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Each One, Teach One

By Tanni Anthony

I begin this school year with recycling and revising a title article that I wrote for our newsletter a few years back. The theme still resonates and it seems like a good way to begin our school year together. Several years back, Wayne and I had the great privilege of making a trip to South Africa where we experienced a visit to Robben Island, the location of the prison where Nelson Mandela was held for 18 of the 27 years he spent behind bars. After his release, the Robben Island Prison was closed, but continues to be a place where visitors can come to learn about that part of South Africa's history. Ours was a somber trip, but with some heartfelt and hopeful discoveries. One of the mottos of the political prisoners at that time, was "each one, teach one." As such, the prisoners set about to ensure that each person could read and write. People came away with an education at the hands of their imprisoned brethren. Some of these individuals went onto be, and still are to this day, political leaders of their country. Education is a powerful tool and "each one, teach one" is a stunning lesson of how the human spirit and life conditions can be lifted with the empowerment of literacy, working together, and attention to the learning needs of each person.

While our conditions are hardly to be compared to prison life, the motto made me think of our work here in Colorado; how hard we work to ensure that all children, should and must be educated with high expectations, with the full access to high quality and effective instruction, and with emphasis on each individual child's right to fully maximized results. Our literacy focus has expanded over recent years to include our children with additional disabilities and we are showing progress in our state accountability measures, and most importantly, with individual children who thrive when given meaningful opportunities to learn. The recent work to ensure our READ Act is accessible to all learners is one example of ensuring all our students have opportunities for literacy instruction. As this new year rolls out, I hope we embrace "Each One, Teach One" as our motto and daily mantra to ensure advocacy for and provision of successful literacy instruction for all.

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

**A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
 of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
 August—September 2016**

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Colorado Resources and Training /Support Activities Specific to Children and Youth who are Blind/Visually Impaired, Their Families and Service Providers for School Year 2016-17

Compiled By Tanni Anthony

State Consultant on Blindness/Visual Impairment, Colorado Department of Education

Legend for Acronyms:

CDE ESSU =	Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit
CIMC =	Colorado Instructional Materials Center
CMAS =	Colorado Measures of Academic Success
COMS =	Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
CSDB =	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
O&M =	Orientation and Mobility
TVI =	Teacher Certified in the area of Visual Impairment

We have an amazing amount of good things happening over the course of the upcoming school year. Colorado is also rich in important resources to support students who are blind/visually impaired, their families, and their early intervention and school service providers. The following resources and activities are not exclusive to all that may be happening across the state in the area of supporting children and youth with blindness/visual impairment, their families, and service providers. If there is a resource or activity that was missed on this list, please be in touch with Dr. Tanni Anthony to post it in future editions of the newsletter.

Adult Role Model Team: The Adult Blind and Visually Impaired Role Model Team's purpose is to provide students who are blind or visually impaired, their parents and teachers the opportunity to meet successful adult role models who are blind and visually impaired. To openly and frankly discuss, from personal experience, topics related to low vision, vision loss and blindness. Team members share their experiences, triumphant and otherwise, on topics ranging from low vision aids and high-tech devices to overcoming denial and when and how to seek support. Discussion topics have included careers, social interaction, drivers' licenses, organizations, resources, orientation/mobility, daily living skills and other topics that are of interest to students and their families. Contact Kristy Murdock at 719-578-2110 or kmurdock@csdb.org for more information.

Anchor Center for Blind Children: This not-for profit organization dedicated to providing early intervention/education to very young (birth through five years) children who are blind and visually impaired throughout Colorado. They have a staff of TVIs trained in early childhood and related service providers including occupational, physical, music, horticulture therapists and a speech pathologist. Anchor Center for Blind Children was founded in 1982 by a librarian from the Colorado Library for the Blind, who saw a need for services for blind and visually impaired children, and the local Delta Gamma Alumnae chapter.



The first group of children included four preschool students and six home bound infants. Today Anchor Center serves more than 400 children and families each year from across the state. For more information about the Anchor Center for Blind Children, contact Executive Director Heather Cameron at info@anchorcenter.org or (303) 377-9732.

Audio Information Network of Colorado: AINC is among the nation's leading resources for individuals who are blind, visually impaired and print-disabled, providing its listeners with free access to recorded programming 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The only service of its kind in Colorado, their services allow registered listeners to access audio programs online, through downloaded podcasts, on TV or over the phone. With recorded content from over 100 newspapers and magazine articles, our statewide programs provide over 1,500 listeners with everything from national news to local news and community events. AINC started two new initiatives this past year focused on serving school-age students, K-12, in schools throughout the State. A parallel initiative serves the Latino/Hispanic population of all ages, again in schools and their homes. AINC now has a 24-7 broadcast in Spanish. This broadcast program stream is certainly unique in Colorado and possibly the United States. Many audio information services provide individual Spanish language programs along with their regular scheduled English language programming. None, however, provide its listeners with an exclusive 24-7 daily program stream of Spanish language programming. AINC is able to provide its audio information services to English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) residents of all ages. For more information, please contact their Boulder office at studio at (303) 786-7777 or 1-877-443-2001 (toll free).

Braille Competency Certification: Funds have been reserved for five braille proctors (Nancy Cozart, Christine Maynard, Brenda Shepard, Sarah Sonnier, and Julie Wetzstein) to provide opportunities to TVIs / Braillists to take the Colorado Braille Competency Test and/or the 15+ clock-hours of CDE established renewal modules. All CDE Braille competency test products are now in the Unified English Braille Code.



Care must be taken to spread out the completion of the modules over the five-year-renewal period so that competency can be truly demonstrated across a period of five years. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681. For information about braille competency testing and renewal requirements, please go to the CDE webpage at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Vision_GuideDocs.asp.

Braille and Large Print Format Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) Test Review: A handful of our TVIs had the opportunity to meet with the CDE Unit of Student Assessment and the CMAS publisher in school year 2015-16 to review the large print and braille CMAS tests in the area of Science and Social Studies. There will be continued work specific to these tests. For details, contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

BELL Program: The Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Program is sponsored by the National Federation for the Blind and offered in our state. The CO NFB has been instrumental in hosting summer braille programs for the past several years. This past summer Michelle Chacon and Kaitlin Lombardi led the program. The exact plans for the CO BELL Program for Summer 2017 have yet to be defined. As information is forthcoming, it will be posted in future editions of the *Keeping in Touch* (KIT) Newsletter.

Braillist listserv: This listserv is exclusively for school braillists working in Colorado administrative units. It is a venue for braillists to share information, ask questions, and gather information. Persons wishing to be added to the listserv should contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Braille Transcriber Mentor Project: The Braille Transcribers Mentor Project is for experienced Library of Congress (LOC) certified braillists to mentor new braille transcribers who are working on their LOC certification. Arrangements will be made to pay the mentor for his or her time. For more information, contact Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org or (719) 578-2195.

Cane Quest: The Cane Quest seeks to motivate youth who are blind and visually impaired to practice proper safe travel techniques and overall orientation and mobility skills. It's designed to promote a student's confidence in any surrounding and build true mobility independence. The contest will be held at CSDB on September 27, 2016. For more information, contact Frank Militello at fmilitello@CSDB.ORG or Lisa VanDam at lvandam@csdb.org

CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment: The key professional development activity for TVIs during this school year will be offered on September 29- October 1, 2016. We will begin the conference with a *Resource Night* on Thursday, September 29th. A full-day training on the *Revised Learning Media Assessment* will be offered Friday, September 30th with Dr. Cay Holbrook. The full-day Saturday session will feature Rachel Schles, who will present on *Student Portfolios and Project Based Learning: An Approach for Implementing Meaningful Instruction in the Expanded Core Curriculum*. The training will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Denver. Registration details have been disseminated. There are no registration costs for these training sessions, but participants must be approved for attendance based space availability. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Colorado Center for the Blind Summer Activities: Throughout the school year and over the summer, the CCB offers learning and recreation programs to students who are blind/visually impaired. For more information, please contact Brent Batron at bbatron@cocenter.org or (303) 778-1130 x 222.

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC): Housed on the campus of CSDB, the role of the CIMC is to provide braille and large print textbooks and serve as a repository for APH educational materials for all Colorado school-age students through 12th grade who are blind/visually impaired. The CIMC also houses a lending library of professional materials for access by TVIs. For CIMC questions or assistance, contact CIMC staff at (719) 579-2196 or Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org. CIMC webpage: www.csdb.org; click on "Programs and Services," "Outreach," then "CIMC."

Colorado Talking Book Library: For people who can't read standard print, the CTBL provides free audio, Braille and large print books keeping you connected to reading, stories and adventure. Books and magazines go through the mail postage paid. Audio and braille books are available for download through the BARD mobile app for either iOS or Android. For more information, contact the library via email at ctbl.info@cde.state.co.us or by phone toll free at 1-800-685-2136.

CIMC Brailist Scholarships: The CIMC has a scholarship fund to assist braillists from Colorado with their registration fees to attend the annual National Braille Association (NBA) Professional Development Conference. Scholarship recipients are asked to share the conference information with other Colorado braillists. Conference information is posted at www.nationalbraille.org. For more information, contact Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org or (719) 578-2195.

Colorado O&M Seminar: This training is co-sponsored by CDE and CAER. It is reserved for Colorado Certified O&M Mobility Specialists (COMSs). This year's seminar will be offered on May 4-6, 2017. We will kick it off with a make-up session! Diane Brauner has agreed to offer the training day that we missed last school year due to the blizzard. She will present all day on May 4th on the topic of *Auditory Object Perception*. Then in alternating full-day sessions on Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6th, Diane Brauner and Ed Summers will train on the topic of *Hi-Tech O&M*. They will work with half the group on Friday and half the group on Saturday in a combination of indoor lecture and outdoor exploration. The details of the second alternating program are being finalized. The site for the training has yet to be finalized. The contact person for this training Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

CSDB Internship Placements: CSDB offers an educational setting with a diverse student population for university students completing their graduate training in vision to obtain internship or student teaching credits. Contact: Carol Hilty, CSDB Superintendent, at chilty@csdb.org or (719) 578-2102.

CSDB Lending Library: The library provides materials and information in a variety of formats for students who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired, as well as their parents and service providers. Most items may be borrowed the library's community use form. The libraries are open Monday—Friday during the school year from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call before coming in person to either library. For more information, please refer to the CSDB website at www.csdb.org

CSDB Summer Enrichment Program: Each summer programs are offered for middle school students who are blind/visually impaired across the state. The programs focus on Braille/O&M/ independent living, social relationships, and recreational activities. For more information, contact Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org or (719) 578-2251.

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project (also called the Colorado Deafblind Project): The project will be entering its fourth year of the current five year grant cycle. There are currently 136 children and youth, age birth through 21 years, who have combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness) in Colorado. Free technical assistance is provided the families and service providers of children and youth with combined vision and hearing loss (deafblindness). The project hosts an annual Summer Institute, which focuses key assessment and intervention / instructional strategies for children and youth who are deafblind and/or who have significant support needs.

