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KEEPING IN TOUCH!

A Newsletter for Parents and Service Providers
of Colorado Children Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired
April—May 2019

Opportunities and Practice: Creating Outliers

By Tanni L. Anthony


I am a fan of Malcolm Gladwell and his books. I like the way he puts ideas and events together that might not come together without his thinking. In the book *Outliers*, Mr. Gladwell talks about people with an exceptional talent or who are “outliers” in a particular aspect of their lives. In this book, now already a decade old, he tells the stories of real-life athletes, musicians, computer programmers, tailors, and other individuals representing a host of professions. The common denominator is that they are exceptionally good at what they do. Gladwell presents a case that a true combination of raw talent, opportunity, and practice is what propelled these people into their status of excellence. Sometimes the story was about the importance of timing—birthdays earlier in the calendar year that gave kids playing hockey more time on the ice rink than their younger peers. Or Bill Gates having a gigabyte of time to use a computer during teen years because of a then rare-air computer club at his school. You get the picture—opportunity for practice.

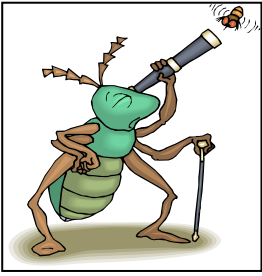
As a fan of early development, I know that the teamwork of nature and nurture help shape the outcomes of our lives. Gladwell takes this thinking to a new level. What we expose a child to makes a difference in the long run. When all children have real opportunities to practice a skill, they get better. Those who persist with practice, get even better. A raw talent will wilt without opportunity to practice and the seed of a talent can germinate with opportunity to practice. Pretty simple to ponder.

So, how does this turn into a summer message? Parents, look around and see what might be available to match and enhance your child’s interests and abilities. Want your child to be a swimmer – go for the Phelps’ gold and really spend time in the pool (throw in a few lessons to really get things off to a good start). Want your child to be a strong reader – books and reading time should be a serious theme for the summer docket. Want a computer whiz or a child who is more self capable with the long cane ... well, you get the picture! Summer can be a time for practice of so many things that help with academics, sports, friendships, etc.

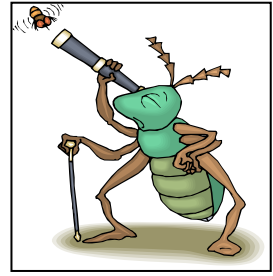
Best wishes for an outlier kind of summer! Check out all of the amazing summer programs listed in this newsletter that will provide opportunities for practice of recreation, reading, self help, social, mobility and other skills ENJOY!

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LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



Low Vision Evaluation Clinics for School Year 2019-2020

Region	Dates	Site Coordinator
Western Region	September 20-21, 2019 All paperwork due September 4, 2019	Angela Sims
Southern Region	September 27, 2019 All paperwork due September 10, 2019 Second clinic date to be determined.	Debbie Haberkorn
Northern Region	Dates to be Determined	Liz Weider
Metro Region	Date to be determined	Nancy Knight

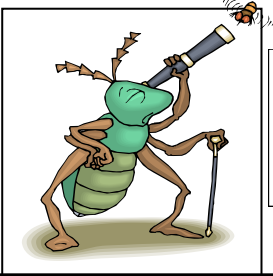
Updates on LVE Clinics This Spring

By Debbie Haberkorn

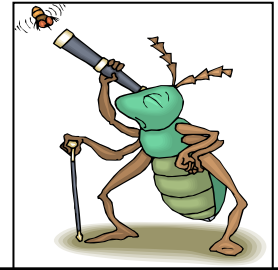
The Metro Region Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) Clinic was held February 21-23rd at the AMES Facility in Littleton, Colorado. Eleven students from five administrative units (Adams/Arapahoe County District 28J, Arapahoe County District 5, Denver County District 1, Douglas County, and Charter School Institute) received evaluations. Nine parents and ten TVIs (Wendy Schlageter, Mary Chambers, Carol Jordan, David Gooldy, Barb Galgano, Christopher Kinney, Elsa D'Angelo, Karin Hensel, Peg Collins, and Shelley Moats) attended the LVE with their students. The LVE Clinic team would like to thank AMES Center for hosting the clinic. A standing ovation to Nancy Knight for coordinating this clinic. She has everything organized before we arrive and then makes sure everything runs flawlessly throughout the three days. Thank you to all of the TVIs and parents who made time in their busy day to bring students.

The Southern Region LVE Clinic was held Friday, March 8th in Jones Hall on the CSDB Campus. Four students from four administrative units (South Central BOCES, Pikes Peak BOCES, and El Paso County District 49) received evaluation. Four parents and three TVIs (Kathy Gallina, Karen Wood, and Sara Noel) attended the LVE with their students. The Low Vision Evaluation Clinic team would like to thank CSDB for hosting the clinic. A big thank you to parents and TVIs for supporting their students.

Editor's Note: Thank you to Debbie Haberkorn for organizing the southern region LVE clinics this year—most appreciated and well done!



LOW VISION EVALUATION CLINIC NEWS



School Year 2018-19

Dear Students, Parents and Teachers,

On behalf of the Colorado Low Vision Evaluation Clinic team of Wendy Stoltman, Jim Olson and Debbie Haberkorn and myself, I would like to thank all of you for allowing us the privilege of providing services this past school year. We were able to meet new families and teachers and re-unite with familiar students with new visual challenges.

It is our hope that students with low vision are able to access visual information in a variety of settings, print sizes and lighting conditions to decrease visual fatigue, improve literacy and improve overall independence.



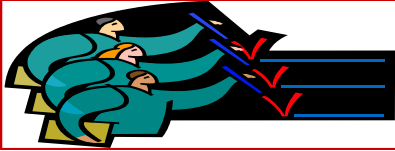
For those students that received low vision devices this year and in the past, we hope they enhance their summer experiences such as using hand held magnifiers, monoculars and binoculars at family events or activities. They can bring so much into focus at Rockies' games, vacations in new places, while enjoying the outdoors, at the zoo ... in all sorts of learning and recreation environments. Even summer school! The world of magnification is exciting—when looking at a rock, fossil or insect under a magnifier or CCTV. You name it, let your tools help make it more fun!

Each year, optical, video and digital low vision devices keep changing and improving. Each year, our team is dedicated to bringing updated devices and strategies to the low vision clinics and help students maximize their remaining vision. We look forward to serving students with low vision, and TVIs again next year in the 2019-20 school year.

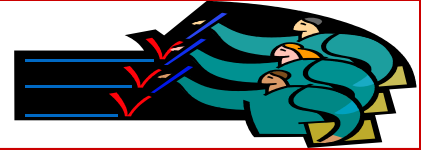
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Theune'.

Thomas W. Theune, OD, FAAO



CHECK IT OUT!



Code Jumper Continues to Gain Interest

Code Jumper, the accessible coding tool that was originally developed by Microsoft Research and will be distributed by the American Printing House for the Blind, is continuing to gain fans around the world.

Most recently, the APH team demonstrated Code Jumper at CSUN, giving education professionals a chance to get hands on with this revolutionary educational product. Code Jumper combines a hub, with a system of pods and other connectors, to create sounds, play songs, or tell stories, all while teaching children the basics of coding. It was the brainchild of Cecily Morrison, a Microsoft researcher. When Cecily's son was born blind, she realized the learning gaps he would face, and set about to develop a physical programming language which would him to fully participate in computer coding lessons. When speaking about Code Jumper and its impact on students who are blind or visually impaired, Morrison said, "Their world is very abstract, and it makes them very open and understanding of the abstract ways that computers work." Code Jumper also provides these students with a potential path to becoming software engineers and computer scientists.

APH anticipates having Code Jumper on sale prior to the start of the 2019-2020 school year.

To view recent media coverage about Code Jumper please visit <https://www.cnet.com/pictures/code-jumper-gives-children-who-are-blind-the-tools-to-code/2/>

Save the Date!

SUMMER CONFERENCE

June 10



June 11

**The Colorado Department of Education's SWAAAC program and Assistive Technology Partners
are proud to announce the 2019 SWAAAC Summer Conference**

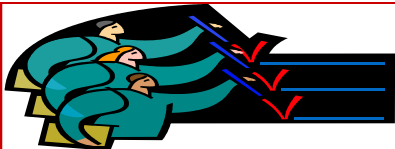
ADAMS 12 CONFERENCE CENTER—1500 E. 128th Avenue, Thornton, CO 80241

This two-day conference features workshops and break-out sessions with internationally renowned trainers. In addition to the sessions, participants will enjoy an awards ceremony, professional networking, and an opportunity to earn graduate credit through Adams State College.

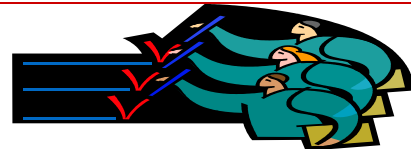
Outreach Space Camp Scholarship Applications now available

Space Camp for Interested students with visual impairments is just 8 months away. It will be held on September 29 to October 3, 2019. Applications are available for Northrop-Grumman, Delta Gamma, and Lighthouse Visions Scholarships at <http://www.scivis.org>. Please pay attention to the specifications for each scholarship and do not apply if the student does not qualify.

Please use this email for all future correspondence: scivis@atlanticbb.net



CHECK IT OUT!



14th Annual Outdoor Adventure

May 3rd-5th, 2019

By Kaitlin Lombardi



The 2019 Annual Outdoor Adventure Weekend, sponsored generously by the Colorado Center for the Blind, took place May 3rd-5th, 2019 at the YMCA in Estes Park. We had 12 returning students and two new students on this trip.

We hiked, swam, roller skated, danced, climbed, and shot archery. We are beyond grateful for our returning organizers and chaperones: Trina Boyd-Pratt (TVI/COMS), Barb Galgano (TVI/COMS), Mike Plansker (TVI/COMS), Jill Bookwalter (TVI/COMS), and Martin Becerra-Miranda (CCB). We were also thrilled to have first time chaperones Tara Brown Ogilvie (UNC/COMS), Will Reynolds (TVI/COMS), Stefanie Baccay (CCB student) and Sean Abraham (CCB student). We had a special treat this year when brailist Helle Hill (Adams 12) joined us Saturday evening to teach a variety of community dances. A great time was had by all!

Sounds like a bulls-eye trip for all involved!

Heather's Camp

Join us at this outdoor weekend adventure where youth who are blind or visually impaired can learn new skills, create friendships and build confidence with support and encouragement from mentors. Ages 7 to high school. Rookie Day for youth 6 and under accompanied by guardian 18 years or older children as desired.

Location: Estes Park – YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado

Check In: Friday, May 31, 9 am Administration Building

Camp Concludes: Sunday, June 2, Noon Twin Sisters Cabin

Register at www.heatherscamp.org

Registration open

Cost: Early Bird - \$75 (Before April 2)
Full Price - \$125 (April 2 - May 2)

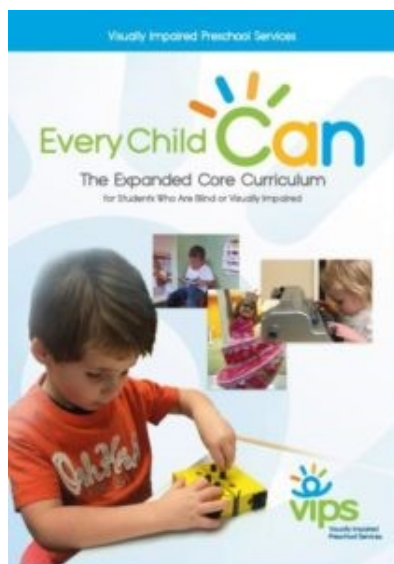
For more information please email
admin@heatherscamp.org

Lyndsey Metzen: (316) 737-2661 or Krista St-Germain



Resources and Materials

VIPS Every Child Can Expanded Core Curriculum Videos (English and Spanish)



This video offers a preschool-level perspective on the Expanded Core Curriculum for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired (ECC). It is available through the American Printing House for the Blind. The ECC addresses nine critical skill areas these students must learn in order to find success in school and in life. The objective of the video is to demystify the ECC for parents of young children who are visually impaired and for their general education teachers who may have limited expertise and experience teaching children with vision loss. The video also encourages parents and professionals to advocate for use of the ECC and to implement it at home, in the classroom, and in the community. This item will be available for loan through the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision Loss Project's lending library.

Accessible Periodic Table of the Elements on the Web and via Mobile Apps

The American Printing House for the Blind has noted that 2019 is the 150th anniversary of Dmitri Mendeleev's Periodic Table of the Elements. Since the introduction of mobile devices, accessibility to STEM, including the periodic table, has improved greatly. Physical and chemical facts about each element are provided including group, period, atomic number, electron configuration, oxidation states, and isotopes, to name just a few. Viewers are invited to download the free Royal Society of Chemistry Periodic Table apps on their iOS and/or Android devices. For a simpler periodic table of the elements, search for "Elements Periodic Table by SusaSoftX" on your Android device, or "Periodic Table by iExamonline" for either iOS or Android devices.



