

KEEPING IN TOUCH!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
August—September 2017

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R and R: Essential for Our Field


By Tanni L. Anthony

R and R is a good thing— rest and recreation—both essential for mental, spiritual, and physical health. But for this article, I want to focus on another essential R and R combination: Retention and Recruitment. We lost almost 10 percent of school-based TVIs in our state over the summer months. There were a few expected retirements and the challenges of spousal job transfers. We also had attrition from school positions to early intervention positions. That was a good thing, as we are now well-stocked for our birth though age 2 VI-specific home-based services and center-based early intervention services. Then there were a few surprises of people leaving positions for other reasons. So we had some work to do to fill positions!

The good news is that we made some positive recovery. Two people moved into our state, one came back into the field, two moved from VI-Tech/brailist positions to TVI positions based on completion of their VI degree programs, and several people were hired on temporary authorizations while they work toward their VI university credentials. Whew—held ground, minus a few key positions.

R & R lessons learned: We need to: a) nourish our currently employed TVI / COMS personnel to ensure retention. This is where statewide training comes in, as well as efforts to ensure manageable caseloads and administrators who understand and support the unique knowledge and skill needs of these positions and (b) to be very deliberate and vigilant in our recruitment efforts. Simply put, we need to grow the field. Read through the *New Faces* article and you will see a consistent story— personnel entering the field because they had a meaningful experience with a student with visual impairment and/or were encouraged by a VI colleague to join our field. Several districts have grown their own personnel by encouraging paras / brailists or colleagues in other special education professions to go back to school to become a TVI / COMS. This is a promising trend and will be a key focus of the Vision Coalition over the school year to ensure we have recruitment materials and funding sources to grow our future personnel, so that we can focus on the some other critical Rs—reading, writing, and arithmetic for the students we care so deeply about serving across their 0-21 years. And that, my friends, brings us to three other key Rs connected to emotional, spiritual, and physical health— Relief, Results, and Reward!

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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 2017-18

Compiled By Tanni Anthony

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

Legend for Acronyms:

CCB =	Colorado Center for the Blind
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

We have a lot of good things happening over the course of the upcoming school year. 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 Tanni Anthony to post it in future editions of the newsletter.

A Shared Vision: This Colorado private nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization provides early intervention services for children who are blind or visually impaired or have vision concerns, and their parents and caregivers. Their goal is that all children, families and caregivers have access to and receive essential early intervention services specific to blindness, visual impairment or vision concerns from a community of highly skilled and collaborative professionals. Services include: Home-based services and specialty co-visits; hospital visits and consultation services for in-patient children; community visits, ophthalmology appointments, childcare and educational programs; community outreach programs; Family Assessments; Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP); Functional Vision Assessments (FVA), initial and annual reviews, including learning styles, learning media assessments, Teller Acuity testing; transition support from Part C to Part B; Community Centered Board transdisciplinary team meetings; professional development trainings and presentations in pediatric blindness and visual impairment; and internship opportunities for students in pursuit of degrees in early intervention, visual impairment services. For more information, contact Paula Landry at plandry@asharedvision.org

Anchor Center for Blind Children: Now celebrating its 35th year of service, Anchor Center for Blind Children is a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to providing assessments, early intervention and education for very young children (birth through five years) who are blind, visually impaired, or have dual sensory (vision and hearing) impairments. Although home visits and community outreach is a component of Anchor's programs, services primarily occur in the Center's state-of-the-art facility, architecturally designed for young children with vision impairments. Anchor Center's specialized team of practitioners includes Teachers of Children with Visually Impaired, Pediatric Ophthalmologists and Early Child Special Education Teachers, as well as Physical Therapists, Speech/Language Pathologists, Occupational, Recreational, Horticultural, and Music Therapists, a Behavioral Specialist and a Family Support Specialist. Working in a transdisciplinary model, the staff address each child's vision, developmental, and sensory needs. For more information about Anchor Center's Infant, Toddler, Preschool, Summer Camp and Family Service programs, call Anchor Center for Blind Children at 303-377-9732 or visit their website at www.anchorcenter.org

Audio Information Network of Colorado: The Audio Information Network of Colorado (AINC) is one of the nation's finest audio information resources for blind, visually impaired and print disabled individuals. AINC provides its listeners with information services (24/7) in both English and Spanish at no cost. The only information service of its kind in Colorado, AINC's audio services provide registered listeners with total access to RMPBS broadcasts of informational /educational programs, online podcasts, Internet radio, Amazon ECHO devices, TUNE-IN Smart phone app, and two phone information services.

Programming content comes from 100+ newspapers, magazines, and many diverse print publications. 1,500+ AINC listeners are provided access to everything from national/international news features to Colorado-focused, detailed local news and community events. AINC continues to prioritize serving school-age students, K-12, in schools throughout the State. A parallel initiative serves all ages of the Latino/Hispanic population 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 offerings. None, however, provide its listeners with an exclusive 24-7 program stream, all in Spanish. 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 the Boulder office at (303) 786-7777 or 1-877-443-2001 (toll free).

Braille Competency Certification: Funds have been reserved for five CDE 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 renewal modules. 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 information about braille competency testing and renewal requirements, please go to http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_guidedocs. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681

Braille and Large Print Format Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) Test Review: During previous assessment administrations, TVIs had the opportunity to meet with the CDE Unit of Student Assessment and the CMAS publisher to review braille CMAS tests. There will be continued work specific to these assessments and educators are always needed. If you are interested in signing up for the educator pool, please contact Mindy Roden, Special Education Assessment Specialist, at roden_m@cde.state.co.us or at (303)866-6709.

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.

CDE 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. Mentors will receive a stipend for their time and commitment to mentoring over a full school year. In addition the CDE will fund up to ten mentor sessions for TVIs who need tune-ups with the UEB code (specific to 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.

CDE O&M Seminar: This training is co-sponsored by CDE and CAER. The topics and dates for this training are under discussion and should be finalized by late September. It is anticipated the seminar will occur in late April or early May 2018. The contact person is Tanni Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment: The key professional development activity for TVIs during this school year will be offered on September 21-23, 2017. We will begin the conference on Thursday, September 21 specific to topics about changing in eligibility and a focus on transition. The Friday and Saturday content will focus on *Strategy to See: Strategies for Students with Cerebral / Cortical Visual Impairment* with our presenter, Diane Sheline, who will share content from a book she authored on this important subject. Conference content and registration details were disseminated in late August. There are no registration costs for these training sessions, but participants must be approved for attendance based on space availability. First priority will be given to those who can attend the full conference. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

CDE Web Pages Specific to Visual Impairment and Deaf-Blindness:

Deaf-Blindness – <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-db>

NIMAS / NIMC - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/nimas>

Orientation and Mobility - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/rs-om>

Visual Impairment, Including Blindness - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision>

Colorado Center for the Blind (CCB) Youth Program: 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 Chapter of AER (CAER): As professionals who serve the community of individuals who are blind/visually impaired, we have an active Colorado chapter of our national Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER for short!) professional organization. Within our specialized field, there are a number of ways to access continuing education, network with peers and learn to serve the needs of our clients and students more effectively. The CAER is comprised of members from administrative units, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Colorado Center for the Blind, the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and community members with an interest in vision loss. For more information about scheduled meetings and activities for member benefit, 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 twelfth 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 individuals who cannot read standard print, CTBL provides free audio, braille, and large print books keep people 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.