The project website has over 100 fact sheets (in English and Spanish) on information specific to deafblindness. The library is open to parents and professionals and is stocked with great resources, including about 100 items specific to visual impairment. The library's inventory is listed on the website, where there also is a downloadable book-loan order form. For more information about the CO Deafblind Project's free technical assistance services, contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681, Gina Herrera at Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6605 and/or go the project's continually updated webpage: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-DB.asp>



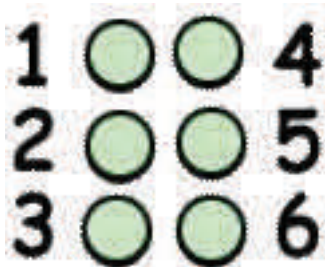
CO TVI COMS listserv: This listserv is exclusively for Colorado TVIs and COMSs working in Colorado administrative units. It is a venue for professionals to share information, ask questions, and gather information. Persons wishing to be added to the listserv should contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Family Literacy Packs: Each Family Literacy Pack contains several books (braille and print) along with a Video or DVD of each story and several Activity Kits placed in a colorful child's backpack. Students keep the items they make and return the extra materials with the backpack. Activities may include a game, a song, or an activity and can be enjoyed by the whole family. The packs are available for TVIs to check out by contacting familylitpacks@csdb.org

Foresight Ski Guides: Foresight Ski Guides served upwards of 50 students with visual disabilities from more than five Colorado school districts during the 2015-16 ski season in Vail and Beaver Creek. Students came with school groups and their TVI's while others came with their parents and families. Every student learned how to ski and how to be guided by our expert guides. Foresight Ski Guides can partner with TVI's, districts 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. Coming this fall – How work with Foresight Ski Guides may qualify as a tool in your IEP Toolbox. Stay tuned or contact Foresight at (303) 506-6965 email us at foresightskiguides@gmail.com>. You can also follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and visit their website at foresightskiguides.org>

Keeping in Touch (KIT) Newsletter: This newsletter started about 20-plus years ago when folks across the state talked about a lack of communication continuity. It has mostly been a labor of love internal to CDE, but there are some great folks who actively contribute to the newsletters over the course of the year. Please consider being one of them – there is always room to boast about the accomplishments of a colleague, post an announcement, or to share an article. The newsletter is sent out to CO parents of children and youth who are blind/visually impaired, TVIs, COMS, brailleists, and VI paraeducators. It is also posted on the CDE Blindness/ Low Vision website for others to download. The following editions are planned for this school year: August / September 2016, October 2016, November / December 2016, January / February 2017, March / April 2017, and May 2017. For more information, please contact Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: The Low Vision Evaluation Team is once again funded for five regional clinics. The clinic team consists of an optometrist specializing in low vision services (Dr. Tom Theune), a certified low vision therapist / TVI (Jim Olson), certified low vision therapist (Wendy Stoltman), and a Clinic Coordinator (Debbie Haberkorn). The dates of the 2016-17 clinics will be posted in the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter, as are the local site coordinators for each clinic (who have the clinic paperwork). For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.



National Braille Challenge: The Braille Challenge is the only academic competition, for students who are blind or visually impaired in the United States and Canada. The Braille Challenge was developed by the Braille Institute of America to encourage children of all ages to fine-tune their braille skills. At the daylong regional event, students who are ages 6-19 years will compete in five challenging categories requiring them to read braille and type braille using a Perkins Braille. Braille skills will be tested in several categories – reading comprehension, braille spelling, chart and graph reading, proof-reading and braille speed and accuracy. The Colorado Braille Challenge is co-sponsored

by the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and the Colorado Center for the Blind. Regional prize sponsors include Humanware, National Braille Press and Seedlings Braille Books for Children. Please visit www.brailleinstitute.org for additional information about the National Braille Challenge.

The Colorado Braille Challenge regional contest will be held at CSDB on January 19th and at the Colorado Center for the Blind on January 26, 2017. Students may also compete individually in their home school with their TVI administering the tests. For more information, about the CSDB day, contact Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org. For more information about the day at the Colorado Center for the Blind, please contact Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org or (719) 578-2225.

Psychological Assessments and Consultation: Psychological assessments (cognitive and social emotional) provided to school districts to assist school districts in developing appropriate educational services and supports for students with vision losses. There is a fee for this service. Contact Kristy Murdock at 719-578-2110 or kmurdock@csdb.org for more information.

Sensory Safari: This event is in collaboration with the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs. It involves a special day for students with visual impairments – there is time to touch, hear, smell, and smell the exhibits! The event will take place in early Spring 2017. The contact person is Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org or (719) 330-7387.

Student Activities Mini-Grant Funds: To achieve the goal of supporting students with vision impairment coming together for social and recreational opportunities, the CSDB Outreach program offers some funding for school districts and BOCES staff who want to offer Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) activities for their students in these areas. For more information, please contact Kristy Murdock at 719-578-2110 or kmurdock@csdb.org for more information. A mini-grant request form is also provided on the CSDB website.

TVI Mentor Project: The goal is to provide mentoring assistance to students enrolled in the UNC Visual Impairment Program, as well as new TVIs and/or COMSs in Colorado administrative units. Each participant will be paired with a mentor teacher currently working in Colorado. Mentors will receive a stipend for their time and commitment to mentoring over a full school year. In addition the CDE ESSU will fund up to ten mentor sessions for TVIs who need tune-ups with the Unified English Braille code (specific to braille competency testing) to prepare for the second-round of state braille competency testing. If you would like to be a mentor or would like to have a mentor, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

United English Braille (UEB) Listserv: This listserv is exclusively for TVIs and school braillists working in Colorado administrative units. It is a venue for professionals to share information, ask questions, and gather information about the Unified English Braille Code. Persons wishing to be added to the listserv should contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

United States Association of Blind Athletes: USABA is a Colorado-based 501(c) (3) organization that provides life-enriching sports opportunities for every individual with a visual impairment. A member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, USABA provides athletic opportunities in various sports including, but not limited to track and field, nordic and alpine skiing, biathlon, judo, wrestling, swimming, tandem cycling, powerlifting and goalball (a team sport for the blind and visually impaired). For activities specific to Colorado outreach activities, please contact Kevin Brouard at kbrouard@usaba.org or by phone at (719) 866-3019.

University of Northern Colorado – Visual Impairment Program: The Master of Arts in Special Education Visual Impairment Emphasis is designed to prepare teachers who will work with students who are visually impaired. The program consists of the required courses and practicum requirements agreed upon by the student and advisor. Students entering the Master of Arts program in Special Education: Visual Impairment without a current teacher licensure are required to complete additional course requirements listed under Professional Teacher Education. Students may complete licensure and degree requirements in a minimum of 42 credits if they desire licensure of education of students with visual impairments only. For more information, contact Dr. Paula Conroy at paula.conroy@unco.edu or (970) 351-1651.

Vision Coalition Network: The Vision Coalition Network is a statewide advisory committee on the educational activities for students who are blind/visually impaired, support activities for their parents, and professional development activities specific to their service providers. Members include: Deb Andrews (Southern Region), Tanni Anthony (CDE ESSU), Dan Burke (CO Center for the Blind), Lorraine Chevarria, (Anchor Center for Blind Children), Paula Conroy (UNC), Nancy Cozart (Metro region), LaVerne Dell (Vocational Rehabilitation), TBD (Northern region), Jamie Lugo (School for the Blind– CSDB), Jim Olson (CIMC), Sara Noel (CSDB BVI Outreach), and Angela Sims (Western region), and The VCN meets three times a school year. For information, contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

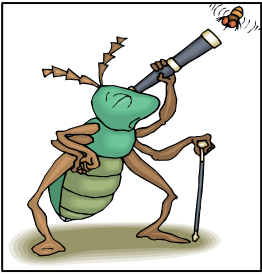


Work in China

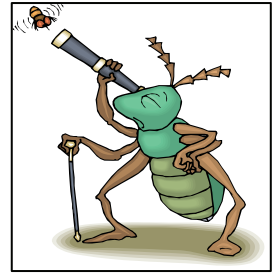
Four of our wonderful TVIs were in China from July 1-12, 2016. The team included Barb Galgano, Elaine Karns, Christina Martin, and Tina Martin.

They worked with Bethel China- they provide foster care, education and training for orphans who are blind or low vision. They visited the foster homes in Zhengzhou and Doudian, which are on the outskirts of Beijing. They also presented two days of trainings for families of blind children in Beijing. Tina Martin has been working with this group since 2009.





LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Region	Dates	Paperwork Due	Site Coordinator
Western Region	September 23 – 24, 2016	September 8, 2016	Angela Sims
Southern Region 1	November 4, 2016	October 20, 2016	Wendy Unwin Watson
Northern Region	November 18-19, 2016	November 3, 2016	Christina Martin
Southern Region 2	TBD	TBD	Wendy Unwin Watson
Metro Region	February 22-24, 2016	January 30, 2017	Nancy Knight

* **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 man- *

* ner. 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* *



Lions Clubs International

Essay Contest Rules

The contest is open to students who are considered visually impaired according to their national guidelines and will be 11, 12 or 13 years of age on November 15, 2016. One grand prize winner will receive an award and US\$5,000.

The contest theme is "A Celebration of Peace."

- Only a Lions club can sponsor the contest. The contest may be sponsored in a local school(s) or organized, sponsored youth group(s), or individuals may be sponsored as well. *A Lioness club can sponsor the contest through its sponsoring Lions club.*
- Essays must be no longer than 500 words in length, submitted in English, type-written in black ink and double-spaced.
- Each essay must be submitted with a completed entry form. Essays submitted without completed entry forms will be automatically disqualified.
- Only one entry per student per year, and each entry must be the work of only one student.
- Essay entries cannot have already been published.
- Any essays found to be plagiarized will be automatically disqualified and the student will be prohibited from entering any future Lions competitions.

Deadlines

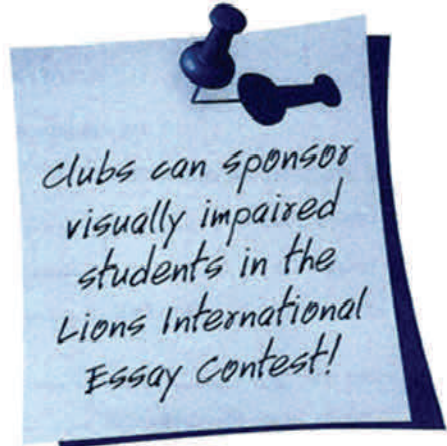
November 15 Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning essay to the district governor. *Note: A participating club should notify its district governor in advance of sending an entry.*

December 1 Postmark deadline for a club not belonging to a district to send one winning entry directly to the Public Relations Division at Lions Clubs International.

December 1 Postmark deadline for a district to send one winning essay to the multiple district council chairperson is December 1. A district not belonging to a multiple district must send its entries directly to the Public Relations Division at Lions Clubs International (postmarked by December 1).

December 15 Postmark deadline for a multiple district to send one winning essay to the Public Relations Division at Lions Clubs International.

February 1 International grand prize winner will be notified on or before this date.



Mailing address: Essay Contest, Public Relations Division, Lions Clubs International, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842; fax at 630-571-1685; or e-mail to pr@lionsclubs.org (the words "Lions Essay Contest" must appear in the Subject Line of the e-mail).

Participants accept all responsibility for late, lost, misdirected or illegible entries. Entries sent with insufficient postage will be disqualified. Entries cannot be acknowledged or returned; they become property of Lions Clubs International upon receipt. Essays cannot be published without written permission from Lions Clubs International. However, sponsoring clubs, districts and multiple districts have permission to publish their sponsored essays.

In consideration for the opportunity to enter the Lions International Essay Contest, participants agree to allow Lions Clubs International to use their names, photographs and essays for promotional and publicity purposes. An international grand-prize winner is not eligible to receive subsequent prizes in future Lions International Essay Contests. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges and Lions Clubs International.

Lions Clubs International may cancel the contest without notice at any time. The contest is void where prohibited, taxed or restricted by law.