Check it out at: <http://www.rsc.org/periodic-table/>



The Colorado Chapter for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

Hello Colorado Professionals Working with People Who Are Blind/Visually Impaired,

As CAER president, I am inviting you to get involved with your colleagues. CAER's mission statement is *Building Bridges Together*. In recent years, we have established a more diverse board; representatives from DVR, the VA, CCB, private providers in addition to teachers for the visually impaired and certified orientation & mobility specialists in schools. This is providing cooperative communications and planning of events for the people we serve, continuing education trainings, etc. We are hoping to get more representation from the southern and western regions on the CAER board.

There are various ways to be involved with our professional organization.

- ◆ Join or rejoin CAER as a member! You will receive a monthly newsletter and receive price discounts for specific CAER sponsored trainings.
- ◆ Share your ideas of how CAER can serve your professional needs by attending a board meeting (in person or through Zoom), sending an email or posting on our Facebook page.
- ◆ Attend trainings (some of these can be attended through Zoom) and earn continuing education credits with ACVREP.
- ◆ Participate in local fundraisers.
- ◆ Submit a mini-grant application to attend a conference, sponsor a client/student's special activity, etc.

JOIN THE BOARD! As a board member of CAER, you can provide input on how the Colorado chapter serves its membership. We use each board member's individual talents and interests in our work. Just this year, we have an artist assisting us with our new chapter logo, colleagues are using their specific skills to lead trainings, and we have someone who is consistent in handling the details of follow up to all participants of our fundraising activities in special ways. What each individual member brings to the board is unique and appreciated. Technology options are in place to participate in activities wherever you are in Colorado. We would love for you to consider this opportunity.

Feel free to contact me or other board members with any questions.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Cozart, TVI/COMS

CAER President



CAER Awards

Our Colorado Chapter of AER hosts an annual banquet each year that is a combination of a business meeting and an Awards event. These awards are so meaningful because the nominations come from Colorado TVIs and O&M Specialists, the peers of the people being nominated. THAT, my friends, means something pretty special! With no further ado, here are our peers who were given awards this year.

CAER Presidents Award

Nancy Cozart, our CAER President gave the President's Award to **Jeannie Lei**. This award is presented to someone with outstanding leadership in service to those with visual impairment

The following is a slightly condensed version of Nancy's tribute to Jeannie:

I am going to reference 10 Things That Define a True Professional by Alan Norton (2010) as evidence of why Jeannie is a perfect fit to receive CAER's President's Award.

1. To begin, put customer satisfaction first. Jeannie works as a teacher for the visually impaired and orientation & mobility specialist in Cheery Creek Schools. Her customers are her kids and their families. I have seen her over the years with some of her students as she provides them with enriching experiences at events through the Colorado Center for the Blind and the Braille Challenge.
2. Make expertise your specialty. Anyone who knows our field knows it is specialized. Jeannie is a life-long learner, becoming an expert at her craft. We know no two students or clients are the same and part of our role is to become an expert on how to best serve each one of them individually.
3. Do more than expected. In addition to her duties in her school district, Jeannie is a coordinator for the Denver metro TVI regional meetings, she is an at-large member on the CAER board and she is active in a variety of fundraisers and trainings for the betterment of her profession.
4. Do what you say and say what you can do. Alan Norton said, "Professionals deliver on promises made." Jeannie delivers!
5. Communicate effectively. Jeannie regularly leads communications for the metro TVI events and they are always clear and timely. At conferences, Jeannie asks questions and can challenge one's thinking to expand our knowledge, understanding and perspectives. I have benefited from receiving communication about a student through an IEP transferring from Cherry Creek to Littleton Schools. I was able to put the information in to practice right away because of its breadth and detail.
6. Follow exceptional guiding principles. Jeannie is honest and fair with her colleagues. Her core values are integrated into her relationships with others.
7. Praise your peers not yourself. Jeannie is humble and always offers praise of others.
8. Share your knowledge. Norton also said, "*Professionals help their peers and are respected for doing so.*" Jeannie is highly respected for this by her peers.
9. Say thank you. I have been a recipient of thank you from Jeannie and have witnessed others receiving them as well. She is appreciative of others contributions.
10. Keep a smile on your face and the right attitude in your heart. Jeannie's warm demeanor is always a welcome addition to any event we are involved together. This is particularly appreciated when we are at busy times of the school year or when other life's events are overwhelming.

So, Jeannie, I want to say THANK YOU to you for demonstrating what it is to be a wonderful example as a professional in our field. Congratulations!



Photo Nancy Cozart and Jeannie Lei



CAER Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award

Cheryl Leidich was given the CAER Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is presented to professionals who have given of themselves to clients/students throughout their career and are preparing for retirement. She was nominated by Natalie Palmer, a parent, and Melinda Russel.

- ◆ Cheryl has not only influenced students' lives in positive and meaningful ways, but she has also influenced many Teachers of Students who are Visually Impaired, including myself in these same ways. As a mentor, Cheryl always has, and continues to make herself available as a subject matter expert. As a friend, I have personally witnessed her taking time out of her weekends to hunt down specific adaptive materials or models. Her dedication to the field of teaching students with visual impairments has long been admired.
- ◆ Mrs. Leidich went above and beyond. She came to get us and drove us to a specialist appointment and made sure all the equipment they needed for school was provided. She always checked on us. Mrs. Leidich helped us get holiday gifts for all of our children when we needed it and made sure the kids were invited to the vision impaired events when they came up. She was instrumental in helping my oldest daughter get comfortable and excited about school. There are so many small things that most people wouldn't think of, like bringing paperwork to my house when my youngest was a new baby so I didn't have to take her out. I'm happy to have the opportunity to help her be recognized for all the kindness and dedication she has shown.
- ◆ Cheryl has often purchased household and schoolwork items with her own money to help her students to be successful in all areas of life. She's more than willing to take on an extra workload if it means it will help her coworkers and create ease and fluidity among the team. Cheryl is always been the go-to gal for knowledge, peer-modeling and a positive conversation! I am proud to have known and worked with Cheryl!

We applaud Cheryl for her many years of service and say, "thank you, thank you, thank you!"



Photo of Natalie Palmer, Cheryl Leidich, Jasmine Gomez, and Melinda Russell

Gary Schmidt Award

Mike Plansker was awarded the CAER Gary Schmidt Award. This award honors an AER member who works directly with student/clients. Nomination criteria include: ethical standards, sense of humor, degree of excellence in job performance, and professionalism. The CAER Board and Janice Schmidt review the nominations. Mike was nominated by Kaitlin Lombardi for his work with students both on their academic and Expanded Core Curriculum achievements. He was recognized for his support of students both during the school day and outside of the school day. He was described as the first to respond and show up to help for a variety of events. He also known as a tech support whiz to his colleagues. Over the years he has worked and participated in Lions Club, CAER activities (after serving on the board), collaborated with vocational rehabilitation, Master Drive, CCB's youth sponsored outdoor adventure (formally known as snowshoe weekend), helping students with adaptive sports, and working with many other organizations to benefit students who are blind/visually impaired. Mike reaches out to connect his students with local community resources, and maintains those connections for future referral. He was instrumental in getting a Job Club organized with DRV. He In order to do all of these things, he selflessly donates his evenings and weekends. It is clear that Mike sees the value in working across many organizations to support students in all walks of their lives and is an integral part of producing competent and confident young adults. Congratulations to Mike for this well deserved award!



CAER Awards

Ken Neve Award

Trina Boyd Pratt was awarded the Ken Neve award. This award honors Ken Neve, who was an amazing teacher, co-worker and role model in the world of O&M. Ken brought humor and warmth to all situations. He worked at the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for 29 years. Nomination criteria include a CAER member who is in the field as a practicing Orientation & Mobility Specialist; dedication to life-long learning; and a role model for others in the field. Trina was nominated by Natalie Palmer, Victor Jiron, Janet Anderson, and Pat Lewis. Details of the nomination letters included the following praise for Trina's work in the field of orientation and mobility.

- ◆ Trina has influenced my professional and personal growth as well as shaped my skills as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Trina is a professional who pays attention to details. She tailors her lessons to the student's individual needs, abilities, and comfort level, while also encouraging and pursuing growth with appropriate challenges. Her willingness to teach difficult skills, safely and patiently, has been exemplar. I have personally seen her work long hours, happily take on extra responsibility and spent her personal time supporting students and their families,
- ◆ I have been working with Trina for the past two years. Trina has been my teacher and a friend of mine. Trina has also known me when I was young. She taught me how to cross streets, ride buses, and travel. Because of her I travel alone all the time. Even now, I go to Aurora from Denver three days a week, and Trina gave me the confidence to do that. She also paid for my piano classes for a while.
- ◆ Trina is a brilliant Orientation and Mobility Specialist. She is exceptionally knowledgeable and has years of valuable experience. I worked with Trina in the Aurora Public Schools for many years and whenever I had a mobility question, I was lucky enough to be able to ask Trina. She also let me observe many of her lessons and we sometimes had lessons together. Both experiences helped me grow and learn. We teachers used to like to blindfold each other and do drop-offs or other O & M lessons for experience and practice. One time, we thought we were giving Trina a challenging drop-off, but she didn't have any difficulty at all!



- ◆ I have written this letter at least 100 times in my head and none of these have been powerful enough to convey my thoughts and feelings for Trina and the work she has done for our students with blindness/visual impairment, parents and colleagues in Colorado. Since that time, 25+ years ago, Trina has become a trusted colleague, my mentor, friend, and an honorary family member. Trina and Ken Neve are cut from the same cloth. They are born Orientation & Mobility Specialists - fun loving with strong work ethics, great expectations for students and the desire to see these students succeed at all levels. Her students love and respect her and stay connected even after they have finished their training programs.

Photo of Natalie Palmer, Pat Lewis, and Trina Boyd Pratt



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

Check out the 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>



Licensure Requirements for TVIs and COMSs

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 O&M 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 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.

Braille Competency Testing Requirements

All licensed teachers endorsed in the area of visual impairment, including those individuals employed on a temporary status (Temporary Educator Eligibility-TEE) who are completing their university program in visual impairment), must have a valid CDE Certificate of Braille Competency or a CDE Renewal Certificate of Braille Competency on file with their current administrative unit of employment.

The CDE Certificate of Braille Competency must be earned no later than the end of the first instructional year, but no later than May 31st of the first instructional year, with a Colorado administrative unit as a teacher of students who are blind/visually impaired. If a TVI moves from one Colorado administrative unit to another, the expectation of first-year braille competency demonstration does not “reactivate” from year-to-year. The testing clock begins with the first day of Colorado employment as a TVI.

For more information about Colorado's braille competency requirements, please go to:

http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/sd-vision_guidedocs

CDE Licensure Requirement for O&M Specialists

If you are working in a Colorado administrative unit as a School Orientation and Mobility Specialists, 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 at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us



EDUCATOR TALENT

Effective Educators for Every Student and
Effective Leaders for Every School

Identification of SLD Guidelines

The CDE *Guidelines for Identifying Specific Learning Disabilities* has been updated and posted on the CDE website: http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/guidelines_sld_draft_2019-02-25

If you have questions about SLD, contact the CDE SLD specialist Veronica Fiedler at Fiedler_V@cde.state.co.us

Educator Effectiveness Regional Meetings

Moving Beyond Compliance: Capitalizing on Differentiation and Flexibilities within Local Evaluation Systems

To support all districts and BOCES with their educator evaluation systems, the Educator Effectiveness team will be hosting regional meetings during which you will:

- Assess your local evaluation system and produce an action plan for deepening implementation practices.
- Network and share best practices for using flexibility and differentiation within observation, coaching, and feedback under Senate Bill 10-191.

WHO: *District Teams including Superintendents and District Leadership, Principals/Assistant Principals, Teacher Leaders, Performance Evaluation Council (formerly 1338 members)*

Upcoming Dates and locations:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • 8 a.m. – noon, May 28, 2019, Bayfield | • 8:30 a.m. - noon, June 6, 2019, Lamar |
| • 8 a.m. - noon, June 3, 2019, Alamosa | • 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., June 7, 2019, Limon |
| • 8 a.m. - noon, June 3, 2019, Colorado Springs | • 8 a.m. - noon, June 10, 2019, Frisco |
| • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., June 4, 2019, Trinidad | • 8 a.m. - noon, June 11, 2019, Steamboat Springs |
| • 8 a.m. - noon, June 4, 2019, Montrose | • 9 a.m. - noon, June 13, 2019, Greeley |
| • 8 a.m. - noon, June 5, 2019, Parachute | • 1 - 4 p.m. June 13, 2019, Greeley |
| | • 8 a.m. - noon, June 14, 2019, Thornton |

Please be sure to register to attend one of these events with a district/BOCES team!