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 Role Model Videos: The CSDB Role Model Videos are designed 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. There are a total of ten role model clips for students and families to watch. The role models speak to their diagnosis, independence as an adult, thoughts for parents, interpersonal skills, and why they feel they're successful. <http://tinyurl.com/yamlqmag>

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: As of October 1 of this year the project is in the final year of the current five year grant cycle. There are currently 140 children and youth, age birth through 21 years, who have combined vision and hearing loss (deaf blindness) in Colorado. Free technical assistance is provided the families and service providers of children and youth with combined vision and hearing loss (deaf blindness). The project hosts an annual Summer Institute, which focuses key assessment of 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 deaf blindness. 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 back pack. 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 impairment from more than 5 Colorado school districts plus the Colorado School for the Blind during the 2016-17 ski season in Vail and Beaver Creek, including the reinstatement of the Randy Witte Champions Weekend and Race!. Students came with school groups and their TVIs while others came with their parents and families. Every student learned how to ski and how to be guided by our expert guides. Foresight Ski Guides can partner with TVIs, 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 Mark at Foresight at (303) 506-6965 or email them 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 personnel 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 each edition or from time-to-time. 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, braillists, 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 2017, October 2017, November / December 2017, January / February 2018, March / April 2018, and May 2018. For more information, please contact Tanni at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681. Back copies of recent newsletters can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_activities

Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: This is the 20th anniversary of the inception of the 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 2017-18 clinics will be posted in the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter, as are the local site coordinators for each clinic. For more information, contact Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681. For access to the clinic paperwork, please go to: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_activities



National Braille Challenge: The Colorado regional contest will again be held at CSDB and CCB in 2018. Students may also compete individually in their home school with their TVI administering the tests. Students compete in various categories such as spelling, reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, proofreading, and charts and graphs. Please hold January 18, 2018 for the Braille Challenge at CSDB and January 25, 2018 for the Braille Challenge at the Colorado Center for the Blind. For more information about the CSDB event, contact Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org. For more information about the Colorado Center for the Blind event, contact Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org. Please visit www.brailleinstitute.org for additional information about the National Braille Challenge.

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.

Regional Technology Trainings: A small amount of funds have been reserved in the CDE BVI funds to support technology training on a regional basis. These funds can be used to pay a speaker on a particular topic. If you would like to volunteer to provide training on a particular technology specific to learners who are blind/visually impaired or are interested in hosting a technology training, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

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 on April 28, 2018. 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.

United English Braille (UEB) Listserv: This listserv is exclusively for Colorado TVIs and school braillists working in Colorado administrative units. It is a venue for professionals to share information, ask questions, and gather updated 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 United States 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 Broussard at kbroussard@usaba.org or by phone at (719) 866-3019.

Vision Coalition: The Vision Coalition 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 (Colorado Center for the Blind), Paula Conroy (UNC), Nancy Cozart (Metro region), Julia Hutchison (Northern region), Julie King (Western region), Paula Landry, (A Shared Vision), Jamie Lugo (School for the Blind– CSDB), Dana McMullen (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), Trina Boyd Pratt (CAER), Jim Olson (CIMC), Sara Noel (CSDB BVI Outreach), and Callie Spotted Elk (Anchor Center for Blind Children). The VC meets three times a school year. For more information, please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681.

The Colorado Instructional Materials Center (CIMC)

New book ordering deadline: APRIL 1st of each year

APH Scholar selected from Colorado! We are ecstatic to announce that Colorado's very own **Jeannie Lei**, a TVI in Cherry Creek School District, was selected as one of five APH Scholars from across the nation who will be participating for the first time in the APH Annual Meeting for Ex Officio Trustees and Special Guests. This October 12-14, 2017 marks APH's 148th Annual Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky and the 14th year of the APH Scholar program. APH's intention of this initiative is to establish closer relationships with service providers and receive the benefit of their counsel. Congratulations Jeannie!

Updated CIMC Contact Information (and email signature line):

Webpage: www.csdb.org click on "Programs and Services", then "CIMC"

Please encrypt all emails containing personally identifiable information you send to the following email addresses:

cimcaphorders@csdb.org (use for "APH order form" submissions & related questions)

cimcbookorders@csdb.org (use for braille & LP "Book Order Form" submissions, sourcing inquiries, and questions)

cimcbrailers@csdb.org (use for "Braille Request" & "Braille Repair" form submissions & questions)

cimcregistrations@csdb.org (use to send "Registration" and "Exit" forms for the statewide VIIB count)

(719) 578-2195, Jim Olson (Coordinator) jolson@csdb.org

(719) 578-2196, CIMC pilot phone number (this will ring all CIMC computer-based phones simultaneously)

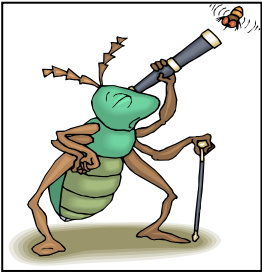
(719) 578-2197, Debbie Haberkorn, dhaberkorn@csdb.org (braille transcriber)

(719) 578-2198, Teresa Kilbury, tkilbury@csdb.org (shipping & receiving related questions)

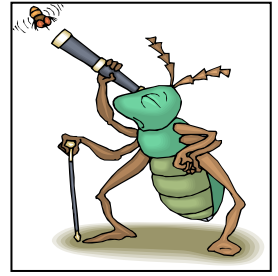
(719) 578-2199, Lori Wilson, lwilson@csdb.org (Count 1:CDE Registration & Count 2: APH Federal Quota)

(719) 578-2239, temporary CIMC FAX (address "To CIMC") (prints in the CSDB Administration office)

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



LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Low Vision Evaluation Clinics for School Year 2017-18

Region	Dates	Site Coordinator
Western Region	Clinic paperwork due to Debbie Haberkorn on September 13, 2017 Clinic Dates: September 29-30, 2017	Angela Sims
Northern Region	Clinic Paperwork due to Debbie Haberkorn on October 25, 2017 Clinic Dates: November 10-11, 2017	Wendy Stoltman
Southern Region	Clinic paperwork due on November 15, 2017 Clinic Dates: November 30—December 1, 2017	Debbie Haberkorn
Metro Region	Clinic paperwork due to Debbie Haberkorn on February 6, 2018 Clinic Dates: February 22-24, 2018	Nancy Knight



Attention all TVIs!
 Please be thinking now about which of your students are candidates for the Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics. We want to ensure that every slot is filled with a deserving student. It takes advance planning to get the paperwork completed to fully prepare for each student attending a clinic. You can find the LVE forms on the CDE website. http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Vision_Activities.asp
 Thanks for your partnership to promote a successful clinic for your student(s).

ORIENTATION & MOBILITY



The ABCs of O&M

In 2016 Danita Snulligan was selected for an award for her new booklet *The ABCs of O&M*, now available at this link:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/The-ABCs-of-OM-2686893>

Danita is a O&M instructor and TVI in Georgia who took the initiative to develop an O&M curriculum which fosters literacy acquisition with individualized O&M concepts.

O&M Live Binder

Our huge thanks to Chris Tabb, a speaker of the May 2017 CDE O&M Seminar who shared information about the O&M Live Binder. This is a project that has resulted in a collection of materials that support orientation and mobility services for children and adults. The link is: <http://bit.ly/LiveBinderOM>

If you would like to contribute a document to the O&M Live Binder website, please send this information directly to Chris at tabbc@tsbvi.edu

The Teacher's Guide to Orientation and Mobility

The Perkins Freedom Mobility LLC has put together a guidebook to address basic orientation and mobility information for teachers. It details definitions, roles and responsibilities, tips for working with students, explanation of O&M techniques, and common terminology.

The guide can be found at:

<http://perkinsfreedommobility.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/A-Teachers-Guide-to-O-M.pdf>



Resources and Materials

Active Learning Space

<http://activelearningspace.org/>

Active Learning is an approach based on the work of Dr. Lilli Nielsen. It is not just a piece of equipment, such as a "Little Room", but rather it refers to a total approach, for instructing individuals with severe multiple disabilities. It contains an assessment, a curriculum, specifically-designed equipment, and instructional strategies that support the learner to be an active participant in his or her surroundings.

The Active Learning approach emphasizes that all individuals learn best by active participation. All activity, especially in the earliest stages of development, actually "wires our brains" and establishes critical foundational concepts and skills necessary for all future learning.

Individuals with multiple disabilities (cerebral palsy, visual impairment, cognitive impairment, autism, hearing impairment, etc.) are at great risk from developing reliance on others to interact with the world around them. They learn to be a passive rather than active participant, waiting for adults to provide activity rather than seeking it out on their own. Children and adults with special needs often develop stereotypical or aggressive behaviors in order to communicate with others or cope within the environments in which they are placed. Active Learning recognizes that every child/adult with special needs is unique. The programming and intervention for facilitating learning must reflect this individuality.