Please note that all participants will need to complete a Lions Essay Application. The application will need to accompany the essay. For more information, contact pr@lionsclub.org

Resources and Materials

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind (CSDB) Outreach Programs and Services

Mailing Address: CIMC, 1015 East High Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3559

Website:

www.csdb.org Click on “Programs and Services” then “CIMC”

Email Accounts:

cimregistrations@csdb.org Use to submit “Registration” and “Exit” forms for the CDE statewide registration database & to register students with the Federal Quota Census

cimceyereports@csdb.org Use for submission of encrypted eye health exams

cimcaphorders@csdb.org Use for “APH order form” submissions & questions

cimcbookorders@csdb.org Use for braille & large print book sourcing inquiries, questions & orders

cimcbrailers@csdb.org Use for “braille request” & “braille repair” form submissions & questions

Phone Numbers:

CIMC pilot phone number This rings all computer-based Skype for Business phones simultaneously. You can not leave a voicemail message at this number.
Phone: (719) 578-2196

Jim Olson CIMC Coordinator, contact for questions concerning Federal Quota eligibility, APH products
Phone: (719) 578-2195
Email: jolson@csdb.org

Debbie Haberkorn Contact for questions concerning ordering books, Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic
Phone: (719) 578-2197
Email: dhaberkorn@csdb.org

Laurie Taylor Contact for questions concerning shipping & receiving, braille orders, APH orders, technology orders
Phone: (719) 578-2198
Email: ltaylor@csdb.org

CIMC Updates:

- NEW email accounts: At your request, we have added two new email accounts to streamline the process of keeping your school district’s data accurate regarding the statewide CDE count of all registered students in Colorado with visual impairment, including blindness.

cimregistrations@csdb.org Submit “Registration” and “Exit” forms, along with accompanying eye health reports verifying eligibility status of “Meets the Definition of Blindness (MDB)” and “Functions at the Definition of Blindness (FDB)”

cimceyereports@csdb.org Submit updated eye reports to this address.

Resources and Materials

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

(continued)

Your Responsibilities:

- When emailing the CIMC, you need to encrypt all emails, order forms, etc. containing personally identifiable **Book Orders:** As of August 15, 2016, the CIMC is happy to report that 92% of book orders received to date have been shipped to administrative units as completed transcriptions (the entire book) or partial transcriptions (production is in progress to match the classroom syllabus submitted by the TVI).
- When a textbook is shipped to a school district, Laurie Taylor emails the district with the following message:

“Please respond with an email confirming receipt of the shipment within 5 business days. If the shipment has not been received please email us at cimcbookorders@csdb.org. Failure to respond within 5 business days may result in your District/Administrative Unit being responsible for the cost of replacement of all or part of the book.”

We are asking school districts to increase their compliance with this request. This is one way we ensure that a district has received all of the volumes of a given book. It is important to comply with this request so that your district is not charged the replacement cost of missing volumes. This helps both the CIMC and the school district verify a book has been delivered.

- You must mail ink print copies of textbooks requested for production purposes in their own, individual, shipment. You must pay postage – ink print books cannot be shipped “Free Matter”.
- When you submit a book order to cimcbookorders@csdb.org, you will receive a response from Debbie Haberkorn verifying receipt of your order. If you do not receive an email, that means we have not received your order. We are asking you to contact us immediately if you do not receive a confirmation email.
- Please remember your book order is not considered completely submitted until we have received an ink print copy of the textbook (if we request it). We only request ink prints for new transcription projects.
- Please call us if you have questions about the products and services we can provide school districts and their students with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness. (719) 578-2196.



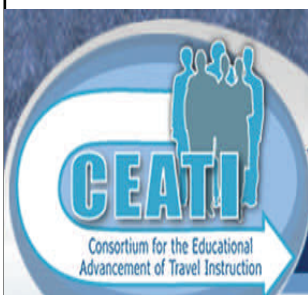
ORIENTATION & MOBILITY

CDE Licensure Requirement for O&M Specialists

If you are working in a Colorado administrative unit as a School Orientation and Mobility Specialist, please know that you **MUST** have a current CDE license as a special services provider: School O&M Specialist.

If you do not have this license, your scope of O and M services should be severely restricted to those skills that could already be taught by a TVI. Without this license, you are placing yourself and your AU at risk for O&M-related liability. There is no temporary or emergency licenses for School O&M Specialists.

Questions or need some assistance – contact Tanni separately at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us



CEATI Travel Instruction Conference

Please consider attending the CEATI Travel Instruction Conference on October 21-22, 2016 in Las Vegas, NV. Many of the speakers are leaders in the fields of O&M and Travel Instruction. CEATI is a RPPE provider, so COMSs can earn ACVREP credits.

Registration information is on the Save the Date below and on the CEATI website

<http://www.ceati-travelinstruction.org>

Cane Quest at CSDB—Time Dated Information

The Cane Quest seeks to motivate youth who are blind and visually impaired to practice proper safe travel techniques and overall orientation and mobility skills. It's designed to promote a student's confidence in any surrounding and build true mobility independence. The contest will be held at CSDB on September 27, 2016.

Cane Quest, a program of Braille Institute, is open to visually impaired students in grades 3-6 who have received instruction in the use of the white cane, and who are both cognitively and physically able to walk independently for an hour at a time. A student should be familiar with the skills on the checklist, but does not have to have mastered all of them. A student's visual acuity must fall within the B1 through B2 classification range as defined by the United States Association of Blind Athletes.

- ✓ **Class B1** - No light perception in either eye up to light perception, but inability to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.
- **Class B2** - From ability to recognize the shape of a hand up to visual acuity of 20/600 and/or a visual field of less than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction. Students must use a white cane for this contest, and must wear closed-toe shoes. Cane Quest will be held rain or shine, but will be postponed or cancelled due to lightning. Students will complete the course in partnership with a parent or other sighted volunteer, who will be under blindfold for sections of the route. All participants will be monitored at all times throughout the route. The route will be an "obstacle course" type challenge, and will be located entirely on the **CSDB** campus. Features may include sighted guide, sound localization, traveling a variety of specific routes, and reversal of routes. All contestants will receive a certificate of participation and earn prizes/treats as they successfully navigate the route.

For more information, contact Frank Militello at fmilitello@CSDB.ORG or Lisa VanDam at lvandam@csdb.org



**16th International
Mobility Conference**
'Transitions; moving on, moving out'
www.imc16.com

Cortical Visual Impairment and Other Training Events are Open

Fall Registration is Now Open!

[Register Online](#)



"One the most up-to-date and professional courses I've ever attended. It is research based, has very useful tools to use and has really improved my confidence in this area." — Jeremy

Registration is now open for Fall session of [Cortical Visual Impairment \(CVI\)](#) with Dr. Christine Roman! This online class runs from **October 10 – December 4**.

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.

Participants can also earn [CVI: The Basics](#) micro-credential upon successful completion of the course.

Dr. Roman will also be in person for a 2-day onsite training on [Assessing and Supporting the Student in Phase 3 CVI](#) on March 10 to March 11, 2017!

Visit our [CVI Series](#) page for more training on CVI topics. For more information, to pay by Purchase Order, or to register a group of three or more, email Perkins eLearning at perkins.elearning@Perkins.org, or call 617.972.7841

[Multimedia Accessibility in the Digital Classroom](#)

Sep 12 – Nov 6 — Dr. Yue-Ting Siu.

Early bird expire has expired.

This course will address current tools to access multimedia content, and ways to integrate technology into a student's workflow in the classroom.

[Register for Multimedia](#)

[Bookshare in Depth](#)

Oct 3 – Nov 6 — Karen Narvol.

*Early bird expires on **September 19th**.*

The workshop teaches participants how to use Bookshare resources and tools so that teachers can provide timely access to textbooks and print materials.

[Register for Bookshare](#)

[Teaching Social Skills to Students Who Are Visually Impaired](#)

Oct 10 – Dec 4 — Dr. Sharon Sacks.

*Early bird expires on **September 26th**.*

Learners will be introduced to assessment and instructional strategies for teaching social skills to students with visual impairments.

[Register for Social Skills](#)

NEW! [Sensorimotor](#)

Oct 17 – Nov 27 — Nathalie de Wit.

*Early bird expires on **October 3rd**.*

Participants will learn about Sensorimotor Stage of Development, the Van Dijk Approach, levels of learning in the Sensory Learning Kit and more.

[Register for Sensorimotor](#)



Licensure Requirements for TVI and COMS

Colorado Initial Licensure in the Endorsement Area of Visual Impairment

For information about Colorado licensing requirements in the area of Special Education Specialist: Visual Impairment and/or School Orientation and Mobility Specialist, please refer to the information contained within Educator Licensing's Endorsement Requirements page at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>

All candidates for initial educator licenses in Colorado have historically been required to take and pass one or more of the PLACE Content Assessments. Candidates for the special education endorsement in Special Education Specialist: Visual Impairment were mandated previously to pass the *PLACE Educator Content Assessment for Special Education Specialist: Severe Needs – Visually Impaired*. This test had a short section to assess braille competency in English Braille American Edition. This particular content assessment is suspended currently as a licensure requirement. Whether this specific test will be revised to include a section specific to Unified English Braille or is fully replaced with another test as a licensure requirement is yet to be determined.

At this time, it is important to note there is not a Professional Services and Educator Licensing Unit content test that requires a candidate for the Special Education Specialist: Visual Impairment to demonstrate braille competency as a requirement of licensure. It is further important to note that if such a content test is reinstated, it does not replace the Colorado Braille Competency Test administered through the Exceptional Student Services Unit. This latter test is not tied to licensure.

New Online Learning Opportunity - Multi-Tiered System of Supports Family, School, and Community Partnering Implementation Guide

The Colorado Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services Unit and the Office of Learning Supports are sharing the following information about a new self-directed online learning opportunity for all education stakeholders. The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Family, School, and Community Partnering (FSCP) Implementation Guide – Supporting Every Student's Learning is now available at

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/mtssfscp_implementationguide.

The Guide is a revision of the 2009 Response to Intervention (RtI) Family & Community Partnering "On the Team and At the Table" Toolkit and incorporates participant feedback from trainings, presentations and online courses. It focuses specifically on the preschool through high school years, including secondary transition for students with disabilities. The content is sequenced into three steps and includes articles, slides, adaptable tools, video links, resources, and activities – all based on adult learning principles. The central focus is on partnering to improve student academic and behavioral learning. Numerous materials are also available in Spanish.




Calendar of Events

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

- September 7-10** **Envision Conference, Denver, CO**
 Contact: <http://www.envisionconference.org/>
- September 23-24** **Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic—Grand Junction**
 Contact: Angela Sims - Angela.Sims@d51schools.org
- September 27** **Cane Quest at CSDB**
 Contact: Frank Militello at fmilitello@CSDB.ORG or Lisa VanDam at lvandam@csdb.org
- September 29** **Vision Coalition—Anchor Center for Blind Children**
 Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- Sept 29-Oct 1** **CDE State Conference on Blindness / Visual Impairment—Denver**
 Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- October 14** **Parent Camp: Improving Literacy Outcomes, Washington, DC**
 For more information, contact: Vicki Myers at vicki.myers@ed.gov
- October 15** **White Cane Day**
- October 27-30** **NFB of Colorado State Convention - Denver**
 Contact: <http://www.nfbco.org/nfbco-state-convention-review>
- October 21-22** **CEATI Travel Instruction Conference, Las Vega, NV**
 For more information, please visit: <http://www.ceati-travelinstruction.org>
- October 27-29** **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conference, Vail, CO**
 For more information, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp>
- November 4** **Southern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic 1— CSDB Lyons Building**
 Contact: Wendy Unwin Watson at wwatson@ppboces.org
- November 18-19** **Northern Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic— Fort Collins**
 Contact: Christina Martin at christinam@psdschools.org

- January 19** **National Braille Challenge** - on campus of CSDB
Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org
- January 26** **National Braille Challenge** - at the Colorado Center for the Blind
Contact: Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org
- February 9-10** **PEAK Parents Center's** - Inclusive Education Conference, Colorado Springs, CO
Contact: Pam Christy pchristy@peakparent.org
- February 22-24** **Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic**
Contact: Nancy Knight at nknight@lps.k12.co.us
- March 2-4** **American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference**, Washington, DC
Contact: <http://www.afb.org/info/about-us/events-and-awards/american-foundation>
- April 19-22** **Council for Exceptional Children Convention & Expo**, Boston, MA
Contact: <http://www.ceconvention.org/>
- May 5-6** **CDE O&M Seminar**—TBD
Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- June 14-16** **Western Region Early Intervention Conference** – Scottsdale, AZ
Contact: Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
- June 26-30** **16th international Mobility Conference**

- February 8-9** **PEAK Parents Center's** - Inclusive Education Conference—Colorado Springs, CO
Contact: Pam Christy pchristy@peakparent.org
- July 25-29** **AER International Conference 2018**—Peppermill Resort, Reno NV
Contact: www.aerbvi.org





SAVE THE DATE!