Registration is free, but a minimum of 10 participants is required for each meeting or it may be subject to cancellation. In order for us to have an accurate count and contact information for everyone at the meeting, please sign up at least one week prior to the event.

It's important that ALL personnel attending fill out the registration. This will help CDE plan for materials as well. The registration link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KLTDG5V>



COLORADO
Department of Education

CDE Happenings

TEACHER
 of the
YEAR
2020

Time to nominate or apply for 2020 Teacher of the Year

A visit to the White House, a week at Space Camp and being an honored guest at the College Football Playoff National Championship game are three more reasons why you should apply to be Colorado's Teacher of the Year.

It is understood that there are many reasons why teachers wouldn't take the time out of their busy schedules to apply to be considered for the Colorado Teacher of the Year. But here are some reasons why it may be worth the time and effort to submit your application.

Becoming Colorado's Teacher of the Year is more than just an incredible honor as being chosen to be the state's representative for the profession. There are plenty of other incentives to turn in an application, including:

- Becoming Colorado's nominee for the National Teacher of the Year Award.
 - Attending events run by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), including:
- The National Teacher of the Year Induction Program with other state teachers of the year.
- A White House visit and meeting the President.
- The National Teacher of the Year gala.
-
- A week at NASA Space Camp, where teachers participate in a version of astronaut training designed to help educators take strategies and concepts back to their classrooms, including design thinking and project-based learning.
- Being an honored guest at the College Football Playoff National Championship Game.

How to apply: [Submit an application by Wednesday, July 10](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeawards/teacheroftheyear) - go to <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeawards/teacheroftheyear>

Not sure if you're ready to apply just yet? Nominate one of your peers instead

If you know an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled K-12 teacher who inspires you, [nominate them to apply](#) for the 2020 Colorado Teacher of the Year award!



SAVE THE DATES

WESTERN REGION EARLY INTERVENTION CONFERENCE 2019

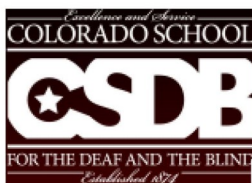
September 11-13, 2019

AIM HIGH: ELEVATING OUR EARLY INTERVENTION PRACTICES

The Western Regional Early Intervention Conference (WREIC) is designed to support professionals working with, and families of, children birth to five years old who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, or deafblind. WREIC has been in place for over 30 years, making it one of the longest ongoing early intervention conferences in the country.

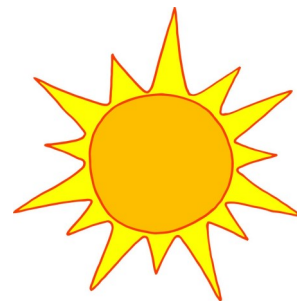
DENVER, COLORADO

Hosted By:



For More Information
Contact Tanni Anthony at
Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

Summer Happenings



SUMMER EVENTS

Colorado Center for the Blind

How about putting together a TVI/COMS team for the 2nd Annual 6 Dot Dash! 5K Race. Join the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado for the second Annual 6 Dot Dash.



The 6 Dot Dash is a 5K Race. It is a GREAT race with awesome SWAG. Participants will receive an official chip time, technical t-shirt, free finisher photos, a finisher medal, entry to the blind beer tasting, and lots of goodies at the race day expo. To learn more and register, go to: <http://6dotdashco.com/>

Ongoing Elementary School Programs

Contact: Martin Becerra-Miranda at 303-778-1130, ext. 223, or mbecerra@cocenter.org

Ongoing Summer Youth Programs (check the Calendar of Events!)

Contact: Martin Becerra-Miranda at 303-778-1130, ext. 223, or mbecerra@cocenter.org
For more information, go to: <http://6dotdashco.com/>

Anchor Center for Blind Children

July 11—21 Anchor's Away Preschool Summer Program

Contact: Sarah Rice at 303-377-9732 ext. 130, or srice@anchorcenter.org

July 10, 17, 24, 31 Summer Sprout's Infants and Toddler Program

Contact: Sarah Rice at 303-377-9732 ext. 130, or srice@anchorcenter.org

Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind

May 18 Sensory Safari at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo for children who are blind/visually impaired, birth to age 8 from 9—11:30 a.m.
RSVP: Dale Wolf by May 6, dewolf@csdb.org

June 16-20 iAdvocate Camp at CSDB for students who are blind/visually impaired, Grades 6th-10th
RSVP: Dale Wolf by May 6, dewolf@csdb.org




Calendar of Events

2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019 2019

May 31- June 2	Heather's Camp – Estes Park - YMCA of the Rockies , Estes Park, CO <u>Contact:</u> Lyndsey Metzen at 316-737-2661/Krista St-Germain at 316-516-4539 or at admin@heatherscamp.org
June 7,14, 21 & 28	Transitioning to Higher Education – Auraria Campus <u>Contact:</u> Michele Reed at 303-866-3512 or email at michele.reed@state.co.us
June 10-11	2019 SWAAAC Summer Conference – Adams 12 Conference Center Thornton, CO <u>Contact:</u> Christina Perkins at christina.perkins@ucdenver.edu
June 10-21	BELL Academy —Colorado Center for the Blind, Littleton <u>Contact:</u> Michelle Chacon at 303-507-6291
June 11	DVR Denver Metro Bake Off – DVR Denver Metro Office, Denver, CO <u>Contact:</u> Michele Reed at 303-866-3512 or email at michele.reed@state.co.us
June 16-20	The Advocate Camp —CSDB Campus (For middle school/ high school students focusing on the expanded core curriculum) <u>Contact:</u> Donna Keale at dkeale@csdb.org
June 18	Fix it Academy – DVR Denver Metro Office, Denver, CO <u>Contact:</u> Michele Reed at 303-866-3512 or email at michele.reed@state.co.us
June 19-20	2019 Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and SNN —Lowry Conference Center <u>Contact:</u> Tanni Anthony at 303-866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us
June 20	CAER Board Meeting – Colorado Center for the Blind <u>Contact:</u> Nancy Cozart at ncozart@lps.k12.co.us
June 24-28	BELL Academy - Rocky Mountain MS Center, Westminster <u>Contact:</u> Michelle Chacon at 303-507-6291
June 25	S.O.S: Strong Organizational Skills – Colorado Center for the Blind <u>Contact:</u> Michele Reed at 303-866-3512 or email at michele.reed@state.co.us
June 29	6 Dot Dash —Colorado Center for the Blind <u>Contact:</u> Jessica Beecham at 615-497-0435 or email at jessica@wefitwellness.com
July 13	Usher Syndrome Connections Conference —Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, PA <u>Contact:</u> Krista Vasi K.vasi@usher-syndrome.org or (855) 99-USHER




Calendar of Events

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

- July 10-12** **The American Council of the Blind’s Audio Description Institute**—Hyatt Regency Rochester , NY
Contact: Joel Snyder, PhD jsnyder@audiodescribe.com or (202) 467-5083
 For more information: <https://acbconvention.org/>

- July 15-19 & July 22-26** **Earn your CRED Career Readiness Education and Discovery**—DVR Metro Office, Denver, CO
Contact: Michele Reed at 303-866-3512 or email at michele.reed@state.co.us

- July 15-19** **BELL Academy**—Center for Independence, Gunnison
Contact: Michelle Chacon at 303-507-6291

- August 1** **Amazing RTD Race**—DVR Denver Metro Office, Denver, CO
Contact: Michele Reed at 303-866-3512 or email at michele.reed@state.co.us

- August 28** **Vison Coalition**— location to be determined

- Sept 11-13** **Western Region Early Intervention Conference**—Omni Hotel in Broomfield
Contact: Tanni Anthony at Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

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!

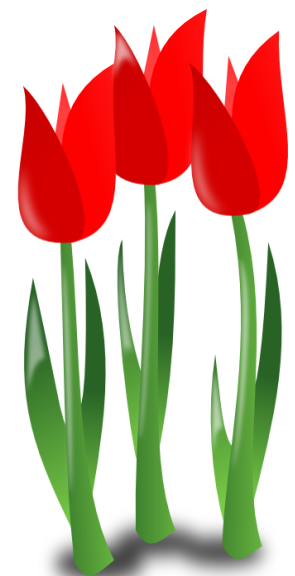
Parents: If you are moving out of state or your child will or has graduated, please be in touch, so we can remove your name from our newsletter mailing list. If your child is still enrolled in a Colorado school district and you have a new mailing address, please be in touch with your address changes.

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!





Orientation & Mobility

Thanks to all of the Colorado O&M Specialists who attended Friday or Saturday or both of the **2019 CDE O&M Seminar** - what a fantastic turn out! It was marvelous to see Colorado O&M Specialists from the Anchor Center, A Shared Vision, school districts across the state, and DVR. Thanks also to our dynamic leader, Lynn Gautreaux, who did a marvelous job of keeping us busy and informed both days of the training.

What fun to gather, learn, network, and build together!

If you missed it, you missed out and we missed you!



New National O&M Association

There is a new Orientation and Mobility Specialists Association (OMSA). Here's a link to a summary of their founding and some FAQs.

<http://www.usomsa.org/live-stream-announcement-and-faqs/>



Orientation & Mobility



U.S. Access Board Webinar: Accessible Public Rights-of-Way Open Question & Answer Session (June 6)

Ensuring that public streets and sidewalks are accessible to people with disabilities can be a challenge, especially since accessibility guidelines for public rights-of-way have yet to be finalized. The next webinar in the U.S. Access Board's free monthly series will take place **June 6** from **2:30 – 4:00 (ET)** and will be devoted to answering the various questions that come up in addressing access to sidewalks and street crossings, pedestrian signals, on-street parking, roundabouts, transit stops and other components of public rights-of-way as well as shared use paths.

Board Accessibility Specialists will answer questions submitted in advance or during the live webinar and offer guidance, solutions, and best practices based on guidelines the Board proposed for public rights-of-way. Attendees are encouraged to submit their questions in advance.

For more information or to register, visit www.accessibilityonline.org.

Questions can be submitted in advance of the session (total limited to 25) or can be posed during the live webinar.

Webinar attendees can earn continuing education credits. The webinar series is hosted by the ADA National Network in cooperation with the Board. Archived copies of previous Board webinars are available on the site.

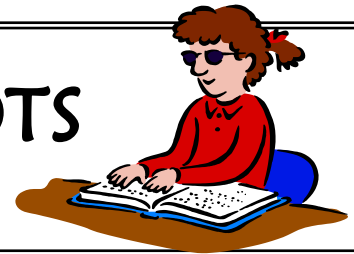


The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.

Denis Waitley



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's 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	nkcozart@yahoo.com
Christine Maynard	(719) 229-4981	christine.maynard3@gmail.com
Brenda Shepard	(303) 995-7913	brendashep@comcast.net
Sarah Sonnier	(970) 245-5228	sonnier.sarah5@gmail.com
Julie Wetzstein	(303) 819-7887	jwetzstein22@gmail.com

As far as regional representation for initial testing and renewal modules, Christine Maynard is our southern region proctor / mentor and Sarah Sonnier is the western region proctor/mentor. 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 greater metro area.

The Practice Test items have been 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

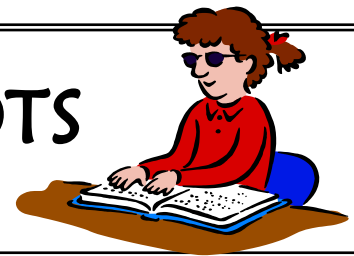
Mark Carpenter is available for braillewriter repair. His contact information is: Phone: 719-634-8720 and

Email: carpdiane@yahoo.com





CONNECTING THE DOTS



NFB BELL Academy – Placing Hands on the Future

The NFB Braille Enrichment for Literacy and Learning (BELL) Academy helps blind and low-vision children, ages four through twelve, develop the literacy skills that will empower them to achieve their academic goals and live the lives they want. This year, with the assistance of our Wells Fargo partners, we provide opportunities for students to imagine, create, and touch their future and dreams; by not only raising expectations through Braille instruction, but by nurturing their development of tactile arts and graphics. Through the generous support of the American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults, each student participant in the 2019 NFB BELL Academies will be provided with an inTACT Sketchpad. To learn more about NFB BELL Academy, visit <https://nfb.org/bell-academy>

Colorado offerings will include: Activities will include Braille reading and writing, and other skills that build independence and confidence. In order to apply, please go to the following link: <https://nfb.org/bell-academy>

June 10 - June 21, 2019

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday

Ages: 4-12

Location: Colorado Center for the Blind

2233 W. Sheppard Avenue, Littleton, CO 80120

June 24 - June 28, 2019

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday

Ages: 4-12

Location: Rocky Mountain MS Center

8845 Wagner Street, Westminster, CO 80031

July 15 - July 19, 2019

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday

Ages: 4-12

Location: Center for Independence

740 Gunnison Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501

For more information about the Colorado Bell Academy offerings, please call Michelle Chacon 303-507-6291 or Martin Becerra 303-778-1130 extension 223.