Active Learning emphasizes creating a developmentally appropriate and enriched environment so that children and adults with multiple special needs become active learners. This website is dedicated to helping professionals and parents understand the theories of Active Learning, to facilitate simple ways to change the environment, and to create programming that fosters independent and appropriate developmental learning

This website has been collaboratively developed by Penrickton Center for the Blind in Taylor, Michigan, Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts, and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Austin, Texas.

The site has a wealth of information, including videos, that can be shared with colleagues and families as learning tools. The site is at: <http://activelearningspace.org/> You can also subscribe for updates to the website.

FAIER Planning Model to Develop Physical Activities for Individuals with Disabilities

Adaptive Physical Education Teacher at Perkins School for the Blind, presents a FAIER planning model to develop physical activities for individuals with disabilities. FAIER is an abbreviation for Foundation, Awareness, Implementation, Evaluation, and Refinement. The FAIER model is that it is a process and it is not a curriculum.

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/videos/webcast/adaptive-physical-education>

Resources and Materials

Essential Assessments Rubric Website

Essential assessments, such as the FVA, LMA, and ECC assessments, are important and necessary to fully understanding the unique implications each child experiences as a result of his or her visual impairment. While each child should have a quality assessment conducted periodically, it can be overwhelming since the assessments are not standardized and are highly individualized. The EA Rubric website provides an overview of key assessment components and resources to conduct a thorough assessment for students birth-3, 3-5, 5-22, and for students with multiple disabilities.

Bookshare

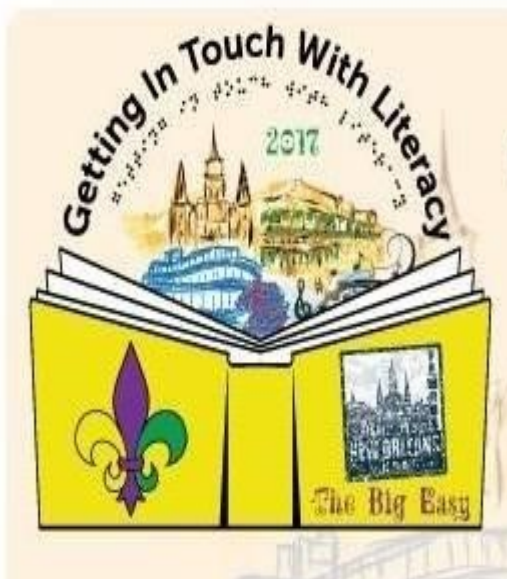
The world's largest online accessible library of copyrighted content for people with print disabilities. Through its technology initiatives and partnerships, Bookshare seeks to raise the floor on issues of accessibility, so that individuals with print disabilities have the same ease of access to print materials as people without disabilities. In 2007 and 2012, Bookshare received two, five-year awards from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), to provide free access for all U.S. students with a qualified print disability. The Bookshare library now has over 189,000 books and serves more than 250,000 members. Bookshare is an initiative of Benetech, a Palo Alto, CA-based nonprofit which creates sustainable technology to solve pressing social needs. For more information, visit: www.bookshare.org

13th Biennial

Getting in Touch with Literacy Conference

New Orleans, Louisiana

December 6-9, 2017



GITWL 2017 brings together the most current thinking on all forms of literacy, including print, braille, auditory, tactile graphics comprehension and the use of assistive technology. Presentations will address the needs of a range of ages and all levels of ability, including the range of conventional and functional literacy.

<http://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org/>



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 CDE licensure.

Colorado's 21st Century Skills

CDE launched an opportunity for feedback on updates to Colorado's 21st Century Skills as part of the standards review and revision process. The 21st Century Skills are the essential skills students should develop to be successful in the post-secondary education and the workplace, such as initiative and innovation.

Those interested can review the Essential Skills Guidance document draft (PDF) and provide feedback at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/casreview-essentialskills>

For more information, go to : <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/casreview>

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



Licensure and Endorsement Specific to Visual Impairment

For information about the endorsement requirements for the Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired Ages Birth -21, go to: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>

<p>Special Education Specialist: Visually Impaired Ages Birth-21: (9.02)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Must hold a Master’s degree or higher from a regionally-accredited institution in special education visual impairment or its equivalent, as determined by the Department. ✓ Must have completed a program from a regionally-accredited institution for special education specialists: visually impaired that includes prescribed field experience requirements
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For information about the endorsement requirements for the School Orientation and Mobility Specialist, go to: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeprof/endorsementrequirements>

<p>School Orientation and Mobility Specialist Ages 0-21: (11.03)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally-accredited institution ✓ Completion of a preparation program from a regionally-accredited institution for school orientation and mobility specialists ✓ Completion of practicum or internship, which must be in a school setting and equivalent to a minimum of 320 hours, full-time, under the supervision of an Academy of Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) licensed orientation and mobility specialist. ✓ Passing of the ACVREP exam ✓ Hold a current and valid ACVREP orientation and mobility certificate
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EDUCATOR TALENT

Effective Educators for Every Student and
Effective Leaders for Every School

Educator Talent Website

There is a new Educator Talent website! Their mission is to develop, deploy and support talent management and human capital development strategies for districts and schools so that the most effective educators are in every school and classroom and all students are prepared for college, career, and life.

Check it out at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/educatortalent>




Calendar of Events

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

- September 13** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting**—CSDB
 Contact: Jim Olson— jolson@csdb.org

- September 18** **Metro Regional TVI/COMS Meeting**—JeffCo School District
 Contact: Jeannie Lei - jlei@cherrycreekschool.org

- September 21** **Vision Coalition Meeting** —Summit Convention Center in Aurora
 Contact: Tanni Anthony – Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

- September 21-23** **CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment**
 Contact: Tanni Anthony – Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

- September 29-30** **Low Vision Evaluation Clinic**—Western Region
 Contact: Angela Sims—Angela.Sims@d51schools.org

- October 5** **DVR-Vision Resource Expo**—Pikes Peak Library
 Contact: Colorado Springs DVR-719-635-3585 or Pueblo DVR 719-544-1406

- October 11** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting**—CSDB
 Contact: Jim Olson— jolson@csdb.org

- October 15** **White Cane Day!**

- October 19-21** **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP)** - Breckenridge, CO
 For more information go to www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp

- November 8** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting**—CSDB
 Contact: Jim Olson— jolson@csdb.org

- November 10-11** **Low Vision Evaluation Clinic**—Northern Region
 Contact: Wendy Stoltman—wastoltman@aol.com




Calendar of Events

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

Nov 30-Dec 1 **Low Vision Evaluation Clinic**—Southern Region
 Contact: Debbie Haberkorn— dhaberkorn@csdb.org

December 6-9 **Getting in Touch with Literacy**—New Orleans, LA
 Contact: <http://www.gettingintouchwithliteracy.org/>



December 13 **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting**—CSDB
 Contact: Jim Olson— jolson@csdb.org

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

January 10 **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting**—CSDB
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org

January 18 **Braille Challenge** – CSDB in Colorado Springs, CO
 Contact: Jamie Lugo at jlugo@csdb.org

January 25 **Braille Challenge** – Colorado Center for the Blind in Littleton, CO
 Contact: Diane Covington at dcovington@csdb.org

February 8-9 **PEAK Parents Center’s - Inclusive Education Conference**—Colorado Springs, CO
 Contact: Pam Christy at pchristy@peakparent.org

February 14 **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting**—CSDB
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org

February 12 **Metro Regional TVI/COMS Meeting**—Aurora , CO
 Contact: Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschool.org

February 22-24 **Low Vision Evaluation Clinic**—Metro Region
 Contact: Nancy Knight at nknight@lps.k12.co.us

February 22-24 **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) - Colorado Springs, CO**
 For more information go to www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp

August—September 2017 KIT




Calendar of Events

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

- March 14** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- April 1** **Braille Book Order Deadline to the CIMC for the Following School Year**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- April 11** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- April 12** **Metro Regional TVI/COMS Meeting—Denver, CO**
 Contact: Jeannie Lei at jlei@cherrycreekschool.org
- April 26-28** **Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) - Mt. Crested Butte, CO**
 For more information go to www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/PEP.asp
- April 28** **Sensory Safari - Colorado Springs**
 Contact: Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org
- May 9** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- July 25-29** **AER International Conference 2018—Peppermill Resort, Reno NV**
 Contact: www.aerbvi.org
- September 12** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- October 10** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- November 14** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- December 12** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org




Calendar of Events

2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019

Good for the Southern Region who have scheduled their monthly meetings into the 2018-19 school year!