Western Regional Early Intervention Conference – Summer Summit “Engagement through Healthy Partnerships”

June 14-16, 2017

FireSky Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona

The Western Regional Early Intervention Conference (WREIC) is designed to support professionals working with, and families of, children birth to five years old who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deafblind.

WREIC has been in place for over 30 years, making it one of the longest running, ongoing early intervention conferences in the country.

June 14, 2017 – PRE-CONFERENCE FULL-DAY PROGRAMS

- Cerebral Visual Impairment: Guide to Optimum Assessment, Intervention, and Daily Living for Children and Families
Presenters: Drs. Amanda Lueck and James Dutton
- Deaf Plus - The Mystery and the Magic: Perspectives of a Developmental Pediatrician and a Parent
Presenters: Dr. Susan Wiley and Djenne Amal Morris

June 15 & 16, 2017 – CONFERENCE SESSIONS will include but are not limited to:

- Assessment of Cerebral Visual Impairment
- Expanded Core Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers with Visual Impairment
- Orientation and Mobility Assessment for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairment
- Mealtime Routines for Infants and Toddlers Who are Visually Impaired
- Babies Count: First Year Results
- Self-Determination for Children Who Are Deafblind
- Embracing the Whole Deaf and Hard of Hearing Child
- Early ASL Development for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Infants and Toddlers
- Early Listening and Spoken Language Development in Deaf/HH Infants and Toddlers
- National Early Intervention Research and Outcomes on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Serve and Return Strategies for Developing Spoken Language with the Itty Bittys
- The Latest Research Findings Related to the Zika Virus

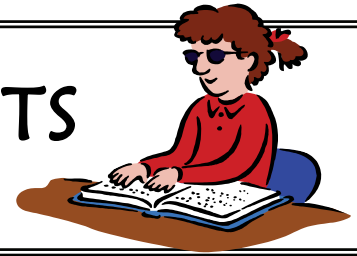
Extend your stay to make it a family vacation!

Enjoy some of the beautiful things to see and do in the gorgeous state of Arizona, from golf in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area, to the Grand Canyon or Sedona further north, to the Biosphere or Saguaro National Park near Tucson, to Colossal Cave or Tombstone in southern Arizona.

The hotel is offering the conference room rate for three days before and/or after the conference. Be watching for more information in the KIT specific to the conference website and registration.



CONNECTING THE DOTS



American Printing House
for the Blind, Inc.

APH is proud to partner with
the Dolly Parton Imagination
Library to share the joy of
reading!

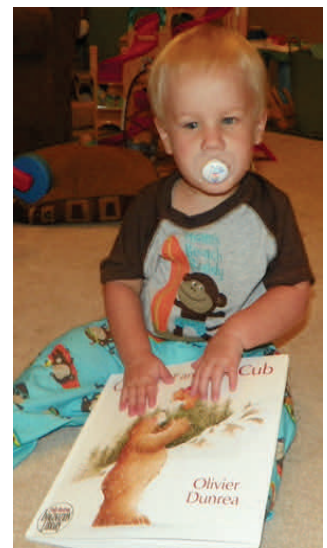
The American Printing House for the Blind is seeking applicants for its free print-braille children’s book program, Braille Tales. Braille Tales collaborates with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and the Kentucky Correctional Institute to mail 6 print-braille books a year to families with a child and/or a parent with a visual impairment.

Braille Tales is designed specifically for blind preschool children (age 0-5) and their families to foster early literacy and familiarity with braille. The program brings accessible, age-appropriate books into the homes of children who might not otherwise experience braille until they begin school. In a survey administered one year after starting the program, one parent wrote, **“My child has become an independent reader.** She is getting more acquainted with braille and is reading closer to grade level because of her home access to braille books from Braille Tales!”

Families may apply online or print out the application to mail. The program application can be found at <http://www.aph.org/dolly-partons-imagination-library/apply/>

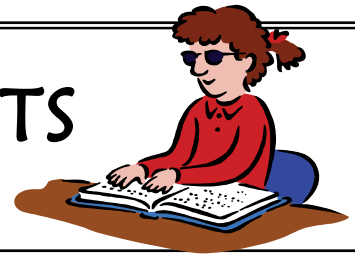
For more information contact:

Hannah Ozmun
Braille Tales Program Coordinator
AmeriCorps VISTA
502-899-2387





CONNECTING THE DOTS



UEB Update in Colorado

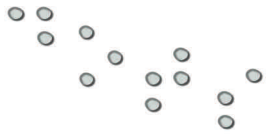
By Tanni Anthony

What a difference two years can make! We started down a training path in October 2014 with two great ladies from Canada who provided our first formal training on the Unified English Braille Code. Thanks to **Beth Conley-Edwards** and **Shirley Caren** for bringing their expertise to Colorado. A handful of personnel continued the journey in January 2015 with a four-day intensive course on Technical UEB with another pair from Canada, UEB pioneer women **Darleen Bogart** and **Phyllis Landon**. A state UEB listserv was born and remains active in our state as a way to post "how do you do's?" and "how to responses."

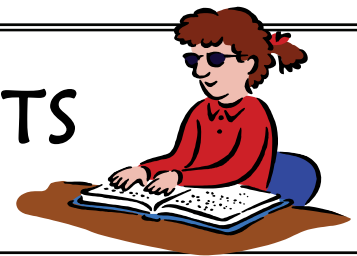
We began braille instruction in UEB for all of Colorado braille readers, but with a singular focus with our youngest learners. The results are paying off. In Spring 2016, two Colorado students took their PARCC English Language Arts state test in UEB format. The expectation for more students taking their state assessments in UEB continues. Our CIMC has been working to ensure new textbooks are ordered in UEB format (Literary).

Last school year we also pulled the expertise of **Lisa Brocard**, **Nancy Cozart**, **Lucia Hasty**, **Chris Maynard**, **Brenda Shepard**, and **Julie Wetzstein** to develop new and revised existing training and testing products in to offer three UEB Refresher Courses and to offer proctored sessions for initial braille competency testing and renewal modules. In between it all was lots and lots of grading of materials, some customized mentoring, preparation of certificates, and letters mailed to test candidates, special education directors, supervisors, and Human Resource Directors.

So where do we stand with our statewide braille competency status? We are in great shape! The vast majority of our EBAE-braille competent veteran TVIs or braillists have now successfully completed the UEB Refresher Course or testing exercises. The goal for all veteran TVIs to demonstrate braille competency by May 31, 2016, but no later than the start of this new school year in their respective administrative units. We even had a few people on the docket to retire step up to the plate! Congratulations and applause to the following individuals: **Rita Albright**, **Gena Anderson**, **Janet Anderson**, **Deb Andrews**, **Kerry Auld**, **Sherry Bainbridge**, **Suzan Barlow**, **Kyle Berns**, **Lisa Brocard**, **Elaine Brown**, **Linda Campbell**, **Melinda Carter**, **Michelle Chacon**, **Mary Chambers**, **Peg Collins**, **Paula Conroy**, **Nancy Cozart**, **Meghan Crosby**, **Loel Decker**, **Elsa D'Angelo**, **Angel Findler**, **Diane Fitzkee**, **Barb Galgano**, **Kathy Gallina**, **Taryn Galow**, **David Gooldy**, **Jasmine Gomez**, **Amy Gunning**, **Jessica Hank**, **Karin Hensel**, **Melinda Holtz**, **Abby Horner**, **Ashley Ives**, **Charlotte Javier**, **Ann Johnson**, **Amber Rundle Kahn**, **Elaine Karns**, **Donna Keale**, **Erin Keller**, **Erin Kerr**, **Julie King**, **Nancy Knight**, **Paula LaBossiere**, **Jeannie Lei**, **Cheryl Leidich**, **Kaitlin Lombardi**, **Carol Love**, **Jamie Lugo**, **Brandon Mapes**, **Christina Martin**, **Shannon Martinez**, **Lori Mattick**, **Ingrid Mayer**, **Dian Megarry**, **Kari McIntyre**, **Debbie Mendoza**, **Brooke Miller**, **Shelley Moats**, **Judy Mumford**, **Anitha Muthukumaran**, **Beth Myers**, **Sara Noel**, **Teresa O'Brien**, **Mike Plansker**, **Trina Boyd Pratt**, **Marty Rahn**, **Marci Reid**, **Jordan Robinson**, **Mimi Schaper**, **Wendy Schlageter**, **Brenda Shepard**, **Melissa Shular**, **Edie Smith**, **Val Smith**, **Sarah Sonnier**, **Wendy Stoltman**, **Morgan Turner**, **Wendy Unwin Watson**, **Rebecca Warnell**, **Leslie Kelly-Watrobka**, **Julie Wetzstein**, **Roberta Wiedemeyer**, **Karen Wood**, and **Chloann Woolley**.



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UEB Update in Colorado (continued)

Wow - we are almost on the other side of ensuring that all TVIs and braillists still working in Colorado administrative units who first demonstrated braille competency with the English Braille American Edition Code are now UEB braille competent. A huge thank you for their dedication and excellence in braille.

We are also making progress with UEB Competency Testing for both TVIs and braillists who are new to the Colorado braille competency testing process. A big congratulations to our first people through the first-time UEB testing process: **Tonya Benich, Rajendra Neopanay, Julie Hutchison, and Tabitha Wyatt.**

Thanks also to those people who complete braille renewal modules over the summer months: **Kerry Auld, Brandon Mapes, Shannon Martinez, Marty Rahn, Morgan Turner, and Wendy Unwin Watson.** Congratulations to **Marty Rahn** for earning her CDE Renewal Certificate!

The road ahead for our UEB implementation has been paved with so many contributions of people within our state. We still have work to do with continued braille competency testing, enhanced and supported student instruction, textbooks in UEB, and more discussions on our plans for math. My thanks to everyone for modeling ***YOU BE ALL UEB to WE BE ALL UEB.***

Bell Program Summer 2016

By Kaitlin Lombardi and Michelle Chacon

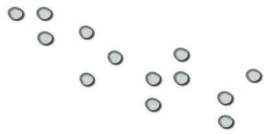
The Colorado NFB BELL Program was held July 25, through July 29 in Colorado Springs. at the YMCA Garden Ranch We had three participants (two were new to the BELL Camp). Also two learners from out of state. Activities included community travel to rock climbing, the tactile exhibit at Colorado Springs Art Museum, Cave of the Winds, and a scavenger hunt in Old Colorado Springs. In addition to being out and about, students worked on UEB, daily living skills, non visual skills, and travel. All the participants had an opportunities to be leaders and help each other out, whether in the community, classroom or pool; each student was an integral part of the program. The students worked on Braille activities, and also participated in daily living skills, as they had to prepare their own lunches. The Braille classes included braille reading activities, Braille writing activities, Technology, and Orientation and Mobility. Other activities included touring the Double Tree Hotel, and riding the RTD bus to a local public swimming pool.

Will Reynolds was a volunteer at the Westminster Camp. We also had other Blind and/or low vision adults who volunteered and served as role models as they helped with the activities

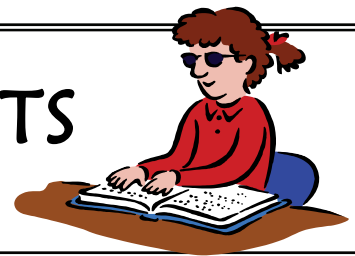
Facebook Page on Interveners and Deafblindness

Please share the [Intervenors and Deafblindness Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/Intervenors-and-Deafblindness-147628748651025/) with families, friends and colleagues. The page is an excellent source of information, photos, videos on Interveners, and the Cogswell-Macy Act which designates intervener services in the "related services" listing of IDEA. The Interveners and Deafblindness Facebook Page is followed by almost 900 people from around the world.