LEGO releases Braille Bricks to Teach Children who are Blind/Visually Impaired

LEGO has unveiled a new project aimed at helping blind and visually impaired children learn Braille in a "playful and engaging way." LEGO Braille Bricks, will allow children to learn the touch writing system through play.

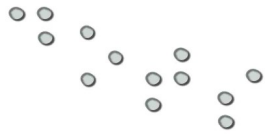
The bricks, which will launch fully in 2020, feature the studs used for characters in the Braille alphabet, as well as printed characters allowing sighted people to read the bricks. They will be "fully compatible" with existing LEGO bricks.

The final set will comprise approximately 250 bricks, covering the complete braille alphabet, numbers from zero to nine, math symbols, as well as "inspiration for teaching and interactive games." Philippe Chazal, treasurer of the European Blind Union, said in a statement: "With thousands of audiobooks and computer programs now available, fewer kids are learning to read Braille."

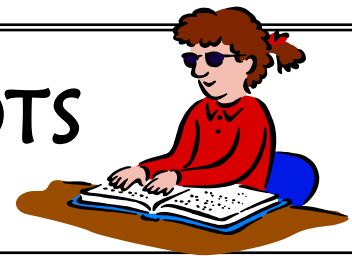
"This is particularly critical when we know that braille users often are more independent, have a higher level of education and better employment opportunities," Chazal continued. "We strongly believe LEGO Braille Bricks can help boost the level of interest in learning Braille, so we're thrilled that the LEGO Foundation is making it possible to further this concept and bring it to children around the world."

For more information, go to: <https://www.lego.com/en-us/aboutus/news-room/2019/april/lego-braille-bricks>





CONNECTING THE DOTS



Get the Most Out of BrailleBlaster™

BrailleBlaster is the revolutionary and free braille transcription software designed to help transcribers provide students who are blind with braille textbooks. Here are some of BrailleBlaster's features:

- * translate braille accurately in UEB or EBAE
- * automate line numbered poetry and prose
- * add transcriber notes
- * automate a variety of table styles
- * automate braille table of contents, glossaries, preliminary pages and special symbols pages
- * format braille
- * split books into volumes
- * describe images
- * translate and edit single line math

To help you get the most out of BrailleBlaster, the American Printing House for the Blind will release some important "how-to's" in a series of short tutorial videos, beginning May 6.

For more information go to <https://www.youtube.com/user/aphftb>

You can download BrailleBlaster at www.brailleblaster.org

Braille Trail Reader LE

Starting the Journey to Braille Literacy

[1-07421-00](tel:1-07421-00) – \$995



American Printing House is excited to be adding the Braille Trail Reader LE to its family of refreshable braille displays. This new device is a special, limited edition of HumanWare's Brailliant BI 14 for teachers and students.

It will come with an exclusive file transferring application, making it easy for teachers, parents, or students to load and transfer files to and from the Reader and any Windows device. The Braille Trail Reader is loaded with features to start students on their path to literacy by providing them with high-quality refreshable braille necessary to prepare them for the more

advanced refreshable braille displays they can expect to use later in life:

- ◆ Cursor routers make for easily editing in the notes app, or opening apps when used with a screen reader.
- ◆ Silent and almost instantaneous refresh rate.
- ◆ 8GB of internal memory to store books, notes, etc.
- ◆ Padded carrying case.
- ◆ Vibration feedback and / or auditory cues.
- ◆ Thumb key navigation so your hands never have to come off the braille display.
- ◆ Clock and stopwatch.

AVAILABLE ON QUOTA!!! The Braille Trail Reader LE is only available through the end of 2019.
For more information, talk to Jim Olson with the Colorado Instructional Materials Center.

just for PARENTS

National Organization of Parents of Blind Children

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

Family Connect

The American Printing House for the Blind has become the steward of several key information resources founded by the American Foundation for the Blind. They have grouped these resources that cover every aspect of life under the name **APH ConnectCenter**.

Check it out at: <https://www.aph.org/aph-connectcenter/>

This website has a host of articles and resources for parents of children with blindness/visual impairment, including additional disabilities and across age groups. There are many topic specific pages, such as the IEP, eye conditions, transition, and recreation. You can sign up for their newsletter and choose how frequently you would like to receive e-mail alerts - daily, weekly, or monthly - and select interest categories so that they will only send you information you find interesting.

National Family Association for Deaf-Blind

NFADB is the largest nonprofit organization serving families of individuals who are deaf-blind (combined vision and hearing loss). Their website can be found at: <https://nfadb.org/>

The organization provides information on deaf-blindness, hosts webinars on a variety of topics, and is very involved in national conferences to support families of children with deaf blindness.

Special Education Guide

This website has many resources for families who are looking to learn more about special education. There is a special education dictionary that defines many relevant terms in parent-friendly language. Additionally there are resources on early intervention, career path options, and informative disability profiles.

The web link is: <https://www.specialeducationguide.com>

just for PARENTS



Center for
Parent Information
& Resources

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/>

The Center for Parent Information and Resources: Information on Self Advocacy

Self-advocacy is important to all children. It is about learning to speak up for yourself, making one's own decisions, learning how to get information, finding your supports, knowing your rights and responsibilities ... good problem solving and abilities to reach out to others.

The Center for Parent Information and Resources has great resources for families to learn more about how to foster self-advocacy for children. Go to this webpage to find the following resources: <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/priority-selfadvocacy/>

[Training Video on Self-Determination](#)./Especially for parents (25 minutes) | Available in English and Spanish.

Do you want to help your child with a disability live an included and productive life? Your son or daughter needs self-determination skills such as making choices, setting goals, and self-advocacy. The Self-Determination video will provide you with a foundation of how to teach these skills to your son or daughter. Also available in **Spanish** (**[Cómo ayudar a nuestros hijos a desarrollar su auto determinación](#)**). From the Utah Parent Center.

[Video on Self Advocacy – Finding the Captain in You!](#) *Video (10 minutes)* | Follow two hosts with dry humor on their morning news talk show, *Midday In The Valley*, as they explore and discover the powerful force of a term called: Self Advocacy. Covering two interviews and speaking with their ever helpful side kick, Captain Self Advocacy, they come to understand why understanding what you're good at, what you need assistance with, and how to effectively communicate with people in life is very important for everyone, especially youth with disabilities.

[Webinar on Self Advocacy](#)/This webinar explores the resources available to help youth with disabilities build their self-advocacy skills. These include training materials that Parent Centers can use when working with youth and their families. The discussion of resources revolves around those listed in the priority page of the CPIR's called **[Best Practices in Self-Advocacy Skill Building](#)**. It can be found at: <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/webinar-self-advocacy-skill-building/>

Behind every young child who believes in him or herself,
is a parent who believed FIRST.

Matthew Jacobson



TRANSITION INFORMATION ABOUT MOVING ON!

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM OFFERED AT HKNC!

The Helen Keller National Center's COLLEGE PROGRAM is for young adults with deaf-blindness who are thinking of going to college or are already enrolled in college. This new program will help students collect information about the college experience from learning how to choose a college to the application process.

They will learn how to work with the college accessibility office for interpreting and other supports; manage classes and college life; access electronic platforms such as Blackboard and Canvas; protect personal identity on the Internet; access books and other study materials in alternate formats; navigate the college campus; interview and time management skills and more.

The COLLEGE PROGRAM will be held during school breaks or at times that match a student's schedule. Admission will be on a first come/first served basis.

For more information, contact your regional representative at <https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc/nationwide-services> or HKNC Admissions Coordinator at dora.carney@hknc.org

Our regional representative for HKNC is Laura Benge. Her email is: laura.benge@hknc.org

Speak Up! Using What You've Got to Get What You Want

ENGAGING MULTIMEDIA TOOL THAT EASILY GUIDES YOUTH THROUGH TRAINING. This tool helps youth with disabilities learn how to speak up and advocate for themselves.

With this tool, participants can map out personal goals, learn about their rights and responsibilities, learn the best way to ask for help, and get organized. Check it out at: <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/priority-selfadvocacy/>



**Bye Bye to
School Year 2018-19!
Thanks for the many new
learnings, experiences, and
memories!
See you all next year!**



COLORADO

Department of
Labor and Employment

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS)

2019 Summer Workshops

Earn Your C.R.E.D. - Career Readiness Education and Discovery

Dates: July 15-19, 2019 and July 22-26 9 a.m.—4 p.m. Two-Week Program

Location: DVR Denver Metro Office 2211 West Evans Avenue Denver, CO 80223

Blind and Low Vision Services' Personal Adjustment Training Unit is offering a two-week transition-focused experience for students who are blind or visually impaired. This program will equip students with life skills training and community opportunities to achieve their full potential. The C.R.E.D program will include:

Career and Vocational Education	Independent Living and Personal Management
Self-Advocacy	Orientation & Mobility
Assistive Technology	1 Touch Self-Defense
Team Work Skills	Community Volunteer Activities

Transitioning to Higher Education:

Dates: June 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2019 Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Metropolitan State University and Community College of Denver / Auraria Campus

The Transitioning to Higher Education workshop is a collaborative effort between Metro State's Access Center, Community College of Denver Accessibility Center, and DVR's Blind and Low Vision Services. This 4-day workshop is designed to improve self-advocacy skills as they transition from high school to post-secondary education. The curriculum is designed to empower students who are blind and low vision to know their disability, identify what helps them learn, and which accommodations will assist them to succeed in a college setting.

ONE DAY WORKSHOPS:

DVR Denver Metro Bake Off

Dates: June 11, 2019 from 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Location: DVR Denver Metro Office 2211 West Evans Avenue Denver, CO 80233

Work readiness skills including daily living skills (cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping), orientation and mobility, teamwork, initiative, and advocacy will be emphasized in this workshop.



COLORADO

Department of
Labor and Employment

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

ONE DAY WORKSHOPS CONTINUED

FIX-IT ACADEMY

June 18, 2019 from 9a.m.-3p.m

Location: DVR Denver Metro Office 2211 West Evans Avenue Denver, CO 80233

This manual arts workshop will include visit to Home Depot, hands-on activities working with various tools to complete basic household tasks, and a “take home” project.

S.O.S: STRONG ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS

June 25, 2019 10am-2pm

Location: DVR Denver Metro Office 2211 West Evans Avenue Denver, CO 80233

This workshop will include discussion, hands-on activities, and a brainstorming “Label Challenge” that will enable participants to explore the low, medium and high tech strategies to improve their organization. Whether at home, school, or work, students will be more successful if they have strong organizational skills.

AMAZING RTD RACE - DENVER

August 1, 2019 8:30am - 3:30pm

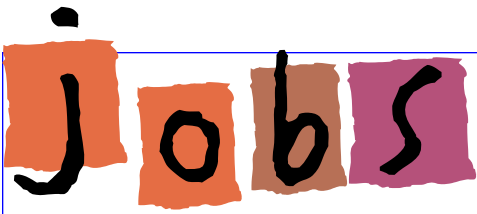
Location: DVR Denver Metro Office 2211 West Evans Avenue Denver, CO 80233

This workshop will include discussion, hands-on activities, and a competitive community experience that will enable participants to explore the various transportation services available to pursue post-secondary and employment opportunities.

Workshops are free to students ages 15-21 who have been referred to DVR and have been determined eligible for Pre-Employment Transition Services.

To register, ask questions regarding this summer activities, information on how to complete referral for a student with a visual impairment to DVR, or other Pre-Employment Transition Services offered, please feel free to contact Michele Reed at 303-866-3512 or email at michele.reed@state.co.us





IMPORTANT! We have JOB OPENINGS!!

