes – the math code inherent in the Unified English Braille Code and Nemeth. States continue to have differing plans on whether to teach students UEB (math) or Nemeth.

Jim provided an update that 38 students have math textbooks in braille. Of the 38, one student is using materials in UEB (math), two are using textbooks in Nemeth, and 35 are using textbooks that use a combination of English Braille American Edition and Nemeth.

Challenges specific to UEB (math) in Colorado and across the country include: The PARCC English Language Arts test will be offered in EBAE for the spring 2016 administration. The PARCC Math test will be offered in Nemeth for the spring 2016 administration. Colorado currently has one student who will need an UEB version of the ELA test for the spring 2016 administration. There is currently not a UEB math transcriber course. We first need certified transcribers in UEB math in order to have math textbooks in UEB.

Colorado State Plan for UEB Implementation

Time was spent reviewing the UEB Transition Plans of 18 states. These plans can be found on the BANA website. Recommendations were given to Tanni specific to what should be included in a Colorado UEB Implementation Plan. A draft version will be sent first to VC members for input. It will need to go through internal and external CDE vetting processes before being finalized.

Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) Products

Jamie brought ECC materials that the School for the Blind has been using with their students. In 6th period of each day, all students are in an ECC class. It has been very successful and will continue to be a work in progress with how the course can be expanded in the future. Jamie shared a curriculum called Empowered (\$75) that is published through the Texas School for the Blind. It is used with the CSDB Self-Determination Class. This curriculum is designed specifically for students who are blind/visually impaired. All the students have a pre and post-test associated with the class content. The School for the Blind also offers a semester-long social skills class for secondary students. The staff have put together a curriculum map with the resources used for the course. Another resource for the social skills class is from the text Better Together (\$50) written by Linda Hagood and Second STEP teaching materials (skills for social and academic success). All Elementary students are participating in year-long social skill classes. The Assistive Technology class involves a

technology scope and sequence across K-5 grades, 6-8 grades, and 9-12 grades. CSDB also has a Lifelong Sports and Leisure Class – where students come up with fitness goals. The course is designed to address personal goals and is different than the physical education class.

Discussion: *One suggestion was to target specific lesson topics and figure out how to share the information across the state. For example, the lesson could be recorded and then shared with students in other school districts.*

Paula shared information that was recently given to participants attending a ECC session at the Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference. Paula will send the handouts to Tanni for statewide dissemination.

Proposed Budget Projects for School Year 2016-17

Baseline data was collected on proposed projects for the next school year that would be funded through the Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit federal IDEA set aside funds. Proposed ideas include:

CDE ESSU

- ◇ State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment (possible topics were discussed)
- ◇ Low Vision Evaluation Clinics
- ◇ CDE Orientation and Mobility Seminar
- ◇ Braille Competency Testing and Mentor Support
- ◇ Keeping in Touch Newsletter
- ◇ Vision Coalition

CSDB – Blindness

- ◇ CIMC
- ◇ Low Vision Clinics

Ideas for proposed funded project should be shared with Tanni no later than the end of January 2016.



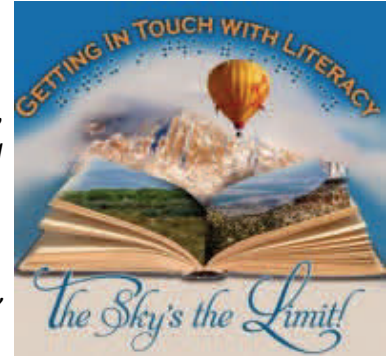
Next Meeting Date:

- February 17, 2016 at the DVR Office



colorado connections

- Colorado was well represented at the 2015 Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference, held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on November 18-21, 2015. In attendance were: **Deb Andrews, Tanni Anthony, Paula Conroy, Kay Ferrell, Diane Fitzkee, Kara Hanson, Julie King, Judy Mumford, Sara Noel, Melissa Shular, and Cathy Smyth.** Tanni Anthony presented on *When All Means Every: Ensuring the Promise of Reading Instruction for Every Child*. Cathy Smyth and Kay Ferrell presented on *Measuring Concept Development in Tactile Learners: Adaptation of the Boehm 3 for Preschoolers*. Kay Ferrell was one of several presenters on the *Prekindergarten Building on Patterns: Lessons Learned* session. Kara Hanson, a colleague at Metro State University, presented with former Coloradoan Loana Mason on *Shifting Paradigms: Turning Nonreaders into Emerging Readers*.



- We are very proud to share that **Dr. Kay Ferrell** was presented the Alan Koenig Research Award at the Friday evening banquet of the Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference. Congratulations, Kay!
- A huge hats off and thank you to **Julie Hunter**, who has been responsible for preparing a monthly edition of e-Connector for parents of children with blindness/visual impairments and others. She has done this for seven years as a part of the many offerings of the Colorado Parents of Blind Children. This publication is retiring for the time being. Thank you so much to Julie for all she has given us through her work with CPBC over the past many years.
- Thank you to everyone for being so responsive with registering for one of the three UEB Refresher Courses or deciding to take the CDE UEB Competency Test. The CDE Braille Committee understands that people are working so hard to be prepared for the next step UEB competency procedures. Your dedication to braille literacy and high professionalism is so deeply valued.
- Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, and thank you to **Brenda Shepard, Nancy Cozart, Julie Wetzstein, Lucia Hasty and Sarah Sonnier** for their continued work on the CDE Braille Competency Committee. The hours behind the scenes to prepare our state for Unified English Braille competency testing is unbelievable. This has involved many weekends already. These ladies are working so hard to ensure we have accurate and fair materials.
- Congratulations to the **Dr. Catherine Greeley-Bennett**, who just successfully defended her dissertation, titled *A Literacy-Based Intervention to Increase The Pretend Play of Young Children with Visual Impairments*. Kitty is a member of the NLCSD-Consortium II group and the daughter of our very own J.C. Greeley!!



*Here's wishing you all a wonderful,
joyous, and restful upcoming break.
See you in the New Year!*

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