It is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/Intervenors-and-Deafblindness-147628748651025/>



CONNECTING THE DOTS



Colorado Braille Competency Committee

We have a few updates to our CDE Exceptional Student Services Unit Braille Competency Committee. These individuals all serve as part-time employees of the Colorado Department of Education for their role in: (a) developing, refining, and reviewing braille competency testing and support materials, (b) proctoring test sessions for initial braille competency and renewal modules; (c) providing approved mentoring to test candidates, and (d) other duties as needed to support our braille competency processes across the state.

The committee consists currently of the following individuals:

Tanni Anthony	(303) 866-6681	anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
Nancy Cozart	(303) 905-4074	ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
Christine Maynard	(719) 229-4981	christine.maynard@asd20.org
Brenda Shepard	(303) 995-7913	brendashep@comcast.net
Sarah Sonnier	(970) 245-5228	sonnier.sarah5@gmail.com
Julie Wetzstein	(303) 819-7887	jwetzste@jeffco.k12.co.us

Lucia Hasty has retired and we thank her for her many years of service on this committee.

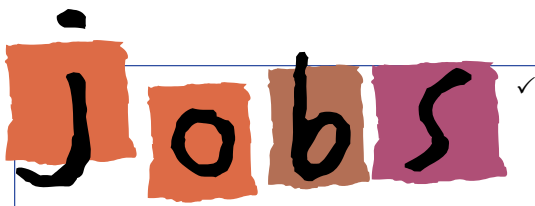
As far as regional representation for initial testing and renewal modules, Christine Maynard is our southern region proctor and Sarah Sonnier is the western region proctor. Nancy Cozart, Brenda Shepard, and Julie Wetzstein are metro proctors for the renewal modules. Brenda Shepard is our northern proctor for renewal modules. Tanni Anthony is the proctor for initial braille competency testing for the metro and northern area.

Tanni will send out September updates to all TVIs and braillists who are in process with renewal modules to confirm everyone's renewal status. For those persons in this renewal window, you are welcome to contact Nancy, Christine, Brenda, Sarah, and Julie to schedule a proctored session. TVIs and braillists who are in the process of demonstrating initial braille competency, should contact Tanni for scheduling arrangements to come into CDE or use an approved regional proctor.

Braillewriter Repair

Mark Carpenter is available for braillewriter repair. His contact information is:

Phone: 719-634-8720 and Email: carpdiane@yahoo.com



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 O&M 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

- ✓ **TVI/COMS (.5FTE)** for Thompson School District. For more information about this position, contact Charlie Carter at (970)-613-5092 or charlie.carter@thompsonschoools.org
- ✓ **.5 TVI** in Greeley-Evans School District 6. The contact person is Tom Gribble and he can be reached at tgribble@greeleyschools.org or (719) 348-6103

Southern Region – Jobs

- ✓ **Teacher of the Visually Impaired/O&M Specialist (.6FTE, 190 days per year)** for Pikes Peak BOCES for more information, please contact Charla Durham at (719)-622-2096 or cdurham@ppboces.org
- ✓ **CSDB** - Please be in touch with Chelle Lutz for CSDB Openings. She can be reached at (719)578-2100.

Western Region — Jobs

- ✓ **TVI/COMS (1 FTE)** for Mesa Valley School District in Grand Junction. For more information, please contact Cindy Starr at (970) 254-5136 or cindy.starr@d51schools.org

Metro Region—Jobs

- ✓ **TVI / COMS (1 FTE)** on a temporary basis in Cherry Creek School district from January through the beginning of April. For more information, go to the Cherry Creek School District webpage and fill in all information as if applying for a teacher position/substitute list
- ✓ **TVI / COMS (1 FTE)** for Westminster Public Schools. Start Date October 15, 2016. Contact Steve Sandoval, Executive Director of Special Services, 303-657-3861 or ssandoval@westminsterpublicschools.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 substitute work. Please keep in touch with Tanni, if you are interested in this type of work after your retirement!



TRANSITION INFORMATION

APH Needs Your Help with Transition and O&M

The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) knows you need products to help with transition, orientation and mobility, and adult life issues – and they want to develop the products that you need. To do this, they need to know what you need and your expertise. If you have a product idea or a problem that a product might solve, APH is asking for your input.

If you work with transition students, adults, or provide orientation and mobility services, please contact APH with unmet product needs or ideas for products that would help you and your students. Terrie can help you submit your product needs or ideas to APH to be considered for development. If you are not sure whether your issue will lead to a product, please contact Terrie to discuss it. Product ideas often emerge when discussing such concerns. You can reach APH by phone at (502) 551-6382. Please provide your email address and your phone number so that Terrie can reach you to talk with you about your ideas.

AFB Career Connect

INTRODUCES:

The Job Seekers' Toolkit Lasting learning with career education

Visit-www.afb.org/careerconnect

The Job Seeker's Toolkit is an accessible, self paced course that provides the right tools for conducting a successful job search. Presented on the ever popular CareerConnect Website, this toolkit:

- ◆ Helps job seekers with vision loss develop or hone job-seeking skills.
- ◆ Provides practical examples, and a variety of lessons and assignments.
- ◆ Allows students to share their assignments with teachers, rehabilitation counselors, or parents.
- ◆ Builds confidence and self-awareness.

Bonus: Includes links to short articles about maintaining employment once a job has been landed.

CareerConnect is a free employment resources created by AFB to expand employment possibilities for people with vision loss. Learn more about career exploration and the tools necessary for finding job opportunities by visiting www.afb.org/careerconnect

Technology News

What is New in Learning Ally Audio Books?

Learning Ally has text with their human voiced audio books! This product is called VoiceText and has the same great features as their Classic Audio books:

- Go To Page: takes the student to the same page as their sighted peers
- Bookmarks
- Adjustable Speed
- Fast forward and Rewind

VoiceText adds the following features:

- Adjustable text size: great for low vision students
- Images from the print book are available in our K-4 high interest collections
- Highlighting as the narrator reads, by phrase, headings or time

Why would an educator want to consider using Learning Ally audio books for their student who is blind or visually impaired?

- Benefits of multisensory applications--audio + text read with eyes or audio + braille text
- Hearing proper pronunciation and proper sentence cadence supports literacy
- Compatible with braille displays and tablets or smartphones. Especially for young children who are learning braille, braille display lets you go from contracted to un-contracted braille. Ability to listen while learning braille contraction cements understanding.
- Listening skills are vital for students with any type of vision impairment. Learning to glean information via audio is a great way to hone listening skills. (this is a benefit of audio, not specifically VT, should we have two columns?)
- BVI students who have mastered reading via braille or large print, can absorb information more efficiently and quickly than text, large print or braille alone would allow once they reach middle school or high school

Adding Learning Ally to a student's IEP insures they will have access to this valuable resource during all their transitions: middle school to high school and into higher education.

For more information about Learning Ally, please be in touch with Mary Alexander, National Director of Initiatives for the Blind at malexander@learningally.org

Differentiated Pathways: Including ALL Students with Disabilities in the Colorado READ Act

The Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (Colorado READ Act) was passed by the Colorado Legislature during the 2012 legislative session. The READ Act repealed the Colorado Basic Literacy Act (CBLA) as of July 1, 2013, keeping many of the elements of CBLA such as a focus on K-3 literacy, assessment, and individual plans for students reading below grade level. The READ Act differs from CBLA by focusing on students identified as having a significant reading deficiency (SRD), delineating requirements for parent communication, and providing funding to support intervention. Other components of the Colorado READ Act include a competitive Early Literacy Grant and a resource bank of assessments, instructional programming, and professional development.

Technology News

Differentiated Pathways: Including ALL Students with Disabilities in the Colorado READ Act *(continued)*

Beginning in the 2015-2016 school, students previously exempted or excluded from participation requirements of the READ ACT, including those with disabilities, must now be assessed for a significant reading deficiency (SRD) and reported in the Spring READ Act data collection. In order to meet the legal mandate that ALL students in grades K-3 be screened for an SRD.

There are three pathways for participation of students with disabilities with the READ Act.

Pathway #1: Differentiated Pathway #1 is simply using your choice of the State-approved READ Act interim assessments to screen students in grades kindergarten through the third grade for a Significant Reading Deficiency. Districts have a choice of using any one of the seven approved interim assessments. Please note that the assessment should be reviewed for allowable accommodations that may be needed for the student to participate fully with that tool. For example, some tools will allow for extended time and some will not. Some tools have screen enlargement capacity and some can be used with low vision devices. It will be important to be aware of the allowable accommodations of your selected tool.

Pathway #2: In Pathway #2 is for students who cannot be assessed with the interim assessment typically used in Pathway #1 as a result of an accessibility issue. In this scenario, the student may be assessed using one of the other six State-approved interim assessments that will yield a valid score. For example, a student who has oral fluency challenges may not be able to be screened with a tool that requires a task such as rapid naming of letters. In this instance, the student may be able to be screened successfully using another state-approved tool.

Pathway #3: In Pathway #3, students are unable to access the approved interim assessments based on the nature of their disability. Assessment options have been established for these students who may have been previously exempted from the Read Act.

Braille Option: If you have any questions regarding this option, email Tanni at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

- The administrative unit's teacher of students with visual impairments should be consulted for all students requiring a braille format assessment.
- If the district is using a paper-based approved interim assessment, it can be transcribed into braille for the student by appropriate school personnel (the TVI and/or a brailist). If the district uses DIBELS or would like to use DIBELS for their braille students, this tool is available in commercial braille. Copies of DIBELS in the Unified English Braille (UEB) format can be requested at no cost by the TVI through the Colorado Instructional Resource Center.
- A teacher of students with visual impairments (TVI) should be present for test administration and the analysis of the results.

Research-based Procedure for Hearing Impairment including Deafness: If you have any questions regarding this option, email Ruth Mathers at mathers_r@cde.state.co.us

A differentiated pathway was created for a small percentage of students with Hearing Impairment including Deafness who are unable to access the approved interim assessments. Three brief webinars are archived on this site to inform education teams about this pathway. They can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/literacy_disabilities

Colorado Emergent Literacy Scales (CELS): If you have any questions regarding this option, email Gina Herrera at herrera_g@cde.state.co.us The Colorado Emergent Literacy Scales (CELS) is designed for students with a significant cognitive disability. It is a framework is designed to collect information through a structured portfolio process to determine if a student has a significant reading deficiency (SRD). It is also designed to inform instruction for students who receive their instruction based on the alternate achievement standards or Extended Evidence Outcome.