Please be proactive with current vacancies for the upcoming school year. Please keep in touch with Tanni about your job openings. If you know of an anticipated opening in your part of the state, please begin working to recruit someone into our field by ensuring he or she has an opportunity to learn about being a TVI and/or an O&M Specialist. This may be a para-educator, 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** (2 FTE) for Greeley Schools. For more information, please contact Nyla Buffington at nbuffington@greeleyschools.org
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (.5 FTE) for Weld County RE-FJ School District. For more information, please contact Rachael Browning at rachael.browning@weldre5j.org or (970) 587-6815

Southern Region – Jobs

- ✓ **CSDB** - Please be in touch with Chelle Lutz for CSDB Openings in the School for the Blind. She can be reached at (719) 578-2100 or clutz@csdb.org
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1 FTE) There is an opening in Falcon District 49 for the next school year. The contact person is Nancy Lemmond at nlemmond@d49.org
- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (1 FTE) opening in Pikes Peak BOCES. For more information, please contact Deirdre Shearer at dshearer@ppboces.org

Metro Region—Jobs

- ✓ **TVI / COMS** (2 FTE) opening in Denver Public Schools. For more information, please contact Julie Hemphill at (720) 595-6126 or julie_hemphill@dpsk12.org

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

VISION COALITION MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 25, 2019 / Meeting Location: Anchor Center for Blind Children

Persons in Attendance: Deb Andrews, Tanni Anthony, Melinda Carter, Nancy Cozart, Jayme Cusimano, Julie King, Paula Landry, Jim Olson, and Michelle Reed

Absent: Dan Burke, Paula Conroy, Julie Hutchison, and Jamie Lugo

MISSION OF THE VISION COALITION: *The purpose of the Vision Coalition is to bring the collective resources of the group together to address state priorities improving services to students who are blind/visually impaired. (April 1998)*

LEGEND OF ACRONYMS

ASV	A Shared Vision	COMS	Certified orientation and mobility specialist
CAER	CO Chapter of the Association of the Education/ Rehabilitation of the Blind/Visually Impaired	CSDB	Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind
CCB	Colorado Center for the Blind	DVR	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
CDE	Colorado Department of Education	ESSU	Exceptional Student Services Unit
CIMC	Colorado Instructional Materials Center	TVI/TSVI	Teacher of students with visual impairments

MEMBERS OF VISION COALITION FOR THE 2018—19 SCHOOL YEAR

A Shared Vision – Paula Landry	Anchor Center for Blind Children – Melinda Carter
Colorado AER Chapter – Nancy Cozart	Colorado Department of Education – Tanni Anthony
Colorado DVR – Michelle Reed	Colorado Instructional Materials Center – Jim Olson
CSDB School for the Blind – Jamie Lugo	CSDB Outreach – Jayme Cusimano
Colorado Center for the Blind – Dan Burke	Metro TVI / COMS– Nancy Cozart
Northern TVI / COMS – Julie Hutchinson	Southern TVI / COMS – Deb Andrews
Western TVI / COMS - Julie King	University of Northern Colorado VI Program – Paula Conroy

NORMS OF THE VISION COALITION: Stay present. Verbally identify yourself before you speak. If we get into a serious discussion, please wait for your turn (we will assign someone to take stock of who is next in the discussion). Vision Coalition meetings are a confidential environment. We are here for the common good of students, families, and our profession. In the spirit of improvement, we will bring important issues to the table.

DECISION PROTOCOL: In instances where a vote may be taken to make a decision of the Vision Coalition membership, a fist of 5, 3, or 1 will be used. 5 = agreement / can live with the decision; 3 = need more information to make a decision; and 1 = cannot approve the decision. A majority vote of 5 will indicate that the decision will move forward.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Metro Region (Nancy Cozart)

The winter metro TVI meeting had to be postponed so we just adjusted the location and covered the same content/ guest speaker on April 25th in Aurora at our final gathering from 3:30-4:00, we will be exploring/discussing various ideas

that have worked well year for our students. TVIs are to bring some learning materials they've made or used, such as books, games, or other adapted materials, so that we can learn from each other! Denver is setting up a display table for these items so bring your ideas and materials! Dr. Leanna Dudley from Denver Vision Therapy will be presenting. She will present from 4:00-5:00 PM. She will share about her role, how she assesses vision, and the common conditions she sees. There will also be a lot of time for questions.

Northern Region (Julie Hutchinson)

Weld County - Weld 6 Greeley Schools continues to look for two full-time TVIs. Weld County - Weld Re-5J, Johnstown/ Milliken is also looking for a part-time TVI/COMS at .5 FTE. Boulder County – St. Vrain Valley Re-1J, Longmont will be hiring two full FTE in the next year school; we actually had 6 applicants apply and are going through the interview process now!

At our last meeting, the northern region focused on identifying needs within the learning media plan of the IEP. We agreed to have an ongoing discussion of components of the LMA and suggestions on how to fill this out in that the hopes that the entire state can complete learning media plans similarly thus limiting confusion when students transfer from district to district. This was discussed at the last Vision Coalition meeting, though – the northern region has not had a meeting since January. We will share our notes from this collaborative session with Tanni so that it can be discussed with the VC members, if appropriate.

A member of the northern region shared information relating to a CU research study currently being conducted for students who use braille. Here are some details: The University of Colorado Boulder is conducting a research study to understand how to build toys and games that help visually impaired children learn Braille. For this study, the researchers are recruiting the following groups:

- Children (ages 5-17) with vision impairments that affect their abilities to read normal sized text
- Parents of these children (must be at least 18)

We have the recruitment information and will share it with Tanni. It would be great to get students involved with this!

Discussion Topics

- ⇒ Recruitment. The northern region continues to have a large amount of openings and TVIs/COMS of retirement age. *Response: See this topic in the discussion of the section of the notes.*
- ⇒ Are any districts doing anything to advocate about the negative effects of blue light in the technology that all district students are using? We are wondering if anyone is doing district training on the filters that can be added/ used or if anyone is releasing literature to their districts. *Response: This was not on people's radar for the most part. One person shared that the optometrist of one student recommended a blue light filter. The concern is that the blue light may contribute to visual fatigue. There are cautions with some APH products to use filters due to visual fatigue and glare factors. There are apps to add the filter on phones. This might be an area to explore in a Functional Vision Assessments.*

Southern Region (Deb Andrews)

Good things are happening in the Southern Region, here is what we've been up to the past couple of months:

- ◆ We got a firsthand look at the APH Building on Patterns Pre-K curriculum.
- ◆ Pueblo District 60 discussed a new app that works with the APH MATT Connect that is described as "Revolutionary Tactile Graphics Software for K-12"
- ◆ Jim Olson from the CIMC brought the LVEC new inventory of Eschenbach equipment for everyone to check out.
- ◆ We were also able to get hands-on time with the Reveal 16 foldable digital magnifier from Humanware was on loan from Kevin Hughes during the Metro Denver and the Southern (Colorado Springs) clinics.



- ◆ We participated in a webinar on "the basics of optics for low vision" with Dr. Noon.

We have been working as a region to come up with ways to increase attendance at our monthly regional meeting. This has been a concern for CSDB Outreach events in the southern region. One concern has been supervisor approval to attend the monthly meetings. There are challenges with ensuring that the contact hours needed to see kids are fully addressed. Dates and times for the meeting are set two years in advance, so teachers can plan. If you have any thoughts to share, please contact Deborah.andrews@asd20.org or jolson@csdb.org

Positions Open: Diane Fitzkee is retiring. The Fountain School District has tentatively hired someone for the next year and they also have a person who will be entering the TVI training program at UNC. Karen Wood is retiring from Pikes Peak BOCES and they are looking to fill this position.

Western Region (Julie King)

Overall things are quiet on the western slope. One update mentioned CMAS testing. The comment was regarding the formatting in braille and that some of the questions were difficult for the student to understand exactly what the question was asking. Another comment was regarding the SAT and that this year is was in UEB with Nemeth whereas the past few years have been EBAE with Nemeth.

A student from Grand Junction attended the Crested Butte camp and had a great time. Unfortunately the Lion's Club camp in Wyoming is cancelled this year. For the western slope students this was a great opportunity for them to spend time with their peers. The other camps offered throughout the state are day camps, which continues to be a problem if our students have to travel to other areas to attend.

Discussion Topic:

- ⇒ When students are on the computer playing math games in class, what games/apps are people using for their braille readers for higher level math skills? *Response: This might be good to post on the listserv – no one had ideas.*

Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Michelle Reed)

Staff Updates: Joe Fiorini, Rehabilitation Counselor II in the Golden office was promoted within DVR, and our new RC II is Josie Shea in the Colorado Springs Office. There is a vacancy for a Rehabilitation Counselor I in the Golden office. Sue Williams, Supervisor I for the Personal Adjustment Training Unit Field Staff, retired at the bringing of February. Our new Sup I is John "Muck" Kilpatrick in the Pueblo office. There is a vacancy for an O&M/VRT instructor in the Pueblo office. We have a new Rehabilitation Counselor in the Northglenn office and her name is Lisa Brown, and a new Rehabilitation Counselor in our Denver Metro Office, Charles Kransberger.

The waitlist for Denver Metro Center Personal Adjustment Training (PAT) program is around 3-4 months.

Job Clubs statewide for the 2019-2020 school year. The primary way the events are advertised are through postings via the CDE email distribution lists. A goal is to have more student participation.

Discussion: As possible, it would be great to have significant advance notice on the dates of the events. Another thought is to write up a summary of a Job Club experience that has happened to highlight the value of these experiences for students. This is also an area that should be included in the August – September 2019 "Colorado Resources, Professional Learning, and Support Activities Specific to Children and Youth who are Blind/Visually Impaired, Their Families and Service Providers for School Year 2019-20" article in the Keeping in Touch newsletter. Tanni and Michelle will work together to ensure it is included in this article.



We had a volunteer activity at Metro Caring on March 28, 2019 10:30—4:00 p.m., in which six Denver Public School students participated.

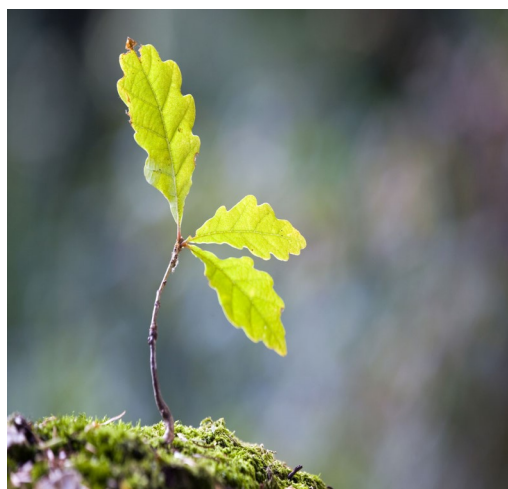
A goal is to develop a Pre-Employment Transition Service Workgroup. Stay tuned!

An email was distributed to all agencies and organizations as well as TVIs/O&Ms regarding establish a White Cane Day planning committee. Great response and interest was received, so we are hoping to establish an initial meeting to discuss and brainstorm ideas for activities to acknowledge and celebrate the day.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and multiple school districts have partnered to bring you the opportunity to research different careers in the Broadband, Construction, Healthcare, Hospitality and Retail industries. Information on apprenticeship programs will also be available.

Our summer programs and workshops include a two-week C.R.E.D. (Career Readiness Education and Discovery) Program planned for July 15-19 and July 22-26 from 9:00-4:30pm. In addition to the two-week program, we plan four one-day workshops: Daily Living Skills - Brownie Bake-Off June 11, 2019, O&M - Public Transportation August 1, 2019, Fix It Academy Manual Skills June 18, 2019 and S.O.S Strong Organization Skills June 25, 2019. Please contact Michele Reed at 303-866-3512 or michele.reed@state.co.us

A Shared Vision (Paula Landry)



Spring is a time of growth. A Shared Vision’s programs are growing, too! Our Early Intervention Vision Services program is now supporting over 100 children from birth to age three in regions that represent 80% of Colorado’s population. This includes 50 counties representing metro Denver, Fort Collins, Greeley, Sterling and the Western Slope.

We now have 13 teachers on our team. While we will miss Sarah Vallese, who has moved to New Jersey to start a new journey with her family, Caitlyn Bleything and Lorraine Chevarria have joined A Shared Vision on a part-time basis to complement their school-district careers. If you are a school-based TVI looking for a flexible schedule and love working with babies and toddlers, consider becoming a part-time teacher with A Shared Vision. There’s no shortage of families that need early intervention vision support!

To empower our families, we just completed the first round of *Family Fun Days* in Denver, Greeley, Sterling and Grand Junction. These are free, sensory-learning events for A Shared Vision’s families that take place in libraries, parks, grocery stores and the outdoors. In March and April, we taught our families how to make and then read a story box and a texture book with their child who is blind or visually impaired. We also talked about other strategies they can use to teach emergent literacy skills. To learn more about these events and download the 2019 calendar, go to <https://www.asharedvision.org/picnic-in-the-park.html>

As part of our education program we have conducted trainings with local health agencies in Denver on how blindness and visual impairment affect the strategies that other EI providers use with their clients. We have also been meeting with school districts to discuss the transition from Part C early intervention to school-based services and how we can collaborate to make this process easier for our families. Please contact Paula Landry at plandry@asharedvision.org to learn more or to schedule a meeting with us.

A Shared Vision is constantly building our online resources for our families and other early intervention providers. Check out our website at www.asharedvision.org and if you appreciate the work we do, give us a “LIKE” on our Facebook page.

Finally, plans for the 2019 Western Regional Early Intervention Conference are underway! Now in its 30th year, it’s taking place at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield, Colorado. A Shared Vision is a Colorado co-host and sponsor, along with the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind, Anchor Center for Blind Children, Colorado Department of Education, and Hands and Voices. A Shared Vision’s Executive Director Steven Lindauer has done marvelous work on creating and maintaining the WREIC website.