- January 9** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- February 13** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- March 13** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- April 10** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org
- May 8** **Southern Region TVI/DVR & COMS Meeting—CSDB**
 Contact: Jim Olson at jolson@csdb.org



2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020 2020

June 22-25 **International Mobility Conference (IMC) 17 – Gothenburg, Sweden**
 For more information: <http://ips.gu.se/english/cooperation/conferences/imc17>

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.

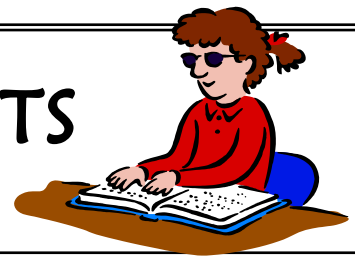
TVIs and COMSs: If you have any changes in program contact information, please Tanni these changes.

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 1100, Denver, CO 80202. Or you can leave a voice message for Tanni at (303) 866-6681. Thank you so much!



CONNECTING THE DOTS



Colorado Braille Competency Committee

Please keep this information handy, if you are in the process of earning your initial Colorado Braille Competency Certificate or working on your renewal modules. The CDE Braille Competency Committee members serve as part-time employees of the Colorado Department of Education Exceptional Student Services Unit for their important 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 UEB competency process 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

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.

Be watching for practice test items to be posted on the braille competency webpage—that information and other resources can be found at: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_guidedocs

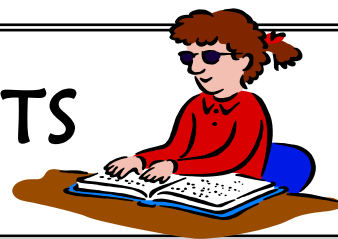
Braillewriter Repair

Mark Carpenter is available for braillewriter repair.

His contact information is: Phone: 719-634-8720 and Email: carpdiane@yahoo.com



CONNECTING THE DOTS



Seedlings' Mission

Seedlings Braille Books for Children is a 501(c)3 non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the opportunities for literacy by providing high quality, low cost braille books for children. Two of their projects are highlighted below:

Seedings The Rose Project

World Book Encyclopedia Articles in braille. A **free** service for visually-impaired students in grades 1-12.

For more information, go to: <http://www.seedlings.org/rose.php>

2017 Book Angel Program for V-I Children

Thanks to Seedlings' generous donors, blind children in the U.S. and Canada can receive **three** free braille books per year! Each child must be registered each year. This program is new and improved! Now each visually-impaired child (0-21) in the US and Canada can receive 3 free braille books per year through this program!

For more information, go to: <http://www.seedlings.org/bkangel2009.php>

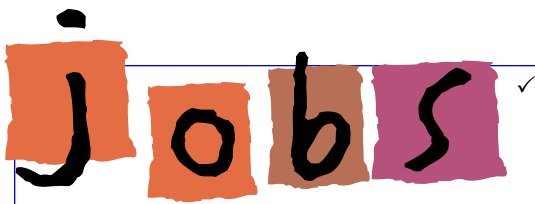


Braille Authority of North America

BANA has a host of resources on UEB. Check it out at: <http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb.html>

Web content includes:

- ◆ BANA Press Releases About the Adoption of UEB
- ◆ UEB Rules and Guidelines
- ◆ UEB Resources
- ◆ Nemeth—UEB Guidance
- ◆ Foreign Language Provisional Guidance
- ◆ Example Documents in UEB
- ◆ Planning the Implementation of UEB
- ◆ CCSSO Implementation Guide
- ◆ State Plans for Implementing UEB
- ◆ Background information to the UEB Project
- ◆ Research on UEB



IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with current vacancies for this school year or anticipated vacancies starting in the Fall of 2018. 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 of students with visual impairments 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
- ✓ **TVI/ COMS** (1 FTE) for Greeley Schools. For more information, please contact Kate Green at kgreen4@greeleyschools.org
- ✓ **TVI** (1 FTE) for Poudre Schools District in Fort Collins. For more information, please contact Romie Tobin at rtobin@psdschools.org

Southern Region – Jobs

- ✓ **CSDB** - Please be in touch with Chelle Lutz for CSDB Openings. She can be reached at (719) 578-2100.
- ✓ **1 TVI / COMS** opening for Pikes Peak BOCES. For more information, please contact Trish Reitingger Trish Reitingger@ppbooces.org or 719 622-6205

Metro Region—Jobs

- ✓ **TVI (1 FTE)** As well as a Full-time substitute for the Fall Semester and a brailist / para in the Denver Public Schools District. contact Brandy Samuell at brandy_samuell@dpsk12.org for more information.

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!

Please keep Tanni in the communication loop about the status of your vacancies. We need to work together to fill these positions! If you have ideas about how best to home grow and support new personnel to the field, let your Vision Coalition representative know!



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

CAER IS FOR YOU!

As professionals who serve the community of individuals who are blind/visually impaired, we have an active Colorado chapter of our national AER professional organization. Within our specialized field, there are a number of ways to access continuing education, network with peers and learn to serve the needs of our clients and students more effectively. We take pride that CAER is comprised of members from school district administration units, the Department Veterans' Affairs, CO Center for the Blind, Vocational Rehabilitation and community members with an interest in vision loss.

Benefits of Membership:

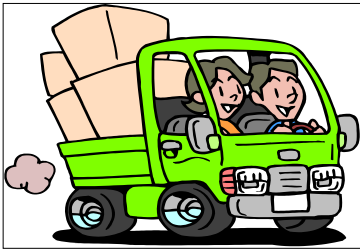
- Professional Development & Support (Colorado members receive reduced rates to CAER sponsored events!)
- Financial support (See Mini-grants and ACVREP reimbursements)
- CAER Newsletters
- Adaptive donations to us – and then returned to the community through you
- Advocacy at local and national levels

2017-18 Board Members:

- **President:** Brent Batron
- **President:** Elect: Nancy Cozart Past-President: David Gooldy
- **Treasurer:** Trina Boyd-Pratt
- **Secretary:** Nancy Cozart
- **At Large Members:** Ann Cunningham, Sally Burch, Michelle Robinson, Amber Rundle-Kahn, Heather Solberg

Website: <http://co.aerbvi.org/>

Contact us at: caerboard@gmail.com



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

Heads Up on Scholarship Opportunities

Lighthouse Guild

<http://www.lighthouseguild.org/programs-services/scholarships/>

Lighthouse awards scholarships to “help legally blind young adults make a successful transition to college, support their post-graduate education, and facilitate career development.

Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards

<https://www.learningally.org/NAA>

Award for college seniors and graduate students who are blind or visually impaired

National Federation of the Blind

<https://nfb.org/scholarships>

A summary of the scholarship program from their website: To recognize achievement by blind scholars, the National Federation of the Blind annually offers blind college students in the United States and Puerto Rico the opportunity to win one of thirty merit-based, national-level scholarships worth from \$3,000 to \$12,000. All scholarships awarded are based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership.

United States Association of Blind Athletes

http://usaba.org/index.php/membership/copeland-scholarship/USABA_Scholarship_Programs/

To receive this \$500 award, students must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, be enrolled in a two or four-year college, university or technical school, be a current member of the USABA and legally blind.

Microsoft Disability Scholarship

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/microsoftdisabilityscholarship.aspx>

This \$5,000 scholarship is available to students enrolled in a two or four-year technology-focused program.

Stay tuned for the See the Future Fund Scholarship in Colorado—that will be sent out shortly!

Guidebook for Students who are Visually Impaired

This resource is designed to help find scholarships and information about assistive technology.

They have also included an interview with a graduate student who is visually impaired, discussing the challenges and sharing support and advice for future and current students.

Check out their full length guidebook here:

<http://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/helping-students-with-visual-impairments/>



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

Getting Ready for College

It is not too early to be talking to your students who are soon to exit public school about getting ready for college. Many of the skills noted below should be evident in high school. The following information was authored by Tara Annis and Lee Huffman and first published in the July 2010 Issue of AccessWorld App. It can be found at: <http://www.afb.org/afbpress/pubnew.asp?DocID=aw110306>

FAQs from the Desk of AFB's Information and Referral Specialist

Question: What should I tell my instructors about my visual impairment?

Answer: It is important to speak with your instructors as soon as you know you are going to be in their class. Many students with vision loss fear speaking to their instructors, worrying he or she will not believe they can complete the course work due to ignorance about the capabilities of people with vision loss.

Try to schedule meetings with all of your instructors as soon as possible. It is best if you talk about your vision loss openly and honestly. Instructors may fear asking questions, not wanting to offend you. As a student, you have to be proactive, explaining how you accomplish tasks. It may be beneficial to bring your assistive technology and adaptive products to this meeting, explaining how these devices will help you. For example, you could say something to the effect of, "This is my laptop with screen-magnification software, and this is an electronic magnifier. When I place the textbook under the camera, all of the material is enlarged. I have some usable vision, so I am able to read the textbook, complete written work, and view the syllabus using this equipment. Using my laptop's screen magnification software, I am able to write term papers and use the Internet to conduct research. I wanted to show you this equipment in order to assure you I can handle the material in this class and I am serious about doing well."

You could also direct your instructor to the AFB website <http://www.afb.org/default.aspx> and to other websites on vision loss if he or she would like further information. You should then ask for an overview of the class structure. Will he or she write on the board or use an overhead projector? Will he or she use PowerPoint slides or hand out a good deal of printed material? Will there be in-class assignments or pop quizzes? What is the structure of tests? Will there be off-campus field trips? Knowing answers to these types of questions will help you to better prepare for the class.

Question: What types of services does a Disabled Student Services (DSS) office offer?

Answer: Most colleges have a DSS office, which can vary from school to school in the scope of services offered. The DSS office may offer people to assist with taking notes in class, personal readers, proctors for tests, or someone to assist you in a science lab. However, personal assistants are sometimes in short supply or are not skilled in the material covered in your particular class. This is especially true for subjects such as music, science, math, and higher levels of every subject, where technical terms are commonplace.

The DSS office may also have some assistive technology for loan, such as braille notetakers or video magnifiers. The DSS office can also assist with legal matters, such as if a student is experiencing discrimination. They may also be able to transcribe textbooks into large print or braille, or make tactile diagrams.



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

In addition to the DSS office, many college departments have hired graduate or teaching assistants who offer student support as part of their job description. You may also want to check with your school's tutoring center. Many tutors are willing to serve as a reader rather than as an actual tutor.

You may choose to find someone on your own and pay for their services. Sometimes the vocational rehabilitation department in your state will give you a stipend for readers. You can advertise for help in the school newspaper, at the career services center, and on bulletin boards in dorms and other places on campus. You may also want to seek help from volunteer groups, such as local places of worship, the local Lion's Club, women's groups, and campus service fraternities.

Question: Where can I get textbooks in alternate formats?

Answer: American Printing House for the Blind offers the Louis Database, where you can search for agencies that carry your textbooks in alternate formats. Learning Ally offers textbooks from preschool to the doctoral level. You can get them on audio cassette or the Daisy format, which works with Daisy audio book players.

The Bookshare website offers textbooks for primary, secondary, undergraduate, and post-graduate study. Recently, Bookshare began offering students with documented legal blindness free access to its collection, waiving the usual \$150 fee.

Project Gutenberg <https://archive.org/details/gutenberg> offers a smaller collection of books, mostly classics, which could come in handy for students taking a literature or classics class. Many works of literature, especially classic short stories and poems, can be found using a search engine. The Library of Congress is another great place to search for novels and poetry for your English classes. You can find audio cassettes, braille-ready electronic files, and digital audio versions of the works you need.

You can also purchase the print copy of a textbook, and scan them yourself using optical character recognition software, such as Openbook or Kurzweil. Even if you cannot locate a particular textbook, check for earlier editions; usually the changes from edition to edition are minimal. You can even order a completely different textbook on the same subject. I have done this for Physics classes as most general physics books cover the same topics. I could look up something such as "calculating velocity" and learn the same material as my classmates. I have even searched the Internet for topics covered in my textbooks, such as locating boiling and melting points for chemical compounds.

You could also contact the book's publisher and request an electronic version, which, by law, the publisher should send you. This process, however, can be time consuming as you sometimes must verify your disability. So, attempt to find the names of textbooks you will be using during the upcoming school term as early as possible.

Question: How do I take notes in class?

Answer: Several methods may be employed. You may choose to use a personal notetaker employed by the DSS office or ask a classmate to take notes for you. You could also use a laptop or electronic notetaker.

Students with low vision can use a portable video magnifier. You could use 20/20 pens, which create a bold line. You could also try using bold or raised-line paper. Another method is using an audio recorder, either a separate piece of hardware, or one that is built into your laptop or electronic notetaker.



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

Question: How do I complete in-class work, such as pop quizzes or worksheets?

Answer: You can handle in-class work in several ways. If the assignment or quiz is short, you can stay after class and have the instructor read it to you. The instructor may allow you to use an electronic version on your laptop or notetaker. Be sure to bring your portable video magnifier to class if you have enough usable vision to take assignments and quizzes in this manner. Some people with vision loss, even though they cannot read print, learn the print alphabet, allowing them to use raised-line paper for short assignments. I've done this for short multiple-choice quizzes.

Question: How do I handle taking tests?

Answer: You could contact the DSS office and use one of the office's personal readers. Some DSS offices will transcribe tests into braille, convert them to electronic format, or reproduce them in large print. Another option is using a video magnifier if you have enough usable vision. Many low-vision students have difficulty reading Scantron sheets, and choose to write directly on the test itself or on a separate sheet of paper.

Some instructors will give a visually impaired student the test on a USB drive or via e-mail, allowing him or her to use a laptop or notetaker to answer the questions. This is especially handy for essay questions, which can be difficult to answer by dictating to a proctor or writing under a video magnifier.

Question: What about classes of a more visual nature, such as those in the fields of science, engineering, and math?

Answer: Several agencies have created adapted products for the science, technology, engineering, and math fields, including braille and large-print periodic tables of the elements; raised-line drawings of the human body systems; talking and large-font calculators; raised- and bold-line graphing paper; large-print and braille rulers, yardsticks, and tape measures; braille protractors, 3-D representations of shapes for geometry, and raised-line drawing kits.

The color video magnifier is great for viewing specimens, such as the veins on leaves, the wings of insects, and details on rocks and shells. You can label lab equipment, such as measurement marks on beakers and test tubes, with large-print or tactile labels, allowing you to perform lab experiments using this glassware independently. Some lab work may not have a logical way to be performed independently. For these circumstances, students who are visually impaired may choose to use a lab assistant. The instructor knows the student with vision loss is responsible for telling the assistant what to do, such as stating the amount and type of compound to pour into a beaker.

The assistant may also describe color changes, temperature readings on the thermometer, and weights on the balance scale. The lab assistant does not write lab reports, take tests, or do any of the written work submitted for the course. This is the responsibility of the student. Some adaptive lab equipment may also be available, such as talking thermometers, voltmeters, micrometers, color identifiers, and balance scales.

The Independent Laboratory Access for the Blind (<http://research.chem.psu.edu/mallouk/ilab/>) Project is one source for such equipment. Some microscopes have the ability to connect to a monitor, displaying specimens under the microscope lens onto the monitor's screen. This allows for much larger magnification and eliminates the need for the student with low vision to focus the microscope lens by looking through the lens, which can be quite an eye strain.

Question: What if I do not have the funds to purchase assistive technology?

Answer: The vocational rehabilitation department in your state may purchase assistive technology, such as video magnifiers, electronic notetakers, or laptops. Your school or a local public library may have an assistive technology room for visually impaired students to use. Check with local agencies for the blind or teachers of students who are visually impaired to see if you can borrow equipment.



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

Community groups, such as the Lions Club, may offer grants. The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) has implemented a technology loan program with a low interest rate, and the Association of Blind Citizens (ABC) offers an assistive technology fund.

Question: Where should I look for scholarships?

Answer: There are a vast number of scholarships for college students, and some are geared specifically for persons with vision loss. Check with local and national agencies for the blind, such as the NFB and the American Council of the Blind chapters. Also, note that AFB offers scholarships to students pursuing higher education; visit our website to learn more.

Question: Where on the AFB website can I find useful information about college-related issues?

Answer: You can use the search option for the AFB website to locate information, or browse the FamilyConnect website, which has a section specific to college students under the "transition to independence" link. Here you can read articles such as "Caitlin's Top Ten Rules for Incoming Freshman" and "College Life Begins."

The AFB CareerConnect website <http://www.afb.org/info/living-with-vision-loss/for-job-seekers/12> also contains a wealth of information about employment.

Editor's Note: It is also important to identify good secondary transition goals to prepare students for the college years ahead! We will be focusing on DVR services on the Thursday night of our state conference, so come prepared to ask questions about how best to support our secondary-age students for post school life!

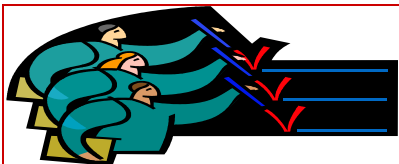
KEEPING IN TOUCH NEWSLETTER POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Each edition of the *Keeping in Touch Newsletter* is posted on line at:

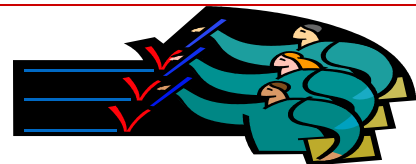
http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-Vision_Activities

Since there are so many links in each newsletter, this electronic version will give you direct access to the content tied to each link.





CHECK IT OUT!



DIVISION of
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

State of Colorado

Vision Resource Expo—Sponsored by DVR

When: Thursday, October 5, 2017 10 am - 2 pm OPEN HOUSE
Vendor set up – 9:00 a.m.

Where: Library 21C
Pikes Peak Library District
1175 Chapel Hills Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80920
Accessible from Bus Route 39

What: Resources for individuals with vision loss.
Vendors ranging from Assistive Technology,
Rehabilitation Services, Guide Dogs, Daily
Living Skills, and more!

Have questions?

Call Colorado Springs DVR at 719-635-3585 ask for
Liz Robertson, Megann Karch, or Tim Richard
Or Call Pueblo DVR at 719-544-1406 ask for Muck

Need an Interpreter? Request by 9/1/2017

NFB Early Childhood Initiative Program

(For children ages birth through eight years old who are blind/visually impaired)

Featuring programs designed to provide children and their families support and guidance to master the skills needed to achieve independence for a lifetime. Each program provides families with valuable resources for promoting success for their young blind children.

Each NFB Early Childhood Initiative Program Includes:

- Monthly electronic newsletter, *The Bee: Early Literacy and Movement for the Young Blind Child*. For archived The BEE newsletters, go to: <https://nfb.org/bee-archived-newsletters>
- Electronic subscription to *Future Reflections*, a publication for parents and educators of blind children. For more information about Future Reflections, go to: <https://nfb.org/future-reflections>

To register a child, go to: <https://nfb.org/early-childhood-initiative-form>

Kabala School for the Blind 2017

By Nancy Knight, TVI/O&M Littleton Public Schools



West Africa, especially Sierra Leone, has been in the news lately. The largest city and capital, Freetown, experienced devastating floods and mudslides recently and several years ago we heard how great an impact Ebola made throughout the country, many lost lives. Each summer that is safe to enter the country, I'm part of a team who travel to Sierra Leone and work at Heritage of Kabala (Littleton, Heritage High School's sister school) and a small School for the Blind.

The students at our little School for the Blind in Kabala, northern Sierra Leone near the Guinea border, is persevering with support from the U.S. The children were sent to their villages during the Ebola epidemic and many didn't return. We have no way of knowing if they survived or not, I miss some of the dear students we've seen year after year. Fortunately the recent flooding and mudslides didn't affect the area around Kabala, the students who are currently there are protected from weather.

There've been two teams since Ebola swept through; this summer's team was the first to travel with high school students from Heritage in Littleton, as well as a student from Mullin and one from Florida. The kids from the U.S. didn't hesitate a bit and helped with activities with the blind students, I'm so proud of them! Older students at the blind school attend regular schools in the village so approximately 30 kids aged 4-14 were on campus for game day and writing letters to middle school students in Littleton. There are 48 students who attend the school for the blind and most live on campus.



Games which included dominoes, checkers, tic tac toe, etc. were chosen and the U.S. team joined-in to make it fun for all the kids. A craft, painting hands with puff paint and putting the prints on paper, were used to decorate the dining room. The highlight is always the letters that come from students in Colorado. The blind students carry them around and read them over and over. Responses are written and will be handed out to the 8th graders at Goddard Middle School this fall, they've been asking since the first day of school about their 'African pals'.



Older girls were given kits made in the U.S. to help with sanitary practices when menstruating; the girls on our team demonstrated how to use the kit and gave each female teenager one to use. The girls are often kept out of class when they're having their periods, sometimes missing school for 4-5 days. The supplies can be used to keep them clean and able to attend classes.

The library at the school continues to grow; each year I bring books donated from all of you. They now have over 200 volumes! Next summer's project will be to paint the dining room and organize the library. They're currently stacked all over the place!

If you're interested in a fund-raiser for the school please check out the GoFundMe page I've created for a safety wall. The girls are at risk and the need for protection is an immediate priority!

Thank you for all your support, so many of you have donated supplies, canes, books, etc. and always ask how the kids are doing over there. One TVI has financially adopted a young woman who 'graduated' from the school for the blind. A big commitment but changing that girls' life forever! The children benefit from anything we can do for them, they're so very grateful, and so am I!



just for PARENTS

FamilyConnect is a website created by the American

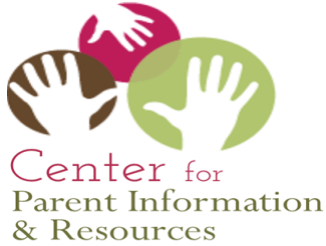
Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and the National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (NAPVI) to give parents of visually impaired children a place to support each other, share stories and concerns, and find resources on raising their children from birth to adulthood.

Vital Links to Families

- Talk to other parents on message boards where you can share your stories, questions, concerns, and triumphs.
- Read parents' blog posts and personal stories written by parents about their own experiences raising children who are blind or have multiple disabilities.
- See hopeful and insightful videos featuring kids with visual impairments and their families.

Family Connect from AFB <http://www.familyconnect.org/parentsitetime.aspx>

just for PARENTS



Center for Parent Information and Resources

This website was produced under U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs No. H328R130014.

It has links to Resources and Parent TA Centers.

Check it out at: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/>

There is a specific webpage for Visual Impairment, Including Blindness.

Go to: <http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/visualimpairment/>

2017 - 2018 Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) Conferences

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 parents and professionals together by sharing ideas, discussing concerns, celebrating successes and obtaining information related to parenting, educating and partnering to support student learning. PEP Conferences are offered at no cost to attendees.

2017 - 2018 PEP Dates:

October 19 - 21, 2017 - Breckenridge, CO

February 22 - 24, 2018 - Colorado Springs, CO

April 26 - 28, 2018 - Mt. Crested Butte, CO

To learn more about PEP Conferences and to register, please visit:

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

The [National Organization of Parents of Blind Children](http://www.nfb.org/Parents-and-Teachers-of-Blind-Children) (NOPBC) is a national membership organization of parents and friends of blind children reaching out to each other to give vital support, encouragement, and information. They have over 3,000 members in all 50 states and divisions or parent contacts in about 30 states plus Puerto Rico.

For more information about NOPBC, please go to:

<https://nfb.org/Parents-and-Teachers-of-Blind-Children>

NEW FACES AND NEW PLACES

- **Caitlin Bleything** is a new TVI in Adams 12 Five Star Schools. She will be finishing her TVI program at Missouri State University this December. Caitlin will be continuing her education at UNC in the Spring to earn her endorsement in O&M. She spent the last half of this year finishing her practicum with A Shared Vision providing services to our early intervention families. Prior to Special Education she worked in higher education as a student and disability services advisor. Caitlin loves spending time with her family in her free time and loves to go white water rafting!
- **Jill Bookwalter** is finishing her TVI program this year. She shares, "I am really excited about that!" She is also getting her Orientation and Mobility Endorsement and plans to take the certification test for that next summer. Jill has been a stay at home mom for the last 20 years, so she is getting back into the work force with this degree. Jill has four kids, the oldest is 20 and the youngest is 12. She loves the outdoors, hiking and bike riding. She also enjoys reading, needlework, and family time. Jill is completing her TVI practicum in Denver Public Schools.
- **Jayne Cusimano** is with the CSDB Outreach Team. Jayne's career began in Illinois where she attended Northern Illinois University, enrolled in their graduate level TVI and O&M Program. Her TVI internship was completed in Illinois and her O&M internship was completed in Virginia. Jayne remained in Northern Virginia where she worked as an itinerant TVI/O&M for the last four and a half years. Her experience includes working with students K-12, as well as working with families of babies who are blind/VI. Jayne shared, "As most people in our field, I find this career both challenging and rewarding. For me, one of the greatest rewards is witnessing a student's increased independence, no matter the degree." Jayne shared she is excited to have relocated to Colorado to continue working in a field she loves and in a place that is beautiful and full of endless outdoor adventures. As part of the CSDB Outreach team, Jayne looks forward to collaborating with educators in similar and related fields across the state.
- **Elise Darrow** has joined the staff at the Anchor Center for Blind Children. Elise is nearing the end of her TVI/O&M Specialist Master of Arts degree at UNC Greeley. She shared that finishing her degree in 2.5 years has been quite the feat, but she has thoroughly enjoyed all of it. Elise was introduced to the field of visual impairment after she graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder and worked as a paraprofessional for a student who was totally blind. Elise noted that the wonderful TVI & COMS encouraged her to pursue this as a career, and here she is three years later...almost licensed! She loves working in early intervention and notes that It is so special to work closely with parents and families. Elise is married to Joe Darrow and they use their free time to fix up their home, travel, and spend time with friends and family.
- **Melissa French** will be working in Poudre School District. She has a BA in Elementary Education and Special Education. She is certified in the area of moderate needs. Melissa has taught at all grade levels in the field of special education over the course of ten years. She is currently enrolled in the UNC VI program. Her hobbies include refurbishing/upcycling furniture, woodworking and creating home decor.
- **Sarah Jane Goodfellow** will continue to work for Poudre School District as an Itinerant Teacher for the Visually Impaired in all of Southern Fort Collins. She has served hundreds of students of all ages with disabilities for over a decade. Sarah has earned her Masters degree in Chicago, IL in the specific area of a Learning Behavior Specialist and is currently working on her second masters at the University of Northern Colorado. Her hobbies include selling real estate on the side, while enjoying the great outdoors, traveling, friends, family, music and her furry cats.
- **Eva Gonzales** is working at the School for the Blind at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind. So glad to have her on board!

NEW FACES AND NEW PLACES

- **Erin Kerr** is a new TVI in Aurora School District. Erin is a widowed single mom of two girls. She started in education as a first grade teacher. Erin stayed home with her children for a few years, then returned to education as a brailist, thanks to her amazing cousin Taryn Galow (who is a brailist in Englewood School District!). The TVIs who she worked with in APS encouraged her to return to school and get her master's degree. (and we are so glad they did and she did!) This is Erin's first year as a TVI in Aurora.
- **Bryan Kruger** is new to Colorado and working at the Cherry Creek School District as a teacher of students who are visually impaired. Born and raised in the Philadelphia area, Bryan graduated from Kutztown University with a degree in special education for visual impairment in 2010. He worked for the Garnet Valley School district as a TVI for 3 years before moving to the Denver area this past summer. Bryan enjoys running, biking, hiking, swimming, and playing recreational sports in the beautiful Colorado outdoors.
- **Laura Mauro** is working at the Anchor Center for Blind Children. She is hired as an Early Childhood Special Educator and is currently working to finish the TVI/O&M Specialist endorsement at UNC. Laura has been in the special education field for over 20 years. Originally from Tucson, AZ, she loves the outdoor opportunities in this beautiful state that she now calls home. She enjoys yoga, hiking, biking, gardening, traveling and many other endeavors.
- **Brenna Moser** has joined the Douglas County School District team. For the past several years she has worked as a Significant Support Needs teacher with DCSD. During that time a lovely TVI with whom she worked spoke to her about starting UNC's Visual Impairment program, and a couple of years later that is exactly what she did! This fall will mark her first year working as a TVI with DCSD and Brenna shares that she could not be more excited to join such a wonderful team. Beyond her role in teaching, she is also a wife and mother of two little boys. Brenna loves reading, reading some more, and exploring the outdoors with her little ones.
- **Erin Noe** shares that she is beyond thrilled to be starting her first year working as a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments in Mesa County Valley School District 51. She has a background in Early Childhood Education, working as a teacher and managing a preschool for 9 years. It was there that she met a child with a visual impairment and became interested in learning how such a unique individual interacts and becomes as independent as possible in his or her everyday living. Erin started the program at UNC and then moved to the Denver area where she worked as a brailist and vision tutor for the past 2 years. Erin notes that "I forward to continuing my learning, and collaborating with many of you, as we are truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve and support such a diverse group of learners on a daily basis!"
- **Karen Pacheco** is working with San Juan BOCES to service children with visual impairments in the area. She has been a special education math teacher in Bloomfield, New Mexico for 12 years and completed her TVI program at New Mexico State University. Karen is enjoying the scenery in beautiful Colorado as she travels from school to school. When not working in Colorado she enjoys spending time with family and friends.
- **Natalie Palmer** is a first year TVI, working for Denver Public Schools in the Special Education Vision Department. She is currently finishing her MA at the University of Northern Colorado in Special Education with a Visual Impairment emphasis, as well as working on her Orientation and Mobility Endorsement. She joins the field of teaching after spending several years as a project manager. This career change was influenced by several teachers and her desire to spend her professional time in a meaningful way. She is a Colorado native that loves spending time outdoors and with her family.

NEW FACES AND NEW PLACES

- **Mike Pillow** is on board with the Adams 12 School District. Mike is a native to Colorado growing up in the Denver area. He and his “amazing” wife have two boys who are ages 9 and 11. They are very active and they love creating memories as a family through sports, camping, and just plain having fun. Mike has worked and volunteered with kids for the last 24 years. His previous career was as a Youth Pastor working primarily with middle and high school aged kids, with a couple of stints working with all ages from birth to graduation. He has spent the last three years working as a paraeducator for students with visual impairments in Adams 12, while working on his Master’s in Physical Education. Over the next three years, Mike will spend finishing the Physical Education Master’s and working towards his credentials to serve students with visual impairments.

There were a few additional changes to the list of personnel no longer working with Colorado public school students with blindness/visual impairment since the May 2017 KIT Newsletter. We say goodbye to the following individuals:

- **Suzan Barlow** retired from Denver Public Schools after a long career in the field. We thank her for her many years of dedicated service to our field!
- **Christina Martin** and **Tina Martin** are exploring new options with their families!
- **Maggie Tutt** is now an Early Childhood Administrator with Adams 12 School District! Congrats to Maggie for finishing her leadership / administration program. This is a wonderful accomplishment!

There has also been quite a few changes with TVI / COMS personnel moving from one site to a new one over the summer. Those in new places include:

- **Kerry Auld** joined the A Shared Vision Team.
- **Melinda Carter** is with the Anchor Center for Blind Children.
- **Lorraine Chevarria** will be a TVI on board with Developmental Pathways.
- **Kari Finholt** is working with the Jefferson County School District VI team.
- **Karin Hensel** is working part-time in Douglas County School District.
- **Ann Marie Jansen** is returning to work with students in Colorado as a TVI / COMS. She is back with Adams 12 School District.
- **Carol Jordan** is with Cherry Creek School District.
- **Wendy Unwin Watson** is with Aurora School District.

We are very happy to announce that the CIMC has filled its two vacant positions! We welcome **Lori Wilson** and **Teresa Kilbury** to these positions. Lori will be overseeing data entry and Teresa will oversee shipping and receiving work. It is wonderful to know that the CIMC is once again staffed to full capacity!

Who Ya Gonna Call? SCHOOL YEAR 2017-18

A Shared Vision: Partners in Pediatric Blindness and Visual Impairment at www.ASharedVision.org

For referrals - referrals@ASharedVision.org (general mailbox)

Anchor Center for Blind Children at <https://anchorcenter.org/>

For referrals or information contact (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
- CDE web pages on Blindness/Low Vision, Deaf blindness, 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 w/ 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
- 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 deaf-blindness
- State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment / Annual CDE O&M Seminar
- Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Needs
- Vision Coalition

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

Dan Burke at (303) 778-1130 or dburke@cocenter.org

- Colorado Center for the Blind Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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) 578-2207, 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 Teacher Training Program on Visual Impairment
- UNC Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

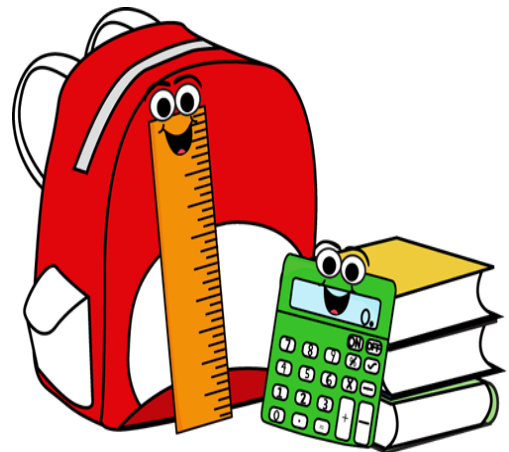
- CSDB School and Community Liaison
- Braille Challenge – Denver Site

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

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

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

- Foresight Ski Guides



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

- Colorado Center for the Blind Executive Director

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

- Audio Information Network of Colorado

Family Literacy Packs at familylitpacks@csdb.org

- Request CSDB Family Literacy Packs

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

- Statewide Low Vision Clinic Coordinator
- Site Coordinator for Southern Low Vision Evaluation Clinics



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

Julia Hutchinson at 386-562-6594 or hutchinson_julia@svvsd.org

- Northern Region TVI/COMS Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

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

Julie King at 970-389-5929 or julie.king@eagleschools.net

- Western Slope TVI/COMS Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

- Metro Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Site Coordinator

Paula Landry at (303)-335-6554 or plandry@ASharedVision.org

- A Shared Vision: Partners in Pediatric Blindness and Visual Impairment
- A Shared Vision Representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

Dana McCullen at (303) 303.866.2725 or dana.mcmullen@state.co.us

- Colorado Rehabilitation Services representative at Vision Coalition meetings

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

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



Trina Boyd Pratt at 720-883-7154 or trinaboyd@comcast.net

- CAER representative at Vision Coalition 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 Coordinator for Western Region Low Vision Evaluation Clinic

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

- Executive Assistant to the CSDB Superintendent and the CSDB Board of Trustees

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 Stoltman at (303) 885-3030 or wastoltman@aol.com

- CDE Mentor for TVIs
- Site Coordinator for Northern Low Vision Evaluation Clinic
- TA Specialist for CO Services to Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project

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

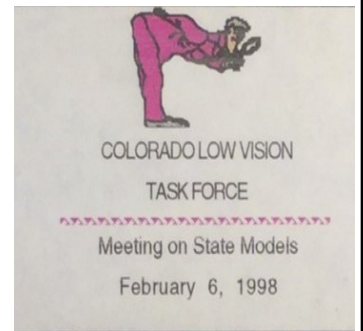
- Colorado Braille Test Proctor and Renewal Modules Proctor





colorado connections

- ✓ Hats off to **Sheila Arment** for earning her initial CDE Certificate of Braille Competency. Sheila is a brailist with Poudre School District. Congratulations to **Berta Wiedemeyer** of Jefferson County School District, **Brandon Mapes** of Summit School District, **Beth Myers** of Delta School District, **Lesli Tigert**, of Mesa Valley School District, and **Carol Jordan** of Douglas County School District for earning their CDE Renewal Certificate of Braille Competency. Hats off to TVIs who earned renewal hours over the summer: **Sherry Bainbridge**, **Abby Horner**, **Carol Jordan**, **Brandon Mapes**, **Beth Myers**, and **Berta Wiedemeyer**. Thanks to our great braille proctors: **Nancy Cozart**, **Chris Maynard**, **Brenda Shepard**, **Sarah Sonnier**, and **Julie Wetzstein**.
- ✓ The International Mobility Conference (IMC) was held in Dublin, Ireland in late June. Four people from Colorado were in attendance. So pleased to know that **Taryn Galow**, **Trina Boyd Pratt**, **Pat Lewis**, and **Tara Brown-Ogilvie** made the journey to attend and participate! Tara presented on the *Perceived Needs of Orientation and Mobility Specialists who Work with Individuals who are Deaf-Blind*, a preliminary study conducted by Tara and Dr. Silvia Correa-Torres. The study was sponsored by the School of Special Education at UNC and the National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities (NLCS).
- ✓ Colorado was represented at the AER International Orientation and Mobility Conference, which was held in Pittsburgh, PA in late July. In attendance were: **Tanni Anthony**, **Paula Conroy**, **Amber Rundle Kahn**, **Silvia Correa-Torres**, & **Hanna Waldman**. Tanni presented on *Learning to Move / Moving to Learn: Early Orientation Development and Learning to Move / Moving to Learn: Early Mobility Development*. Paula and Silvia presented on *Self Reflection Process of O&M Students on Their Teaching: Implications for Personnel Preparation*. Amber presented a poster on *Evoking the Use of Inner Voice as a Teaching Tool for O&M Specialists*.
- ✓ Hats off to our Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Team for almost 20 years of ongoing service in Colorado. The picture on the left shows the folder label of the long ago Colorado Low Vision Task Force that worked to design our regional model. People who have been in lead roles from the inception include **Tanni Anthony**, **Jim Olson**, and **Tom Theune**. Personnel who have contributed to the roles on the LVE Team throughout the years to the current day include: **Jan Barron**, **Debbie Haberkorn**, **Nancy Knight**, **Debbie Miller**, and **Wendy Stoltman**. There have been hundreds of learners with low vision evaluated since these early days. Thanks to all who have participated to ensure that low vision devices are a viable option for our students!
- ✓ So proud of **Amber Rundle Kahn**, who is a doctoral student at UNC. Amber completed an externship at the Colorado Department of Education over the summer months. In other doctoral student news: **Tara Brown-Ogilvie** and **Genevieve Francoeur-Anderson** presented their current research projects at UNC's Graduate School Research Evening back in May, and both won awards; Tara won 2nd prize ("Identified Needs in Deafblindness: Recommendations for Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Training") and Gena won 3rd prize ("Determining Educational Services for Students who are Deafblind: Insights from the Field"). The Research Evening provides graduate students from across the university the opportunity to present their projects from research classes.



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