Details about the CELS can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/literacy_disabilities

NEW FACES

- ◆ **Adrianna Estep** is a recent addition to Aurora Public Schools as a teacher for students with visual impairments and orientation and mobility specialist. Adrianna is a recent graduate from The Florida State University where she completed both her undergraduate and graduate work. While at Florida State, Adrianna was a member of the Kappa Delta sorority which allowed her the opportunity to participate in many philanthropic events. After school, Adrianna relocated to Denver with her husband and is loving all that Colorado has to offer!
- ◆ **Lisa Hebbert** is on board in Aurora School District as a TVI! She brings many years of amazing experience to her new role. Her most recent work experience was in Cherry Creek as a paraeducator. She credits the amazing VI team in Cherry Creek for inspiring her to return to college and pursue the dual degree needed to be a TVI/COMS from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Lisa shared that she was honored to be mentored by Edie Smith for her TVI practicum. Lisa completed her TVI degree in April 2016 and is currently finishing her practicum in Orientation and Mobility and will graduate in 2017. She notes further that "It is exciting to be a part of the outstanding Vision team in Aurora Public Schools. I excited to contribute to lives of our students and inspire my peers as well." Lisa is married with two adult children and two grandchildren. She and her husband are Rockies fans!
- ◆ We welcome **Karissa Johnson** to our state! She is the new science teacher at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind in the School for the Blind. Karissa graduated Magna Cum Laude from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania where she earned a dual degree in Early Childhood Education Preschool through Fourth Grade and Special Education: Visual Impairment Birth through 21 years old. She worked as a paraeducator at Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia in their summer program and recently was a preschool teacher at The Maryland School for the Blind until July 2016. Karissa was married last October. Karissa shares, "I am so lucky to be joining CSDB and cannot wait to continue to learn and grow with such an amazing family of educators."
- ◆ **Tamara Miller**, a recent TVI / COMS graduate from UNC will work at the Anchor Center for Blind Children. She will work in the Infant, Toddler and Preschool programs. Tamara has a daughter with a visual impairment and was introduced to the field of VI through Anchor Center and Jeffco TVIs throughout the last 12 years. She is passionate about communication and forming relationships with parents and families of children with visual impairments.
- ◆ **Stephanie Smithgall** is the new TVI and COMS in Brighton School District. She is a fourth year TVI, having spent three of those years working for a public school system in Virginia. This past summer was spent interning as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist with the Colorado Office of Community Access and Independence. This is Stephanie's first year working as a COMS. In her free time, she loves exploring the outdoors and riding horses. We welcome Stephanie to Colorado and her new position!
- ◆ **Kristy Murdock** is the new Director of Outreach Programs for The Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. She has 13 years teaching experience in self-contained DHH programs as well as teaching in residential schools. Her leadership experience began in Colorado. She's most recently served as Supervisor for Denver Public Schools DHH team before she joined team CSDB.
- ◆ **Tess Nasehi** is one board with CSDB as their secondary social studies teacher. She is a recent graduate from Florida State University's Program in Vision Impairment. She received both her undergraduate TVI degree and graduate O&M degree from FSU, where she also studied intercultural affairs and early intervention. Tess lived in her hometown of Orlando, Florida, until she moved to Colorado one year ago for her student teaching internships (completed in Littleton Public Schools and CSDB). She shared that she is absolutely love her new job. In her free time she enjoys playing guitar, singing, and traveling. Tess noted further that she is looking forward to connecting with other professionals in Colorado in order to serve our student population as best we can.

NEW PLACES

- ◆ We welcome **Sally Burch** back to Colorado! Sally worked in St. Vrain School District for 10.5 years and then relocated with her family to Michigan. She worked at Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency (KRESA), an intermediate school district set up to support 9 surrounding local school districts. Sally is now employed with Boulder Valley School Districts as a TVI/COMS. We are so happy to have her back with us!!
- ◆ **Jeff Hadala**, who was formerly with Adams 12 School District, left the state for a very brief time and is now back. He will be working as a TVI/COMS in Jefferson County School District.
- ◆ **Jessica Hank** will be working with the Anchor Center for Blind Children. Jessica most recently worked as a TVI in Jefferson County Public Schools. Jessica will be working in the Infant, Toddler and Preschool Program.
- ◆ **Karen Jamison** has also joined the Anchor Center to work part-time in the Preschool Program. Karen most recently worked as an Assistive Technology Consultant in Jefferson County School District, where she was also a TVI and COMS for seven years.
- ◆ **Julie King** is working with Eagle Country School District and K12 online schools as a TVI. She is also working to complete her COMS degree through the University of Pittsburgh. Julie has worked in both Mountain BOCES and Brighton School District. We are so happy to have Julie back working as a TVI and soon-to-be a COMS!
- ◆ **Brandon Mapes** will be working as the TVI /COMS in Summit School District this year. He will also work a few days a month with Mountain BOCES. Brandon notes that he still lives in Leadville and has new chickens!

Farewell and In Gratitude



Jan Megarry, a longtime employee and TVI retired from CSDB on July 1, 2016. Jan was a highly dedicated and talented teacher who spent 37 years of her life pouring out her knowledge and soul to blind children. Over her career as a teacher of the blind, she worked with all ages of students in a variety of settings including early childhood, special needs, English, Social Studies, Elementary, and High School Science. Jan was accomplished in many areas, and was called upon often to fill several other roles at CSDB. In addition to her teaching assignments, she was asked to be our technology expert, braillist, curriculum specialist, and our all-around “go to” person. Jan also served on many committees over the years, and she has made a lasting impression on CSDB.

Although Jan has reached retirement age, she hasn’t slowed down a bit. She is in the process of setting up her own business as a personal trainer and physical fitness coach for people 50 years of age and above. She is also teaching self-defense to children homeschooled and their families. Jan has always been a hard worker, and to her, retirement is just a way for her to start on a new track. Jan has received many awards during her teaching career, but one award in particular describes her best. It was entitled, “The Unsung Hero Award.” The award was given to her because of all of the things she did for CSDB. Jan was truly a “Jack of all trades” and she will be sorely missed.

Congratulations and good luck in your retirement Jan!

Accessible Book Treaty Ratified

In a major victory for people who are blind, the Marrakesh Treaty will make braille and audio books more globally available

The Marrakesh Treaty will make it easier for people who are visually impaired or otherwise unable to read print materials to buy or borrow books in accessible formats, which will help remove barriers to education and employment.

July 14, 2016

By: BILL WINTER

Accessible books will soon become more available to millions of people around the world, now that a groundbreaking treaty has been ratified.

In late June, Canada became the 20th nation to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty, which will significantly increase the number of braille and audio books available to people who are visually impaired or otherwise unable to read print materials.

“This is a game-changer for people who are blind, especially in developing countries,” said Dave Power, President and CEO of Perkins School for the Blind. “Access to books is core to our mission as educators, and we know that the Marrakesh Treaty will enable more people with visual impairments to meaningfully participate in school, employment and culture.”

With Canada’s action, the Marrakesh Treaty becomes binding on the 20 countries that ratified the treaty, including India, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Australia and Brazil. The treaty formally goes into force on Sept. 30, 2016.

The United States has not yet ratified the Marrakesh Treaty. The Obama administration sent the Marrakesh Treaty to the Senate in February 2016 and urged that body to ratify it. Perkins has information available for individuals who want to advocate for ratification.

The Marrakesh Treaty creates exceptions to intellectual property law that will allow accessible versions of copyrighted books to be produced and distributed, both within countries and across international borders. As these reforms take effect, readers with visual impairments should find it increasingly easy to buy or borrow books in accessible formats.

According to the World Blind Union, about 1 million books are published around the world each year, but less than 7 percent are made available in formats accessible to people who can’t read traditional print.

“The shortage of accessible books has been a major barrier to the education and employment of people who are blind, and has impeded their full integration into society,” said Kim Charlson, director of the Perkins Library. “Ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty is an important milestone in creating a more accessible world for people with disabilities.”

The treaty, formally called the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works by Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Print Disabilities, was adopted June 27, 2013 at a diplomatic conference organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Marrakesh, Morocco. WIPO is a U.N. agency that promotes the protection of intellectual property throughout the world.

Even with the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty, the campaign for accessible books isn’t over. Braille and audio books must still be produced and distributed in multiple languages around the globe.



Accessible book treaty ratified (continued)

To achieve that goal, WIPO established the [Accessible Book Consortium](#) (ABC) that works to help developing countries establish accessible printing facilities and build an international database of accessible titles. Charlson is a member of the ABC Board.

“The Marrakesh Treaty is just the first step,” she said. “Now the hard work begins, which is to make sure that people who are blind everywhere in the world have access to the printed word in an accessible format. And to get the U.S. Senate to ratify the treaty for people who are blind in the United States, so they can benefit from materials throughout the globe, as well.”

This article was published by Perkins School for the Blind in the July 2016 In Focus edition and can be found at:

http://www.perkins.org/stories/news/accessible-book-treaty-ratified?utm_campaign=infocus%20july2016&utm_source=in%20focus&utm_medium=email

Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Program Update

By Brent Batron

Our FAST program dates are as follows:

- ◆ September 17 – Noon to 3 will be a back to school theme and IEP advocacy
- ◆ October 8 - Denver Art Museum
- ◆ November 12 – 10 – 2 Thanksgiving Dinner – Kids will learn how to make an entire turkey day meal
- ◆ December 10 – 10 – 2 Holiday themed complete with fun and presents
- ◆ Our annual shark dissection with Arapahoe Community College will take place in November – Date TBD

There is an opportunity to work with the Connections Learning Center to partner on a learning and community development program. We are looking for some individuals who would like to do some real-life project based learning to make a real difference.

We want to know if there is interest by teachers, parents, students to resume regular goalball days at the Center.

There will be exciting new programs coming to the Colorado Center for the Blind in 2017!

NFB of Colorado State Convention will take place October 27 – 30 at the Marriott Denver South

The Colorado Association of Education & Rehabilitation is holding its first meeting of the 2016-17 school year on Tuesday, September 13 at 5:30 at the Colorado Center for the Blind. We would love to have you join us as we will be putting together dynamic programs and fun events. If you cannot join in person please let Brent know and we will provide conference call information.

For more information on any of these events or to RSVP please call Brent at 303-778-1130 x 222 or via email bbatron@gmail.com



CHECK IT OUT!



OSEP

Office of Special Education Programs

U.S. Department of Education Releases Guidance to Schools on Ensuring Equity and Providing Behavioral Supports for Students with Disabilities

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) has issued guidance in the form of a Dear Colleague letter that emphasizes the requirement that schools provide positive behavioral supports to students with disabilities who need them. It also clarifies that the repeated use of disciplinary actions may suggest that many children with disabilities may not be receiving appropriate behavioral interventions and supports. When schools fail to consider and provide for needed behavioral supports through the Individualized Education Program, it is likely to result in a child not receiving the free appropriate public education to which they are entitled under federal law.

The DCL on the **Inclusion of Behavioral Supports in Individualized Education Programs** is now available on the Department's website: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/index.html>.

Also available is a suite of accompanying resources, including a **Summary for Stakeholders**, which lays out the main points of the issued guidance in an easily-digestible format. For more information, please visit the Rethink Discipline website: (<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/index.html>), or follow the press link here: <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-guidance-schools-ensuring-equity-and-providing-behavioral-supports-students-disabilities>.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF COLORADO

2016 STATE CONVENTION

October 27-30, 2016

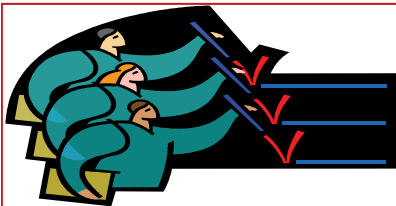
The 2016 State Convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado will be held at the Denver Marriott South--10345 Park Meadows Drive Lone Tree CO 80124. Convention activities will begin on Thursday, October 27 and conclude at noon on Sunday, October 30. Save the date!
Details to follow when they become available.

Study on the Association between Physical Activity and Academic Performance

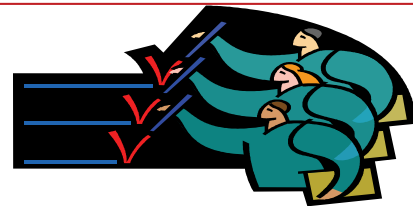
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has completed a study on The Association Between School Based Physical Activity, Including Physical Education, and Academic Performance.

The report can be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/health_and_academics/pdf/pa-pe_paper.pdf



CHECK IT OUT!