Please join us! To learn more about this conference and to register, go to www.wreic.org

Anchor Center for Blind Children (Melinda Carter)

A lot of fun and exciting things are happening at Anchor Center this spring.

- ◆ Comcast Cares Day at Anchor Center is Saturday May 4. The Comcast volunteers are holding a free carnival for current and graduate Anchor families that will feature a train, bouncy house, face painting, and more. We are so thankful to Comcast for putting together this wonderful day for our families.
- ◆ Our spring unit in preschool is based around the book *We All Go Traveling By* written by Sheena Roberts, so on Thursday May 23, the preschool is having a Transportation Day. This day will feature a police car, school bus, fire truck and Little Man Ice Cream being served from their bicycle. This is a great opportunity for the children to explore these vehicles close up including sitting inside them. We are grateful for the community resources we have to bring this experience to our preschoolers.
- ◆ Anchor is pleased to announce the hiring of Jennifer Taylor, TVI, from Tyler, Texas. Jennifer comes to Anchor with three years' experience in the Tyler School District and we are excited she has decided that Anchor is where she would like to continue her career.
- ◆ The respite program is expanding at Anchor Center from one evening a month to two or more events a month including Respite Camps over school breaks.
- ◆ On Saturday April 20 "Burgers and Brews" for dads was held. Childcare was provided and dads were treated to burgers, brews and a special guest who is a professional poker trainer. It was a lot of fun and a big success.
- ◆ For moms in May, "Moms and Mimosas" will be on Saturday May 18. Free childcare will be provided, along with brunch and Denise Plante from Colorado and Company on 9news will be the speaker.
- ◆ Our preschool graduation will be taking place on Thursday, June 6. This year we have eight graduates and they are already busy preparing for their big day.
- ◆ Anchor Center has partnered with Dr. King and Rocky Mountain Hospital to conduct a research study for validating the *Neonatal Assessment Visual European Grid* referenced in the book, "Vision and the Brain". It was designed by Dr. Fazzie of Europe, who is a pediatric ophthalmologist. The use of the assessment by ophthalmologist, pediatric developmental practitioners including EI vision specialist, is to determine neurological risk of infants that may develop CVI.



In the study, the premature babies are not tested until 38 weeks where they undergo a functional vision exam of ocular motor and perceptual visual skills. Callie Robinson, Tammy Miller and Cathy Smyth are involved in this research project. There will be more to follow.

Colorado Chapter of AER (Nancy Cozart)

The CAER board has appreciated members' participation at board meetings, fundraisers and training events. Remember we are YOUR professional organization so engage to serve our field to the best of our abilities



Notice the new CAER Logo!

Thanks to Ann Cunningham for helping finalize this great new logo!

Thank you to board members who are completing their board term(s) in May: Sally Burch and Ann Cunningham. Tim Richard resigned from the board this winter.

The new board members joining for the 2019-21 term are:

Returning board members are:

Nancy Cozart- President

Brent Batron: Past President

Michelle Robinson - Secretary

Heather Solberg - Treasurer

President-Elect: _____

At- Large Members: *Paula Conroy, Barb Galgano, Jeannie Lei*

The Spero Winery Fundraiser was a great success. There were 20-30 attendees. We made a profit of \$600 to go toward mini-grants! Woohoo! A reminder that mini grant applications are open year round for submissions. Board members review applications submitted by November 1st.

Monthly newsletters are set out to CAER membership. If you have information or ideas to share, we would love for you to share it to include in a newsletter.

The annual meeting and banquet will be held on April 26, 2019 following the Friday session of the CDE AER Seminar. The CAER Award recipients were: *President's Award* to **Jeannie Lei**; *Gary Schmidt Award* to **Mike Plansker**; *Ken Neve Award* to **Trina Boyd Pratt**, and *Lifetime Achievement Award* to **Cheryl Leidich**.

Jeannie Lei won the drawing for a year member to AER! Congrats!

CAER is interested in featuring local talent. If you have a topic that you would be willing to share as a professional learning opportunity, please be in touch with a CAER member.

Colorado Center for the Blind Youth Programs (Dan Burke)

The 3rd *Annual Making Connections That Work for You Seminar* will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at CCB. It will include keynote speakers who are successful blind professionals, breakout sessions, exhibitors and free lunch! Read more about Making Connections 2019. For more information, go to:

<https://cocenter.org/civicrm?page=CiviCRM&q=civicrm%2Fmailing%2Fview&id=143>

Martin continues to lead monthly mentoring with CSDB students.

FAST Program: The last couple of months we've dissected sharks and checked out the Denver Art Museum Tactile Tables for its current exhibit, "Treasures of British Art" with our FAST (Fun Activities and Skills Training). FAST is held on the second Friday or Saturday of each month during the academic year.

May 11's FAST activity will be a Try-it Sports event, including Beep Baseball. Group fitness, tandem cyclin with Eye-cycle and soccer. We'll be sending out a flyer and link to register soon!

Summer is coming, and that means all of our summer youth programs, under the direction of Martin Becerra-Miranda, with a couple of twists. We're offering our 8-week *No Limits to Learning* program, as well as three shorter modules — *The World of Work*, *Challenge & Adventure* and *Cracking the College Code*. That means if a student has other commitments and can't come for 8 weeks, they can pick one or more of the shorter modules that fits their schedule and interests.

And along with the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado, we'll hold three Confidence-Bell (Braille Enrichment in Literacy and Learning) programs, including Littleton, Westminster and Grand Junction.

Read about our summer offerings and find registration links on our web site, <http://www.cocenter.org>. You can also call Martin Becerra for more information at 303-778-1130, x223, or e-mail mbecerra@cocenter.org

And don't forget – June 29 will be our 2nd annual 6 Dot Dash! 5K. How about a TVI team? For more information, go to: <http://6dotdashco.com/>

Colorado Instructional Material Center (Jim Olson)

CIMC Pro Tip: It is a contractual requirement of the Colorado Department of Education that the CIMC encrypts all communication that involves personally identifiable student information (PII). If CIMC staff sends you an encrypted email, you will receive a message from the address "noreply@barracuda.com" with a subject line that says something like, "you have a new encrypted message from. (the email address CIMC staff has used)". If it is your first time receiving an encrypted email, you will need to register (one-time only) a username and password.

Book Orders for Next (2019-2020) School Year (2019-2020): 250 book orders were received by the annual April 1 deadline. The CIMC replies with a detailed email response of the sourcing results. Every order received has been sourced for availability in braille and each order has been followed up on with a written response. If you did not receive a reply, then consider this a RED FLAG! Chances are the order did not go to the right place, and you need to contact us immediately to see if we truly received your order. Remember, all book related email communications should be sent to cimcbookorders@csdb.org.

- *You may have follow-up work to do regarding your book orders:* Please read the email response from the CIMC carefully. Many times we need clarifying information from you to proceed with your order. We may need to know if an alternate ISBN is acceptable. We know this is a check box on our order form but sometimes people just check boxes - we may truly need to know this information if a book is available with an alternate ISBN as a 'reprint' which is much more reasonably priced as compared to a new transcription. For new transcriptions, we may need an ink print copy of the book in order to send it to vendors for their bids and to the chosen vendor for transcription and production purposes. Many times the vendor needs to cut the binding off and the book is destroyed. Please explain to your districts that they may not get this ink print book back.
- A few new teachers have been a little panicked thinking they could not submit book orders after the April 1st deadline. Please know that the CIMC accepts orders every day of the year. In an attempt to be fiscally responsible, allow time for the required bid process, and get on the production queues of vendors, we have established an annual deadline for book orders of April 1st. This is consistent with most of the other materials centers around the country.
- If you have submitted a book order for a student and later find out they may be moving to a new district, please notify us immediately!!! Once a Purchase Order is written and entered into the state payment system, it is a legally binding contract. It is urgent that we work with our vendors so that we are fiscally responsible with the funding provided by the Colorado Department of Education. If you can remember to make communication with the CIMC part of your internal district process when there is a discussion of a student moving, it would be appreciated. We can flag your order for follow-up. We can work with the vendor to put your production on 'hold', we can discuss options and a plan with you and the next district simultaneously, and we can try to cancel the order if necessary; but once the transcription process has started, we are fiscally responsible for the order. We want to make sure every student has the materials they need in a timely manner.



CIMC Pro Tip: We have received ink prints from teachers that do not match the ISBN number on the paper order form. Please double check your ISBN numbers. Also, remember to reference the student edition of textbooks and not the teacher's guide (that has happened before as well).

By the first week of May, we will try to send each AU a copy of their book order spreadsheet. We will need you to check that for accuracy. This will be a good time to check for things like a missing subject, etc. Perhaps you are ordering reading and science for a student but not a math book. That would be a good thing to let us know. We appreciate all that you do to help us acquire your books in a timely manner.

From the Fred's Head blog at www.aph.org: President Trump Signs Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act

By APH Blogger - October 11, 2018 - Louisville, Kentucky

On Tuesday President Trump gave final approval to the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act. This comes after bipartisan support of the bill in the both the House and the Senate. The change gives Americans who are blind or visually impaired access to accessible books from more than 40 countries that have joined the Marrakesh Treaty.

“We are excited to see the United States government understand how important accessible books are for everyone,” said Gary Mudd, VP of Government and Community Affairs at American Printing House for the Blind (APH). “At APH, we believe accessible information is more than a convenience, but a human right. We look forward to the role we will play in the sharing of these important publications. This is a major step forward for people who are blind or visually impaired here in the states, and across the globe.” The Marrakesh Treaty creates a copyright exemption for domestic reproduction and use of accessible literary works and printed musical works. It allows for the exportation and importation of these accessible items in formats such as audio books, braille, and large print. Authorized organizations serving people who are blind or visually impaired can import works to or from more than 40 countries that are part of the treaty.

To help facilitate the exchange of accessible books now allowed by the Marrakesh Treaty, APH has become a member of the Accessible Books Consortium. Look for an announcement from APH on this new collaboration in the future. APH already has extensive databases with accessible materials available to the public. You can visit the Louis Database at louis.aph.org and the Migel at migel@aph.org

Our Counts: The CIMC manages two separate and distinct counts for the Colorado Department of Education: A statewide count of all students being served from the ages of birth through 21; and the Federal Quota Census of students who are legally blind from the ages of birth through 21. Since the federal quota census count day always occurs on the first Monday in January that is the same day Colorado has decided to use for our statewide count.

Statewide Count: All of the edits (specific to the first Monday in January count day) submitted by AUs have been entered into the statewide count database. As mandated by the Colorado Department of Education, new, updated, reports have been sent as an encrypted email attachment to each district designated contact person and/or Director of Special Education or their designee. **Please remember that this printout is specific to January 7, 2019** - not the day the report was printed or emailed. This copy is for your district records and information. You do not need to do anything with it. You do not need to return it to the CIMC. We have had multiple TVIs contact us to say a student they exited is still on their printout and/or that a student they have registered is missing from their printout -- because the registration and exit forms they are referring to were specific to an enrollment/exit date that occurred on January 8th or later. The CIMC strongly encourages you to keep caseload records within your own district using whatever method works best for your district. The statewide count total for 0-21 on January 7, 2019 is 1,236.

Please Note: The CIMC has concerns over the accuracy of our statewide count due to a significant lack of registrations from Part C service providers across the state. We believe our district level count information is highly accurate. Thank you to everyone for your attention to detail in completing this annual requirement.

Federal Quota Census: Phase I of the federal quota census closed on March 15, 2019. During this phase, AUs identified which of their students, from their statewide count "Meet the Definition of Blindness" (MDB), or "Function at the Definition of Blindness" (FDB). This includes the requirement for administrative units to have current eye health information on file in their AUs and have signed parent consent forms on file in their AUs (and submit a copy of the consent to the CIMC). The CIMC must physically check a box in the federal database identifying that the AU has a signed parent consent form on file. During this phase, the CIMC entered all students identified by their AUs as legally blind - giving additional time during Phase II to complete gathering the proper required documentation.

Phase II of the federal quota census closed on April 15, 2019. During this phase, we cannot enter any new students into the federal database. It is a requirement that we check the "Mark For Deletion" box for those students who were missing information (such as current eye health information or signed parent consent forms) and did not meet the eligibility criteria for the count.

Administrative Units (AUs) across Colorado reported to the CIMC that they were missing **123** signed parent consent forms and **106** eye health reports for students that the CIMC had to "Mark for Deletion" and remove from the Census before closing Phase II. At an estimated allocation of \$300 per student, this is a projected loss of approximately

\$68,700.00 in quota funding that could have been used to benefit students in Colorado. Can we please make a statewide commitment to obtain signed parent consent forms for the 2020 count? Remember that the Parent Consent Form must only be signed once. The parent can revoke consent at any time. *Discussion: We talked about the value of having parent consent for ALL children with visual impairment, including blindness on the CIMC Count. Jim will organize this process for next year's count.*

Although the federal census count is not closed and finalized, our current eligible student numbers for all three accounts managed by the CIMC is 685. Here is how we arrived at this number:

914 - Statewide number from all three federal quota accounts managed within the CIMC of students who meet or function at the definition of blindness, as reported by TVIs.