Fact Sheet:

Education Department Releases Proposed Regulations to Encourage Better and Fairer Tests, Reduce Burden of Testing

07/06/2016 10:39 AM EDT

The **US** Education Department Releases Proposed Regulations to Encourage Better and Fairer Tests, Reduce Burden of Testing

One essential part of educating students successfully is assessing their progress. Done well and thoughtfully, assessments are tools for learning and promoting equity. They provide necessary information for educators, families, the public, and students themselves to measure progress and improve outcomes for all learners. Done poorly, in excess, or without clear purpose, however, they take valuable time away from teaching and learning, draining creative approaches from our classrooms. This fact sheet can be found at:

http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-education-department-releases-proposed-regulations-encourage-better-and-fairer-tests-reduce-burden-testing?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Toolkit on Early Learners who are ELL

The Department of Education released a statement and a toolkit on early learners who are English Language Learners (ELLs). Here is a link to the press statement that includes a link to the statement and the toolkit:

http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-supporting-dual-language-learners-early-learning-settings?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

U.S. Department of Education Releases Guidance On Civil Rights of Students with ADHD

07/26/2016 09:31 AM EDT

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) today issued guidance clarifying the obligation of schools to provide students with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with equal educational opportunity under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This guidance can be found at:

http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-guidance-civil-rights-studentsadhd?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

PSAT/SAT Braille and Large Print Practice Materials

College Board has braille and large print practice materials available. You can get them by contacting them at SSD Customer Service (212-713-8333) or ssd@info.collegeboard.org.

Also, the assistive technology version is available here:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice/full-length-practice-test-assistive-technology>

An Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairment: Independence through the Mealtime Routines Model

The U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Sciences has awarded a three-year, \$1.291 million grant for a study involving infants and toddlers with visual impairment to University of Northern Colorado researcher Dr. Kay Ferrell.

Dr. Ferrell, co-investigator Jamie Erskine from the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, and doctoral candidate Catherine Smyth are developing an intervention model that will help families and practitioners establish mealtime routines for children with visual impairment. It's designed to set the foundation for independence in school settings. To date, "no targeted intervention provides a coordinated and comprehensive family-centered approach to encouraging the development of appropriate routines, interactions, and skills to foster independent eating in this low-prevalence population."

The study builds on preliminary research conducted at Anchor Center for Blind Children by Catherine Smyth, Zoe Morgese, and Carol Spicer. A series of five studies will be implemented to develop the intervention and examine the role of coaching and professional development in early intervention services for infants and toddlers with visual impairment and their families. Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments who work in early intervention are being recruited to participate in the study.

Contact Catherine Smyth, Project Coordinator, at Catherine.Smyth@unco.edu, for further information, or if you or a family you know might be interested in participating.

About the Award

- ◆ **Project title:** "An Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairment: Independence through the Mealtime Routines Model."
- ◆ **Grant award:** \$1.291 million over three years
- ◆ **Funding agency:** U.S. Department of Education, Institute for Education Sciences
- ◆ **Researchers:** Principal investigator Dr. Kay Ferrell, emeritus professor of Special Education; co-principal investigator Jamie Erskine, professor and director of Human Sciences; doctoral candidate Catherine Smyth; co-investigators Hasan Zaghawan, assistant professor of early childhood special education and Alena Clark, associate professor of Nutrition and Dietetics.

**Congrats to UNC on this important award!
We will look forward to the findings of the project!**

Project C.O.M.B.A.T.

(Children Overcoming Military-Based Adversities Together)



We offer **FREE** research-based resources to help build resilience in military children & families.

If you work with military children or families as a:

- Teacher
- School Psychologist
- Counselor
- Social Worker/Family Advocate
- Family Worker
- School Nurse

Visit <http://projectcombat.rwjms.rutgers.edu> to download free resources on:

- Military culture and life
- Information on the deployment cycle
- Resilience-building strategies
- Practical strategies to help military families and children in schools



Project C.O.M.B.A.T. made possible by:



Dr. Geraldine Oades-Sese, Project COMBAT Director: (732) 235-7166 | sesege@rwjms.rutgers.edu

just for PARENTS

Resources for Parents of Children who Are Deaf-Blind

The National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) has a great webpage and many resources for parents of children and youth who have combined vision and hearing loss. There is a *Families Matter* page at: <https://nationaldb.org/families>

On this page, they have stories, told mostly through video that will introduce you to children and young adults who are deaf-blind and their families. As you get to know the children and families, you will also learn how individuals who are deafblind learn, develop, and live their lives.

There are also pages for the NCDB's Family Engagement Initiative, Working Together for Families, Resources for Families who Speak Spanish, and Family Discussions on this family page.

If you go to their general webpage at www.nationaldb.org and type in "family" in the search box, you will also find a wide variety of other helpful resources such as:

- ◇ *A Family's Guide to Interveners*
- ◇ *Sun-Daughter: A Blog about a Family's Journal with Retinoblastoma*
- ◇ *Communication Between Family and School: Creating a Communication Notebook that Works*
- ◇ *Family Stories about the Importance of Communication*
- ◇ *Impact of Deafblindness on the Family*
- ◇ *Home Talk: A Family Assessment of Children who are Deafblind*
- ◇ *One Dad's nuts and Bolts of Advocacy on the State Level*
- ◇ *Parents Discuss their Child's Experience of Deaf-Blindness*
- ◇ *Developing an Effective IEP for Children with Deaf-Blindness: A Parent Mini-Guide*
- ◇ *Kevin Jake with CHARGE Syndrome*

If you are a parent of a child with deaf-blindness, please contact Gina Herrera at (303) 866-6605 or email her at Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us to find out more about the free technical assistance services of the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project.

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 1170, Denver, CO 80202. Or please leave a voice message at (303) 866-6681. Thank you so much!

just for PARENTS



LIGHTHOUSE GUILD
Vision + Health

NATIONAL TELE-SUPPORT NETWORK FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

When a child is diagnosed with a serious eye condition that can cause blindness or vision impairment, a parent may feel lost and alone, and unsure of what the child needs.

Their free **National Tele-Support Network for Parents of Children with Visual Impairment** connects parents with parents whose children have the same impairment, so they can share resources, experiences, strength and hope.

Tele-support groups meet by phone every week, and are facilitated by a Psychologist or Social Worker with input from professionals knowledgeable about children's eye conditions.

They currently have groups for parents of children with the following eye conditions:

- Cortical Visual Impairment
- Retinopathy of Prematurity
- Leber Congenital Amaurosis & Retinitis Pigmentosa
- Autism and Blindness
- Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome (English)
- Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome (Spanish)
- CHARGE Syndrome
- Albinism
- Chediak-Higafhi syndrome
- Glaucoma



Their free Teen Tele-support Group is for high school seniors who are visually impaired or blind and are planning to attend college. The group meets by phone to share experiences and ask questions of current college students and recent graduates who are also blind or visually impaired.

Parents may join whenever you wish. Parents are welcome, whether they want to actively participate or just listen.

For more information or to enroll in tele-support group

800-562-6265 * lighthouseguild.org

parentgroup@lighthouseguild.org

just for PARENTS

Parents' Bulletin



ParentCamp: Improving Literacy Outcomes

Save the Date for ParentCamp: Improving Literacy Outcomes U.S. Department of Education

October 14, 2016. The October parentcamp will provide a platform for all parents to share their concerns and ideas for the academic success of all children.

For information about this ParentCamp and others go to:
<http://www.parentcamp.org/find-a-parentcamp/> or
<http://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement>

ParentCamp is an "unconference" which allows parents, educators, and students to come together to talk about the things that matter most to them. The camps are free and open to the community.



OSERS

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

News, Events and Updates from the Office of the Assistant Secretary

[U.S. Department of Education Announces \\$2.5 Million in Grants to Operate Centers for Parents of Children with Disabilities](#)

The U.S. Department of Education announced today the award of \$2.5 million in grants to operate 23 Community Parent Resource Centers in 17 states and a Parent Training and Information Center to serve American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The centers provide parents with the training and information they need to work with professionals in meeting the early intervention and special needs of children with disabilities.

For a list of Department-funded parent training and information centers, visit www.parentcenterhub.org. The one award funded to Colorado is as follows:

Denver	CO	THRIVE Resource Center	Yvette Burkhalter	Yvette@thrivectr.org
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COLORADO
Department of Education

2016 – 2017 Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conferences

October 27 - 29, 2016
Vail, Colorado

Winter PEP Conference
To Be Determined

Spring PEP Conference
To Be Determined

"Thank you so much to the Colorado Department of Education for providing the opportunity to attend this conference. My daughter's future is so much brighter now!"

-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

Apply Now!

For more information and to apply online go to:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cd/esp/PEP.asp>.

Or contact:

CDE-ESSU-PEP
1560 Broadway, Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80202
PEP Hotline: (303) 866-6846

WHO: Colorado families who have a child with a disability. Both parents in a two-parent family are encouraged to attend. Single parents are encouraged to bring a support person who will also participate in the conference. (A support person is someone who is directly involved in the regular care of the child or youth with a disability.)

Directors of special education, principals, special education teachers, general education teachers, related service providers, health care and other Colorado professionals interested in the family and school partnership who work with children or youth with disabilities.

WHAT: Decades of research show that the participation of families in their child's education, through specific coordinating between home and school, results in improved outcomes (Jeynes, 2012). PEP Conferences are designed to promote family and school partnerships that are essential in supporting students with disabilities and their families in schools and the community. PEP brings families and professionals together by sharing ideas, discussing concerns, celebrating successes and obtaining information related to parenting, educating and partnering to support student learning. PEP is a non-specific disability conference that focuses on commonalities. PEP Conferences are offered at no cost to attendees.

WHEN: PEP is held from 5:00 PM Thursday through 3:00 PM Saturday. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Exceptional Student Services Unit (ESSU) pays for lodging and participant meals – excluding Friday night's dinner.

WHERE: In order to enable more families and professionals to participate, PEP Conferences are scheduled throughout Colorado.

Sessions

- Parenting a Child with a Disability and Rebuilding Dreams
- The Law and the Education of Children with Disabilities
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Knowledge is Power: Empowering Parents with Publicly Available Data
- Early Childhood Supports and Services
- Transition IEP and more!

Colorado Department of Education
1560 Broadway, Suite 1100, Denver, CO 80202 • 303.866.6943 • ramer_d@cde.state.co.us



Who Ya Gonna Call?

SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017



Anchor Center for Blind Children at (303) 337-9732

Deb Andrews at (719) 234-1386 or Deborah.Andrews@ASD20.org

- Southern TVI/COMS Region Representative at Vision Coalition Meetings

Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

- Braille Competency Testing/Braille Certification Renewal / UEB Training
- CDE web pages on Blindness/Low Vision, Deafblindness, and O&M
- CDE Initiatives specific to State Assessments, Standards, READ Act, School Readiness Act, etc.
- CDE TVI and COMS listserv
- CO Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision & Hearing Loss Project
- Eligibility of Learners with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness or Deaf-Blindness
- IEPs, Learning Media Assessments and LMA Plans, instructional accommodations
- Job Clearinghouse – TVI and O&M Specialist positions within Colorado
- *Keeping in Touch (KIT)* newsletter
- Licensure and Highly Qualified Status of TVIs and COMSs
- Listservs for TVIs/COMs, braillists, and UEB
- MTSS for students with BVI or deafblindness
- NIMAS and NIMAC procedures within Colorado
- Policy / Guidance documents pertaining to learners with BVI and/or deaf-blindness
- READ Act and guidance specific for learners with blind/visually impairment or deafblindness
- State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment / Annual O&M Conference
- Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Needs
- Vision Coalition Network

Brent Batron at (303) 778-1130 x222 or bbatron@cocenter.org

- Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Programs
- Colorado AER Chapter President

Dinah Beams at (720) 413-7567 or dbeams@csdb.org

- CSDB CO Home Intervention Program (0-3 children with DHH or DB)