229 - The number of students "Marked For Deletion" and removed from Colorado accounts before closing Phase II as a result of missing paperwork.

123 missing signed parent consent forms

106 missing current eye health exam information identifying MDB/FDB (legal blindness)

685 - The total estimated number of federal quota eligible students † who meet or function at the definition of blindness and remained in the three Colorado school-age accounts at the end of Phase II.



Other CIMC Updates:

- Please make sure to inform the CIMC of any changes to your AUs designated CIMC contact(s) or shipping addresses for the summer and 2019-2020 school year.
- The CIMC has started shipping book orders for the 2019-2020 school year and need to be aware of any special instructions for books or APH materials shipped over the summer. Please contact the CIMC if your district is not able to receive shipments during the summer months or if you have special shipping requests/requirements.
- We are encrypting all APH correspondence that contains personally identifiable student information (PII).
- Take a moment and verify that the contact information and address you have pre-filled onto your APH form is up to date. We received forms recently with retired teachers listed on the form as well as multiple orders with incorrect zip codes. Remember, we must have a school address or the address of an agency office (BOCES, Community Center Board, etc.) for deliveries. The CIMC can NOT ship to home addresses.
- In addition to the MATT Connect devices that were gifted to each AU, the CIMC is able to continue to expand our ability to fill your orders for additional units for quota eligible students. However, we will not be providing accessory items or replacement parts for the MATT Connect. If you did receive a MATT Connect, please make sure your warranty is registered and that you have labeled all components completely for your district.
- We have had several Light boxes die prematurely partly due to improper initial charging. We will try to complete first charge before sending them out into the districts—these units will be clearly marked that the charge is complete. Otherwise, please follow directions for charging and use very carefully. For example, trying to charge the unit with the rechargeable batteries loaded incorrectly will result in shorting out the charging adapter. Other tips to prolong the life of light boxes: unplug the lightbox when it is not in use and it is best to recharge the batteries when they are completely exhausted. It is fine to have students use lightbox while it is charging.

We still have limited quantities of some tactile books (*Bear Hunt, A Touch, Little Breath of Wind, Holy Moly*) and *Best for a Nest* that we are one time gifting for each TVI to use in their district. Please send an email to cimcaphorders@csdb.org to request books that would be appropriate for students on your caseload.

CSDB – School for the Blind (Jamie Lugo)

Key Events:

- ◆ On February 6th representatives from HIMS assistive technology visited the campus to provide elementary students training on the new Taptilo braille devices and middle and high school student's instruction on the Q-Braille refreshable braille displays.
- ◆ On February 11th, high school students participated in a Division of Vocational Rehabilitation informational meeting in the employability center to learn more about how DVR can support our students in finding work experience and summer employment opportunities.
- ◆ Spring Parent-Teacher conferences were held February 14th and 15th. 45% of the parents from the school for the blind attended conferences.
- ◆ Throughout the month of February, middle school and high school students participated in a Safe 2 Tell presentations.
- ◆ On February 20th, upper elementary students visited the Pikes Peak Center and engaged in, "The Orchestra Moves." This was a very interactive experience for all.
- ◆ On February 26th, we held our first Positive Behavior Intervention support meeting with a student representative and parent representative to gather more feedback and diverse perspectives on what is going well and what we need to improve.
- ◆ The elementary students participated in various Read across America activities during the week before spring break.
- ◆ March 6th-10th, 7 middle school and high school students participated in a ski trip in Crested Butte. March 10th - 12th, four Elementary students skied in Vail with Foresight Ski Guides for the Blind. On March 11th, various secondary students participated in a scholarship writing seminar led by Jessica Beecham.
- ◆ Several secondary students interested in technology as a career path, were engaged in a Leaderquest presentation on March 18th.
- ◆ Secondary students competed in the National Learning Ally reading contest. Our English class came in second place in the Learning Ally reading contest. They were awarded \$100 for this accomplishment and will celebrate with a pizza party and games during 5th block on April 21st. One of our juniors took 1st place in his division and received a \$100 gift card for his personal achievements.
- ◆ Two students will attend the Close Up Trip to Washington DC, March 31st – April 5th.
- ◆ Students gave their best efforts while participating in the CMAS, PSAT, SAT, Dynamic Learning Maps, and Colorado Alternative Assessments throughout the month of April.
- ◆ Students and staff celebrated the 145th anniversary of the school on April 8th. Students participated in brief assemblies reviewing CSDB history.
- ◆ One of our freshman took first place at our school Oratorical Contest, first place at the club contest, and first place at the Zone Contest in Pueblo and then second place at the regional contest in Lakewood, Colorado. She will compete against high school students from Colorado and Wyoming this coming weekend, April 26th for another cash prize. If she advances after the contest this weekend, she will compete at for the national title!

CSDB Outreach Services (Jayme Cusimano)

Sara Noel is on the planning committee for the *2020 International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium*. The dates have been set for January 29-31, 2020. Applications for presentations will be available soon, and will be due in the fall for review.

Check their website for future information:

<https://www.orientationandmobilitysymposium.com/>.



Recent and Upcoming Outreach Events

- *Meal Time Routines with Dr. Cathy Smith* - April 13 at CSDB for parents and professionals; 17 participants including 1 parent, 3 TVIS, as well as speech, OT, behavioral specialist (many from the Denver area)
- *Adventures in Body Awareness* - April 18 for students who are blind/visually impaired, Grades 6-12. Canceled due to no students registering
- *Hike for Life* - May 11, 9:00-11:00 at Fox Run Regional Park for students who are blind/visually impaired, Grades 4-12; RSVP: Sara Noel by April 26, snoel@csdb.org
- *Sensory Safari* - May 18, 9:00-11:30 at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo for children who are blind/visually impaired, birth to age 8; RSVP: Dale Wolf by May 6, dewolf@csdb.org
- *iAdvocate Camp* - June 16-20 at CSDB for students who are blind/visually impaired, Grades 6th-10th; RSVP: Dale Wolf by May 6, dewolf@csdb.org

Colorado Department of Education (Tanni Anthony)

Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss Project: this grant project has been funded for another five years! The grant is funded from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2023. The project's mission is free technical assistance to parents and services providers of children and youth, ages birth through 21, who are deaf-blind or who have both a vision and a hearing loss. The project has a lending library and a website with a multitude of electronic resources that are available to families and educational personnel. Tanni Anthony and Gina Herrera are the Project Co-Directors.

- ◆ *Project Staff*: Tanni Anthony and Gina Herrera coordinate the grant project. We have three Technical Assistance Specialists. Callie Robinson is hired to do specific work on the topic of interveners. She is building networking opportunities for our existing interveners and information materials on the role of the interveners. Kathryn Daniels and Wendy Stoltman are Technical Assistance (TA) Specialists for the project. Kathryn and Wendy provide onsite consultation and customized training to the educational teams of the children with deaf-blindness. Shannon Cannizzaro is our Family Specialist. To request FREE technical assistance, please contact Gina Herrera at (303) 866-6681 or Herrera_g@cde.state.co.us
- ◆ *Annual Deaf-Blind Census*: We are finalizing the December 1, 2018 Child Count for Colorado Learners who are Deaf-Blind. The report is due to the National Center on Deaf-Blindness on May 10th. Thanks to all the school district contacts, many of whom are TVIs, for returning the forms.

If you have a new student with combined vision and hearing loss, please be in touch with Tanni or Gina. Please note that a child can be registered at any time in the school year. If you work with a learner with both vision and hearing loss, please be sure to work with Tanni to register the child. All learners identified as having combined vision and hearing loss are eligible for free technical assistance. This can be child-specific consultation and customized staff training.

- ◆ *Interveners*: We are receiving more requests for information about interveners or assistance with hiring training interveners. We have work to do to equalize an understanding of this role. Gina Herrera is working with several districts on job descriptions, hiring practices, and proposed training for new interveners in the fall. This will be a priority area of the project over the current grant cycle.
- ◆ *Project Webpage*: The webpage URL is: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-DB.asp>
- ◆ *Early Intervention Modules*: The project has hired Dinah Beams to do a series of online modules specific to the "deafness" part of deaf-blindness specific to very young children. The topics will include: (a) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI); (b) How We Hear; (c) Types of Hearing Loss, (d) Degrees of Hearing Loss and Functional Implications, and (e) Etiologies and Risk Factors for Hearing Loss. Each module will involve a narrated PowerPoint with other possible handout supplements. Stay tuned!

- ◆ *Summer Institute / Trainings:* The 2019 Summer Institute on Deaf-Blindness and Significant Support Needs will be held on June 19-20 at the Lowry Conference Center in Denver. The topic will be *Responding to Challenging Behavior: Developing Meaningful and Functional Instructional Strategies*. The featured speaker will be Jo Mascorro, a nationally renowned expert on this topic. The registration link and flyer will be sent to the field shortly.
- ◆ *Western Region Early Intervention Conference:* Colorado will be the host site of the WREIC on September 11-13, 2019. This conference is a long standing event sponsored by early childhood agencies / deaf-blind projects in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. There are strands specific to BVI, DHH, and DB. The preconference session on September 11th will feature Dr. Corinna Bauer, who is a neuroscientist whose research focuses on characterizing the visual dysfunctions observed in individuals with cerebral visual impairments and how these relate to brain structure and function. She will be speaking on four subtopics on the broad topic of *Fundamentals in Vision and Brain Development for Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)*. This day will serve as the replacement of the annual CDE State Conference on Blindness/Visual Impairment. The Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss budget will support 68 TVIs to attend this day long training. If someone cannot attend, they should be in touch with Tanni asap.

Annual CDE O&M Seminar: The 2019 CDE O&M Seminar will be held on April 26-27, 2019 at the Ames Facility in Littleton School District. Our featured speaker will be Lynn Gautreaux. Lynn is a COMS and a certified therapeutic recreation specialist. The topics are *AMDs and Cane Repair / Modification*.



CDE/CSDB Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics: Five Low Vision Evaluation Clinics have occurred for this school year. We thank Debbie Haberkorn as the Southern LVE Clinic Coordinator and Carol Love and Liz Weider as the Northern LVE Clinic Coordinators; and Nancy Knight as the Metro Denver LVE Clinic Coordinator. We thank our Low Vision Evaluation Clinic Team of Dr. Tom Theune, Wendy Stoltman, Jim Olson, and Debbie Haberkorn.

Recruitment and Retention: Weld County – District RE-4, Windsor has hired Jenna Martin on a temporary authorization; she is enrolled in the UNC program. Anchor Center for Blind Children has recently hired Jennifer Taylor. There are two openings in Weld County District 6, Greeley and Denver Public Schools, and contract work up north in Weld County District RE-5J, Johnston-Milliken. Boulder County - St. Vrain Valley RE-1J, Longmont has two openings, but may have filled their openings pending some next steps. There will be openings in Pikes Peak BOCES and St. Vrain School District in the next school year. Douglas County – District RE-1, Castle Rock will have a .5 FTE opening in the next school year. CDE has an active job posting for Colorado TVI / COMS jobs with AERBVI and specific to COMS jobs with ACVREP. If you know of an opening and/or if a position has filled, please be in touch with Tanni.

Listsers: The CDE ESSU maintains three separate listsers specific to personnel working in BVI programs in Colorado school districts. One is specific to Colorado TVIs and COMSs. The second one is specific to Colorado brailists. The third is specific to Colorado TVIs and brailists. It is important to remind all users of these listsers that personally identifiable information (PII) on students and parents should never be posted in any listserv messages. If anyone has questions about the listsers, please be in touch with Tanni.

Parent Database: We currently have about 226 parents registered on the CDE Parent Database. This is out of over 1,200 families across the state. The database is used only to mail out the *Keeping in Touch* newsletter and, on rare occasion, other mailings. It is important to keep it maintained with accurate addresses AND families of children with visual impairment, including blindness that are currently enrolled in our Colorado early intervention or public school programs. As children graduate or families move out of state, we need to ensure that we remove those families. As new families come into the system, please help Tanni to be proactive with getting families registered on the database. This is a voluntary process – so families need to complete and sign their registration forms.

Braille Competency: Tanni is working with a number of veteran and new TVIs to demonstrate initial braille competency. All TVIs who are new to the field are expected to demonstrate braille competency in their first year of employment in this role. If a TVI extends this date, the administrative unit of employment is at risk for a citation of noncompliance. A Practice Test is now posted on the Visual Impairment, Including Blindness website. It includes practice multiple choice items and braille samples.

BVI Coach/Mentor Project: We have three amazing veteran TVIs/O&M Specialists who can provide free technical assistance to school-based TVIs/Orientation and Mobility Specialists. They are Janet Anderson, Shelley Moats, and Wendy Stoltman. So far we have had six requests across four districts. The mentoring cannot be student specific, but the coach can address broad strategies for learners with specific types of needs. To request a coach / mentor, contact Tanni at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us

DISCUSSION ITEMS

CDE BVI Budget for 2019-20: Proposed new activities for the next budget year include:

Braille Competency Testing / Mentor Support	BVI Coach / Mentor Project
CIMC (Interagency Agreement with CSDB)	CDE O&M Seminar
Western Region Early Intervention Conference	Vision Coalition
Regional Low Vision Evaluation Clinics	UEB Math Training

Parent Need Survey: We have several more topics to explore as a response to the 2017-18 Parent Survey. They include social emotional skills / developing friendships, recreation leisure activities, and independent living skills. Some content on these topics will be included in the last newsletter of the year, but a more deliberate focus will occur in the newsletters in the fall of 2019.

Braille Math: Tanni reached out to a BANA Board member to find out more information about the transcriber course for technical materials. There is indeed a transcriber course in the works for a “second level” training for transcribers that will include a focus on UEB for technical materials, as well as other aspects included in the UEB Rulebook that are not included in the first transcriber course (e.g., line mode, foreign language materials, etc.). Clovernook won the bid to create the transcriber course and they have been working on it for over a year. It is anticipated that they have already piloted the course and are hoping to have it ready this summer.

Discussion: People are interested in further training on UEB technical material. Tanni will pursue learning more about how such a training might be organized.

Learning Media Plan Form: Vision Coalition members present took time to review the components of the state required Literacy Plan to draft the following key thoughts:

The purpose of the Learning Media Plan is the selection of current and recommended primary and second learning and literacy modes for each student with visual impairment, including blindness or deaf-blindness through careful assessment, observation, interviews, and a collected body of evidence.

Justification of primary and secondary learning and literacy modes:

- This section should include information about what assessment activities were used to gather information about the student. This may include formal or informal testing, observations across settings and tasks, interviews of the student / parents / teachers.
- Dates and names of assessment tools should be listed. Care should be taken to describe the assessment findings in an understandable manner.
- In addition, performance on the student’s past Learning Media Plans should be reviewed for information.

- A diagnosis should be referenced specific to the child’s eye health status and any concerns about progressive loss, need for correction, etc.

This information should also be evident in the Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance section of the IEP.

How student’s instruction will be integrated

- It is permissible to note “see goals and objectives” for this section (be sure this section of the IEP has the needed details)
- It is permissible to note “see service guidelines” for this LMP component (be sure this section of the IEP has the needed details)

State level of competency expected in each selected modes

- It is permissible to note “see goals and objectives” for this section (be sure this section of the IEP has the needed details)

This above information is in draft format. TVIs are encouraged to review and provide Tanni will additional feedback. Ultimately, a handout will be created as a guidepost for the required sections of a Learning Media Plan. The immediate goals are to create more reliability across the components of a LMP across Colorado TVIs / administrative units and to ensure that the learning and literacy modes of each child with visual impairment, including blindness and deaf-blindness are well documented within the IEP.

Eligibility for Visual impairment, Including Blindness:

The ECEA Rules have not yet been opened for the proposed changes to the eligibility criteria. Tanni will keep TVIs apprised of any changes as they occur.

Retention and Recruitment: It is critical that Colorado develop a strong strategic plan for retention and recruitment of its VI-specific trained workforce. We are entering a phase ahead of significant retirements as many TVIs and COMSs prepare to leave the field after a career of service. We also need to be ready for unexpected vacancies as personnel leave the state or even the field.

Tanni has asked that TVIs let her know of expected vacancies for this next school year, in addition to the currently unfilled positions. At this point in time, it is expected that there may be up to 6 vacancies across our state. Please, please keep in touch over the summer months, so there is an accurate perspective of vacancies.

Vision Coalition Membership for 2019-20.

Tanni has asked for each current member of the VC to confirm their continuation on the Vision Coalition for the next school year. It is anticipated that many of the members will remain the same, but there may be a shift with the Colorado Center for the Blind representative per Dan Burke.

Proposed Meetings for 2019-20:

- ◆ August 28, 2019
- ◆ December 12, 2019
- ◆ Thursday April 23, 2020



With Gratitude, We Say Farewell

Diane Fitzkee is retiring at the end of this school year. She shares, “I am currently completing my 40th year of teaching students who are blind or visually impaired. My first 7 years were spent teaching in central PA covering two counties in the coal region and my next 12 years were spent teaching in the Tidewater area of VA. Loved the mountains and rivers in central PA, and the Chesapeake Bay and James River in VA. My last 21 years have been spent teaching for Pikes Peak BOCES and El Paso District 49. As we all know, our field is amazing and challenging and inspiring and rewarding and ever-changing and absolutely thrilling! I’ve been a bit weepy at work recently, and I think the tears come from looking back over the students and families who have impacted my life and career in such a wonderful way. More tears are shed for the incredible people I have worked with in my schools and in the field of visual impairment who make education work for our students every day.



I feel lucky and happy to have been a part of such an interesting field. I am feeling luckier and happier that I get to start a new chapter of life with the first thing on my travel agenda being a trip to Iceland planned for just when I would otherwise be starting a new school year!”

Diane has been an inspiration for her positive spirit and her commitment to her students. We thank her for her four decades of incredible service in our field and for all the lives she has enriched, supported, and changed over these years. We wish you all the best, Diane!



Edie Smith will be retiring from Douglas County School District at the end of May. Edie shares, “It is quite bittersweet to retire from Douglas County Schools after fourteen incredible years. Almost twenty years ago, a newspaper feature on Anchor Center for Blind Children, and the encouragement of a colleague prompted me to pursue a career in the field of visual impairment. After six delightful years as Anchor Center’s Family Resource Coordinator, I was lucky enough to begin my career as a TVI in my home community at Douglas County Schools. I am so appreciative of having worked and learnt from the best of the best at DCSD and Anchor Center, along with the support and expertise of TVIs and OM instructors throughout Colorado. Also, I have gained so much from the incredible children and their families who I have been blessed to teach. My future plan is to have fun with my husband of almost forty years, our children and grandchildren, enjoying too many hobbies and in-between working with infants and their families through A Shared Vision. Thank you all for the wonderful memories and opportunities.”

We thank that first colleague who encouraged her into the field! Also a huge thank you to Edie for her many years of dedicated service to so many Colorado children and families and we wish her well in her work ahead with A Shared Vision.

With Gratitude, We Say Farewell

Karen Wood retired last school year and just finished a transition year with Pikes Peak BOCES. Karen and her family moved to Colorado in the summer of 1988 when she started working at CSDB teaching Math, Colorado History, Social Studies, and Science to middle and high school students, along with being the sponsor for the Running Club. For 20 years, Karen worked in Harrison School District with half the years as a TVI and the other half as a classroom teacher in grades K, 1, & 2. For the last 8 years, Karen has been a TVI for Pikes Peak BOCES. She shares that some of her fun TVI memories included unthawing an octopus in my refrigerator for a tactile experience in Science class, along with taking students to the North Pole Amusement Park and horseback riding.



After 31 years, she shares that a change is needed. She plans on working part-time a few years. Then plans to Amtrak across America and grow old gracefully.

Now that sounds like a marvelous plan! We thank Karen for her many years of service, including that octopus in her fridge. All the best to you, Karen, my "buddy in elephant-love!"



We were sad to see **Sarah Bickford Vallese** and family leave Colorado for new adventures in New Jersey to be closer to family. Sarah worked in Colorado as a TVI for 12 years, first at the Anchor Center for Blind Children and, most recently, at A Shared Vision.

Sarah has been so dedicated to working with our youngest children with visual impairments and their families. Always full of compassion and dedication, she contributed greatly to the lives of so many families. She leaves bereft colleagues, but we all cheer her on in the new adventures ahead!

Photo: Colleagues and friends at a farewell party for Sarah.





colorado connections

- ◆ Hats off to the following people who have earned their CDE Certificates of Braille Competency: **Dana McMullen** from Douglas County School District, **Brenna Moser** from Douglas County School District, **Jennifer Holt** from CSDB, **Jennifer Caster** from Brighton School District, **Melissa French** from Poudre School District, and **Susan Smith** from Littleton School District. This brings us to 33 people who have demonstrated braille competency since we began testing with UEB only materials. Thanks to proctors **Christine Maynard** and **Brenda Shepard**.
- ◆ So proud of **Melissa Olps Martin** (private contractor) and **Meghan Crosby** from Montrose School District for earning their CDE Renewal Certificates of Braille Competency. Hats off to the following people who have earned CDE renewal hours for braille competency: **Meghan Crosby**, **Lisa Hebbert**, **Abby Lynn Horner**, and **Christina Olps Martin**, and **William Reynolds**. Thanks to proctors **Brenda Shepard**, **Sarah Sonnier**, and **Julie Wetzstein**.
- ◆ Welcome aboard to **Jenna Martin**. She is a new TVI with an Educator Eligibility Authorization (TEE) at Tozer Primary School in the Weld RE-4 School District. She is almost finished with her third semester of the Visual Impairment/Orientation and Mobility program at the University of Northern Colorado, which is around the half way point. Prior to her current position, Jenna was a Special Education paraprofessional for two years with the Estes Park School District R-3 and also spent two summers as a Therapeutic Recreation Program Leader with Boulder Parks and Recreation. In her free time, Jenna enjoys hiking with her dogs, knitting, and yoga. She shares that she is really excited to be entering into the field and looks forward to meeting and learning from her Colorado colleagues.
- ◆ A very special thank you to **Teresa O'Brien** up north in Thompson School District who has continued to show great skill and heart in our profession. Teresa has assisted in the practicum support for a couple of folks over these past two years – truly making the difference of ensuring TVIs and O&M Specialists have support to complete their university programs. This contribution is above and beyond what is already heaped on her plate. Thank you, Teresa! You are one of our Colorado shining stars!
- ◆ Thanks to much for the Vision Coalition membership this year. Always a pleasure to work with **Deb Andrews**, **Dan Burke**, **Melinda Carter**, **Paula Conroy**, **Nancy Cozart**, **Jayne Cusimano**, **Julie Hutchinson**, **Julie King**, **Paula Landry**, **Jamie Lugo**, **Jim Olson**, and **Michelle Reed**. Thanks to special guests and past members **Kyle Berns**, **Callie Robinson**, and **Judy Mumford** too!
- ◆ Thanks also to our CAER Board who work so hard to bring options to our professional community. **Nancy Cozart** has shown great leadership this past year. Thanks so much for their work hosting the CAER banquet—onsite workers and hosts were **Nancy Cozart**, **Jeannie Lei**, **Barb Galgano**, **Sally Burch**, and **Heather Solberg**. This annual banquet is one of the many tangible work products of our hardworking CAER Board. We are grateful to our CAER Board for all they offer—we are Colorado proud.
- ◆ Also welcome to **Roberta Curtis**, the new program support assistant with the Colorado Services for Children and Youth with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss and the BVI Funded Projects at the Exceptional Student Services with the CDE. This was her first newsletter and the results are GREAT!

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer! Thanks for another spectacular school year!



colorado connections

The SEE THE FUTURE Scholarship Fund Update 2019

The SEE THE FUTURE “Education for Life” scholarship fund awarded a total of \$64,000 to the following Colorado students to help them pursue higher education.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

Lasya Andaloori – Centennial	Temesghen Atsgeba – Aurora
Hannah Bachus - Broomfield	Anahit LaBarre - Centennial
Ian Lee - Aurora	Quincie Mattick – Colorado Springs
Rebecca Pease - Windsor	Randy Sampson – Bailey
Casey Tucker – Gunnison	Cierra Vialpando – Trinidad



The STF Fund selection committee congratulates these students and we look forward to helping them achieve their goals and dreams.

For more information about the SEE THE FUTURE Fund, go to: www.sseethefuture.org

- ◆ Congratulations to **Sarah Goodfellow, Melissa French, and Morgan Fitzpatrick** on their May graduation from UNC. All three earned completed the VI program specific to their TVI training and are continuing to work toward their O&M Specialist credentials So proud of you three!
- ◆ Thanks to our CDE TVI Coaches for their work this year—**Janet Anderson, Shelley Moats, and Wendy Stoltman**. Appreciate the kick-start to this program and look forward to more opportunities in the next school year ahead.

Parting Shot from our recent CDE O&M Seminar— Celebrating the completion of making our Adapted Mobility Devices. Photo: Colorado O&M Specialists Holding their AMDs in the Air!



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Katy Anthes
Commissioner of Education



COLORADO
Department of Education

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