Diane Beard at (719) 327-4023 or dbeard@csdb.org

- CSDB Strategic Plan, Outreach Co-facilitator

Deb Branch at (719) 578-2168 or dbranch@csdb.org

- CSDB Distance Learning Coordinator

Kevin Brouard at (719) 866-3019 or kbrouard@usaba.org

- USABA Membership and Outreach Coordinator

Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC) at (719) 578-2196

- CIMC webpage: www.csdb.org; click on “Programs and Services,” then “CIMC”
- CIMC Email Accounts:
- cimcregistrations@csdb.org: student “Registration” and “Exit” forms
- cimceyereports@csdb.org: eye health records on file in school district for eligibility verification
- cimcaphorders@csdb.org: “APH order form” submissions & questions
- cimcbookorders@csdb.org: braille & large print book sourcing inquiries, questions & orders
- cimcbrailers@csdb.org: “braille request” & “braille repair” form submissions & questions
- (719) 578-2195, Jim Olson (Coordinator) jolson@csdb.org
- (719) 578-2196, general phone (rings all computer-based Skype for Business #s simultaneously)
- (719) 578-2197, Debbie Haberkorn, dhaberkorn@csdb.org (braille transcriber, textbook status)
- (719) 578-2198, Laurie Taylor, ltaylor@csdb.org (shipping & receiving related questions)
- (719) 578-2207, CIMC FAX
- Mailing Address: CIMC, 1015 East High Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3559

Paula Conroy at (970) 351-1651 or paula.conroy@unco.edu

- UNC’s Teacher Training Program on Visual Impairment
- UNC Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Diane Covington at (719) 578-2225 or dcovington@csdb.org

- CSDB School and Community Liaison
- Braille Challenge – Denver Site

Nancy Cozart at (303) 734-3090 or nCozart@lps.k12.co.us

- Metro TVI/COMS representative at Vision Coalition meetings
- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Mark Davis at (866) 860-0972 or info@foresightskiguides.org

- Foresight Ski Guides

Julie Deden at (303) 778-1130 or jdeden@cocenter.org

- Colorado Center for the Blind

David Dawson at (303) 786-7777 x 101 or ainc@aincolorao.org

- Audio Information Network of Colorado

LaVerne Dell at (303) 866-3562 or Laverne.DELL@state.co.us

- Colorado Rehabilitation Services representative at Vision Coalition meetings



Debbie Haberkorn at (719) 578-2197 or dhaberkorn@csdb.org

- Statewide Low Vision Clinic Coordinator

Family Literacy Packs at familylitpacks@csdb.org

- Request CSDB Family Literacy Packs

Gina Herrera at (303) 866-6605 or herrera_g@cde.state.co.us

- Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project
- Free Technical Assistance for Learners with Deaf-Blindness, Their Families, and Service Providers

Carol Hilty at (719) 578-2102 or chilty@csdb.org

- CSDB Superintendent
- CSDB Intern Placement

Donna Keale at (719) 578-2251 or dkeale@csdb.org

- CSDB Strategic Plan – Outreach Co-Facilitator
- CSDB Sensory Safari
- CSDB Summer Enrichment Program

Nancy Knight at (303) 909-3291 or nknight@lps.k12.co.us

- Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Site Coordinator

Jeannie Lei at (720) 810-1363 or jlei@cherrycreekschools.org

- Metro TVI / COMS Regional Meetings

Jamie Lugo at (719) 578-2200 or jlugo@csdb.org

- Braille Challenge – CSDB
- CSDB School for the Blind Principal
- CSDB School for the Blind representative at Vision Coalition Meetings

Debbie MacLeod at (303) 727-9277 or Macleod_d@cde.state.co.us

- Colorado Talking Book Library

Christine Maynard at (719) 229-4981 or christine.maynard@asd20.org

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Kristy Murdock at (719) 578-2110 or kmurdock@csdb.org

- Director of CSDB Outreach Program
- CSDB Outreach Services (DHH and BVI)
- BVI Adult Role Model Team
- Regional Student Activity Mini-Grants

Sara Noel at (719) 327-4003 or snoel@csdb.org

- CSDB BVI Outreach representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Terrie Noland at (325) 260-3911 or tnoland@learningally.org

- Learning Ally – authorized CO NIMAS file user



Teresa O'Brien at (970) 613-5564 or teresa.obrien@thompsonschoools.org

- Northern Region TVI / COMS Meetings

Jim Olson at (719) 578-2195 or jolson@csdb.org

- CIMC year-round registration of Colorado students who are blind/visually impaired
- Federal Quota Census registration (first Monday in January annually) Ex Officio Trustee for the Colorado Department of Education Federal Quota Accounts
- CIMC braille & large print book orders and APH loan materials
- Authorized NIMAS file user for CO
- CIMC National Braille Association Conference stipend Scholarships for Brailleists
- CIMC Braille Transcribers Mentoring Project
- CIMC Professional Lending Library
- CIMC representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Mimi Schaper at (720) 519-8026 or mschaper2@cherrycreekschools.org

- Metro TVI Regional Meetings

Brenda Shepard at (303) 995 7913 or Brendashep@comcast.net

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Angela Sims at (970) 254-5414 or sims@mesa.k12.co.us

- Site Co-Coordinator for Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic
- Western Slope TVI/COMS Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

Jacky Skinner at (719) 578-2102 or jskinner@csdb.org

- Executive Assistant to the CSDB Superintendent
- CSDB Board of Trustees' meetings

Joyce Smith at (719) 327-4076 or jsmith@csdb.org

- CSDB Library and Media Specialist

Sarah Sonnier at (970)-245-5228 or Sonnier.Sarah5@gmail.com

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor

Wendy Unwin Watson at (719) 332-7409 or wwatson@ppboces.org

- Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Site Coordinator

Jon Vigne at (719) 578-2177 or jvigne@csdb.org

- CSDB Director of Special Education
- CSDB and Enrollment Questions

Julie Wetzstein at (303) 216-6124 or jwetzste@jeffco.k12.co.us

- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor



KEN NEVE WENT “OUTSIDE THE BOX” TO IMPROVE OTHERS’ LIVES

This article was published in the Denver Post on Monday, July 4, 2016 by Natalie Muno to commemorate Ken Neve’s life. Ken was an Orientation and Mobility Specialist with the CO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

To find **Ken Neve** on the job was to spot him standing at the intersections of Denver’s busiest streets, a client standing trustingly at his side.

A longtime employee of the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Neve’s nearly three-decade career as a mobility instructor for the visually impaired only begins to characterize a man “who found joy by giving people a reason to continue life with dignity and pride.” “He came in every day like it was his first day on the job. He would work with people whose entire world had narrowed down to the size of their house,” said Susan Emmerling, a longtime friend and co-worker. “They literally wouldn’t leave their house ... and he gave them their world back.”

Kenneth Edward Neve died June 25 in North Platte, Nebraska. He was 55.

After graduating from the University of Northern Iowa, Neve, the youngest of four children, struggled to find a teaching job, so he sought an opportunity at a sight-seeing school on the recommendation of his brother, Doug. “He just loved the kids he worked with that were struggling with vision problems, and I can remember the principal at the time pulling him aside and telling him that with the way he enjoyed these kids, he might as well go get his master’s degree. ... And so he did,” Doug Neve said.

For 29 years, Ken Neve worked with people with low vision or vision loss, teaching them to use canes to navigate their surroundings. The brunt of his work focused on teaching his students to orient themselves to wherever they were and focus on mobility to get from place to place.

“Imagine being blind and crossing a major street — it’s terrifying every day. But as long as you were willing to work at it, he would stay there with you until you were confident,” Emmerling said. “He was the man all men should want to be.” Bob Kitchens, who worked with Neve for nearly a year, said he was “one of his favorite instructors of all time,” calling him an “unstoppable object” — nothing deterred him once his mind was set.

“It was the first time in his career that he had to deal with a blind individual in a wheelchair, and so he had to train himself. But he didn’t assume that he knew everything, and that was so cool,” Kitchens said. “So he worked with someone who understood wheelchairs so he could train me. It was way outside the box. That’s just how he was. Well, this is a problem, so how do I solve it?”

Kitchens said classes with Neve were “always the classes you wanted to go to,” despite often being considered more challenging. “You’re in dangerous situations, and you have to rely solely on your guide,” Kitchens said. “Literally, my life was in his hands the whole time. You don’t think about it until you think about it. ... But as frustrating as it gets and as scary as it gets, he knows how to deal with it. He’s not just the mobility guru; he has to be half shrink too. He gets where you’re coming from even though he hadn’t been there.”

Although the entirety of Neve’s career centered on improving the lives and circumstances of others who may be hurting, his skills were never so needed as they were among his immediate family following the death of his mother, Rosie Neve, on June 20. “Ken had a way, in almost every setting, of making people just feel good. He made our time of grieving very special, very light, by helping us through that grieving process. He could just take life situations and find a way to make people just feel better,” his brother said.

We grieve this loss for his family and our field.



colorado connections

- ◆ We had a great turn-out of CO TVIs at the 2016 Summer Institute on Deaf-blindness and Significant Support Needs, which featured Phil Schweigert on the topic of the Communication Matrix. In attendance were: **Gina Anderson, Janet Anderson, Tanni Anthony, Peg Collins, Jamie Lugo, Shelley Moats, Anitha Muthukumaran, Wendy Stoltman, Maggie Tutt, Julie Vinikoor, and Chloann Woolley.**
- ◆ Colorado had some good representation at the AER International Conference held in Jacksonville, FL in July. **Tanni Anthony** was on the conference planning committee. In attendance were: **Tanni Anthony, Nancy Cozart, Kay Ferrell, Lorraine Chevarria, Amy Gunning, and Lucia Hasty.** Tanni provided two presentations one on *Emergent Literacy in the Home and the Preschool Setting: An Early Intervention Priority* and one on *All for Literacy / Literacy for All: Strategies for Learners with Additional Disabilities.* Nancy gave a poster session on *Getting Ready for Braille: Hand Strengthening and Tactile Discrimination.* Lucia Hasty gave a presentation on *Above the Standards: Creating Embossed Tactile Graphics.*
- ◆ Wow - lots of Colorado star power at the *World Blind Union (WBU) / International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI)* Conference held in Orlando, FL on August 18-25, 2016. University of Northern Colorado faculty and (former) doctoral students, and an Anchor Center for Blind Children staff member attended and presented: **Silvia Correa-Torres** - *Supports and Accommodations for Students with Visual Impairment in Thai Universities;* **Catherine Smyth** and **Zoe Morgese** - *Eating Upside Down: Research and Strategies for the Development of Independent Mealtime Skills in Very Young Children with Visual Impairment;* **Paula Conroy** - *Adoption of Children with Visual Impairments Around the World;* Nana Dewald and **Catherine Smyth** - *Baby Steps: Using Teleintervention with Families of Young Children with Visual Impairment;* **DeEtte Snyder** and **Catherine Smyth** - *Practical Intentions or Intentional Practices: Using a Routines Based Approach as Support for Young Children with Blindness and Visual Impairments;* and **Kay Ferrell** and **Kathryn Botsford** *The Impact of Expanded Core Curriculum on Select Quality of Life Indicators for Students with Visual Impairment.*
- ◆ **BELL Program**—The Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Program is sponsored by the National Federation for the Blind. The CO NFB has been instrumental in hosting summer braille programs for the past several years. This past year **Michelle Chacon** and **Kaitlin Lombardi** led the program. The exact plans for the CO BELL Program for Summer 2017 have yet to be defined. As information is forthcoming, it will be posted in future editions of the Keeping in Touch (KIT) Newsletter.



- ◆ Colorado is so proud to have five NLCSD scholars in our state. Each person is pursuing her doctorate at UNC. These scholars include:
 - ✓ **Genevieve Francoeur Anderson**—Deafblindness
 - ✓ **Brittany Dorn**—Deafness/ Hard of Hearing
 - ✓ **Amber Rundle Kahn**—Blindness/ Visual Impairment
 - ✓ **Kaitlyn Miller**—Deafness/ Hard of Hearing
 - ✓ **Tara Brown-Ogilvie**—Deafblindness

State of Colorado Department of Education

Colorado State Board of Education

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COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Exceptional Student Services

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COLORADO
Department of Education

The contents of this handout were developed under a grant from the United States Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

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MAIL TO: