

ACVREP NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

ACVREP – Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

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The Nuts Ands Bolts Of Low Vision Rehabilitation - Coming To Seattle/Tacoma, Las Vegas, Ft. Lauderdale, And Kansas City

This two-day seminar will help you learn practical tools and techniques to effectively evaluate and treat adults with low vision. Presented by Marshall Flax, COMS, CLVT, and Orli Weisser-Pike, OTR/L, CLVT, SCLV. Approved by ACVREP for 12 contact hours. For registration information, dates and locations, visit www.InTheZonule.com or www.LowVisionSeminars.com.

ACVREP does not approve or disapprove of the products, services, policies, procedures, etc. of any advertiser. However, all advertisers are expected to conduct their business in a legal manner and in accordance with all municipal, county, state, and federal laws.

Grabbing The Harness Handle

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to work with a Guide Dog? Well, this past month, six O&M Specialists from around the country had a chance to find out. “Attending the Guide Dogs for the Blind seminar was one of the best things I could have done,” said Felicia Echeverria, an O&M Specialist from Los Angeles, CA. “I learned so

many new things. The most outstanding part of the seminar was the time we spent on working hands-on with the dogs. It helped to give me a better perspective of my students' experience.”

The five day hands-on seminar included a campus tour, eating and interacting with the students in class, and discussions, such as the differences in using a cane and a dog for mobility. The attendees stayed in the dormitory and had the opportunity to share in the students' daily experiences. The O&M Specialists learned how to help an established guide dog team with mobility instruction. Guide Dogs staff assisted attendees with problem solving in real-life situations. Other discussion topics included assessing a client's mobility level, number of meaningful routes and his/her stamina and endurance, as well as an overview of the application process.

Most agreed that one of the highlights of the week-long seminar was when they learned how to do *Juno* work. *Juno* is the name of a hypothetical Guide Dog and is taught by having a Guide Dogs instructor take the lead with the blindfolded subject using a blanket and a harness, with the instructor posing as the Guide Dog. This allows a person to get the feel for what it is like to work a Guide Dog as well as learn basic commands. Attendees not only became proficient in *Juno*, but also learned to teach each other so that they would in turn be able to teach their clients. In addition, there was also the opportunity to have a real Guide Dog experience. The attendees went under blindfold and held onto a harness with a Guide Dog while a Guide Dogs instructor walked alongside.

“This training just confirmed to me the importance of my learning non-visual skills, especially when one wants to help a client acquire a Guide Dog,” said Julie Brown, an O&M Specialist from Austin, TX. “Those skills become very helpful to communicate important information.”

At the end of the seminar, attendees were awarded a certificate of completion of the forty hour Advanced Orientation and Mobility Seminar, a culmination of their education in the assessment, preparation and referral of candidates for Guide Dog training and in assisting dog guide users in their home areas.

Guide Dogs for the Blind is offering these seminars throughout the year. Applications are on-line at www.guidedogs.com. We encourage O&M Specialists who have participated to keep in touch and call us with any questions. “We really want people to feel welcome and leave with a sense of accomplishment,” said Linda Marie Torres, Guide Dogs' Senior Assessment Specialist. “We have an open door policy and attendees and their clients are always welcome to visit us or contact us at any time.”

ACVREP Board Meeting – Certificant Feedback Requested

The ACVREP Board of Directors meets face-to-face twice a year. The next board meeting is scheduled for October 27-28, 2007 in Orlando, Florida. What concerns/issues do you have that you would like the board to consider/address? Now is the time to have

your voice heard! Please share any concerns, issues, etc. you have with Sharon Mikrut at the ACVREP office (520-887-6816) by April 1, 2007. She will take them to the board on your behalf.

ACVREP Seeks Nominations For Three New Board Members – FINAL NOTICE

The Nominations Committee of the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals (ACVREP) Board of Directors is seeking nominations for three positions on the ACVREP Board. These positions will be open January 1, 2008. The ACVREP Board elects each position by ballot. For consideration, a completed nomination packet must be received no later than September 27, 2007.

Current ACVREP Board Openings

There are three (3) director positions open on the ACVREP Board of Directors. Board members normally serve three-year terms and may be elected to a second three-year term. The selection of board members is a competitive process and one that also helps us to identify potential candidates for future board positions.

The three open positions for the year 2008 must be filled by two ACVREP certificants and one non-certificant. The non-certificant position must be filled by an individual who is blind or visually impaired and is not a vision professional.

Conflict of Interest Policy

ACVREP officers, directors, committee chairpersons, committee members, staff, and designated representatives shall undertake full disclosure of any actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest.

ACVREP is an organization that values diversity in background, perspective, beliefs, and traditions, in order to better serve its certificants and to assist them in the provision of quality services. ACVREP does not discriminate against any individual because of race, ethnicity, gender, age, creed, disability, or national origin.

All expenses for attendance at official ACVREP board meetings are reimbursed.

Completed nomination packets must be received no later than September 27, 2007 to be considered. All nominators and nominees will be notified upon receipt of the nomination packet submitted. Elections will be conducted at the annual meeting of the ACVREP Board of Directors on October 27, 2007. Notification of the results of the selection will be made following the board meeting.

2007 Nomination Application Form

Please complete this application. It will be used by the ACVREP Nominations Committee to review candidates for ACVREP Board of Director positions.

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

ACVREP certificate(s) held: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of Nominator: _____

Address: _____

ACVREP certificate(s) held: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Current position with a brief description of duties:

Certifications/licensures held: _____

What is the profession and professional title with which you most identify yourself?

Are you aware of any matters that present you with any actual, apparent, or potential conflicts of interest in your service to ACVREP? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please explain in detail on a separate sheet.

Experience

Please list additional professional and life experiences that you believe will benefit the Board in its policy-making duties. Use additional space if necessary.

Education: Degree Month/Year Major Name of Institution

| | | | | |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| Baccalaureate | | | | |
| Master's | | | | |
| Advanced | | | | |

Name and telephone numbers (day) of two ACVREP certificants who may be contacted as references:

1. _____ Telephone number _____
2. _____ Telephone number _____

How does the ACVREP credential affect your professional life now? What are your hopes for the future direction of ACVREP?

Signature

Date

Thank you for your interest in serving ACVREP.

In order for this nomination to be considered, the following must be submitted in the nomination packet:

1. Application Form.
2. Nominee's resume or vita.
3. Nomination letter of endorsement from an ACVREP certificant.

PLEASE SUBMIT MATERIALS TO:
ACVREP Nominations Committee
3333 N. Campbell Ave., Suite 11
Tucson, AZ 85719

Materials must be received in the ACVREP office no later than September 27, 2007. Late applications will not be accepted.

Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project Live Web Cast

This notice is to inform you that the Low Vision Rehabilitation Network (LVRN) will sponsor a live web cast on Thursday, September 20, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., Eastern time, that

will provide an update on the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project. This information will be provided by Jim Coan of CMS and the Project Manager for the Low Vision Demonstration Project. This presentation will last no longer than one hour. You are encouraged to submit questions through the Forum feature of the Medicare Update section of the LVRN. You may access this presentation by logging onto the LVRN at <http://www.lowvisionproject.org> and completing the log in information in the upper right hand corner of the screen. If you have forgotten your user name and/or password, click on the section "How To Use This Site" in the tool bar and follow the appropriate instructions. Once logged in, click on Medicare Update and follow the instructions for accessing the web cast (which will be printed in red on the Medicare Update homepage). This presentation will be archived on the LVRN for those unable to view the live web cast. Thank you for your interest in the LVRN. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you

Jim Deremeik, jderemeik@jhmi.edu

AFB-DC Invitation: Join National Campaign For Accessible Technology Today!

The recently-established Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology (COAT) is a consortium of over 100 national, regional and community-based organizations committed to promoting dramatically expanded access for people with disabilities to state-of-the-art telecommunications and video programming technologies and services.

The principal objective of COAT is to affect positive policy change to ensure that people with disabilities, especially those with sensory disabilities such as vision and hearing loss, can be full beneficiaries of the telecommunications and video programming revolution.

The policy platform of COAT includes an extensive array of objectives. For additional details about the COAT policy agenda, visit <http://coataccess.civicspaceondemand.org/node/14>. However, four major goals of the agenda are of particular interest to people with vision loss and those who serve them:

1. Accessible User Interfaces. All devices with the capacity to receive or display television or other video programming must be designed to allow non-visual and other alternative control of all device features.
2. Video Description. The mandate on broadcasters and others to provide at least a minimal amount of description accompanying their television programming, a mandate overturned by a wrongly-decided federal court of appeals ruling, must be restored, and the Federal Communications Commission must also promulgate regulations to guarantee appropriate descriptive access to emergency information.
3. Equipment Availability. The existing Universal Service Fund should be tapped to provide equipment meeting the unique and profoundly under met needs of people with deaf-blindness.

4. Internet-Based Telecommunications. Every effort must be made to ensure that the current requirements of law mandating access to traditional telecommunications equipment and services (such as cell phones and standard office telephone systems) are strengthened and fully extended to newer telecommunications technologies that use the Internet, such as voice over Internet protocol (VOIP).

How You Can Help . . .

It is important that all organizations which can lend their support to this critical platform of policy objectives make their voices known. To date, organizations within the deafness and hearing loss communities comprise the overwhelming number of COAT affiliated groups. While this is commendable, our community can be a much more visible, equal player in this arena. While policy change in Congress and the FCC will be advocated primarily by groups with a consistent Washington presence, organizations from around the country can express their general support for the COAT platform by allowing their organization's name to be listed in support of the overall agenda. Organizations that do so are welcome, but under no obligation, to have representatives join either in person or via conference call in regularly scheduled meetings open to all COAT-affiliate groups usually held monthly.

To Join . . .

If your organization can lend its support, please contact Mark Richert, Director, Public Policy, AFB (202-408-8175 or mrichert@afb.net) to have your organization's name added to the roster of COAT affiliates.

If your agency, school, or membership chapter is associated with one of the representative groups in our field, such as the National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCPABVI), the American Council of the Blind (ACB), the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) and others, you are encouraged to work with the leadership of those associations to communicate your group's support. We will be coordinating with them to list as many individual organizational partners in this effort as possible.

All interested individuals can also assist in this effort by sharing this invitation widely, keeping apprised of work being accomplished to advance this agenda by "staying tuned" to AFB DirectConnect and other sources of information, and being ready to respond to action alerts when invited to do so. Our field has proven over and over that even the voice of one can make a difference.

Thank you for your support!

Call For Nominations For 2008 Access Awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Adrianna Montague-Gray

212-502-7675
amontaguegray@afb.net
American Foundation for the Blind

NEW YORK (July 2007) - The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) announces the invitation for nominations for its 2008 Access Awards. The Access Awards honor individuals, corporations, and organizations that are eliminating or substantially reducing inequities faced by people who are blind or visually impaired. The awards will be presented on April 3, during the 2008 Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute at the San Francisco Airport Hotel in Burlingame, CA.

Nominations for the AFB Access Awards should illustrate an exceptional and innovative effort that has improved the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired by enhancing access to information, the environment, technology, education, or employment, including making mainstream products and services accessible. The effort should be one that has a national impact or can be a model for replication on a national level. Additional information about the Access Awards and past honorees can be found on AFB's web site at <http://www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID=28&TopicID=236>.

Letters of nomination addressing the above criteria should be sent, preferably via e-mail, to Darren Burton, AFB, 2008 Access Awards Committee, 949 Third Avenue, Huntington, West Virginia, 25701. E-mail: dburton@afb.net.

Nominations must be received no later than Friday, September 28, 2007. Product brochures, patent applications, and other materials of support substantiating the nomination should also be postmarked by the above date. Materials submitted in support of a nomination will not be returned.

TVI & O&M Job Openings - Colorado

Please contact Tanni Anthony at anthony_t@cde.state.co.us or (303) 866-6681 for more information about TVI and O&M positions in the Denver or Colorado Springs area.

Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Job Opening – Atlanta, Georgia

Primarily Keyboarding/Communications and Adult Education Instructor, with opportunities to teach ADL and Braille, at a center-based, non-residential facility. Responsible to Independent Living Skills Team Leader, Rehabilitation Services.

Qualifications: Master's degree in rehabilitation teaching from an accredited college or university and ACVREP certification as a Vision Rehabilitation Therapist, or certification as a vision teacher, or a degree from an accredited college or university in education with experience in teaching communication skills to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Experience and knowledge of adult remedial education strategies and techniques is preferred. A knowledge of Braille is preferred, but not necessary, as

Braille instruction is provided by the Braille/communications instructor.

General responsibilities: Responsible for organizing, planning, and providing keyboarding, communication, and remedial education skills to individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Salary: \$37,464 - \$62,452, with an additional \$3,000 for certification. Excellent benefits package including free health and dental insurance, free life and disability insurance, free parking, participation in 403b retirement program, reimbursement for AER membership dues, and opportunities to participate in conferences and presentations.

Location: Atlanta has earned its reputation as the cultural capital of the South. We have the award winning Alliance Theater, Atlanta Symphony, Atlanta Opera, Botanical Gardens, and the High Museum of Art. Our diverse population guarantees great ethnic restaurants. Nightlife abounds in the Buckhead, Midtown, and Underground areas. For those with families, we have Zoo Atlanta, featuring our new baby panda, Fernbank Museum of Natural Science, Center for Puppetry Arts, Atlanta Children's Museum, and, of course, the Georgia Aquarium, the world's largest aquarium. Because of our warm temperatures, our abundant parks and playgrounds can be used virtually year round. Our public transit system, MARTA, includes both bus and rail. Our college and pro sports teams offer excitement throughout the year. For nature enthusiasts, Atlanta is less than an hour away from the Georgia mountains, and other hiking and biking trails are even closer. All this in a city that still has not outgrown its southern charm and hospitality. Atlanta truly has something for everyone. Please find out more about CVI by visiting our website at www.cviatlanta.org.

Contact: Al Kaufman, Independent Living Services Team Leader
Center for the Visually Impaired
404-602-4316 (direct)
404-875-9011 (main)
Email: akaufman@cviatlanta.org

Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Lafayette, Louisiana

Specific Duties: Teaches blind, deaf-blind, and visually impaired clients orientation and mobility skills. Evaluates client skills, and plans curriculum, lessons, and instructional materials. Confers with client, family counselor, and/or other staff to develop individual service plan for client. Maintains case notes and prepares assessment, monthly, and completion reports. Recommends purchase aids and appliances. Conducts training to teach sighted guide techniques to staff.

Education: Interests in working with individuals who are disabled and a strong belief in blind people. ACVREP certified or certifiable in the area of orientation and mobility. If uncertified, certification must be completed within six months in order to maintain employment.

Experience: Must have completed all required university training, including student teaching, practicums, and internships.

Salary: Negotiable

Lafayette is in the heart of Cajun Country, about 2.5 hours from New Orleans and 4 hours from Houston, Texas. There are festivals in Acadiana throughout the year and Lafayette has the largest Mardi Gras after New Orleans. Friendly people, great weather and food, and a low crime rate are a few of the pleasures of living in Lafayette, LA. For more information on Lafayette and Acadiana, call the tourist information line at 1-800-346-1958.

To send a confidential resume for employment, include a cover letter and three letters of reference to:

Affiliated Blind of Louisiana Training Center, Inc.
Attn: Lynn Blanchard, Executive Director
409 West St. Mary Boulevard
Lafayette, LA 70506

Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Openings - Maine

The State of Maine, Division for the Blind & Visually Impaired, has a job opening for an O&M Instructor, Class Code 3015, \$32,032.00 - \$43,576.00.

Value of State paid health and dental insurance is \$322.97 bi-weekly. Value of State's share of Employees' Retirement equals 18.46% of pay.

The Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired has two openings for Orientation and Mobility Instructors. Both positions are itinerant and will be working with children, transition students, individuals with employment goals, elders and residents of long term care facilities.

Typical duties include assessment, consultation and direct service instruction within the individual's home, school, employment site and/or the community. O&M instructors work as part of a regional service delivery team and meet regularly at statewide meetings with other O&M specialists for professional growth/development and collaboration opportunities.

The Ellsworth position is near Acadia National Park and the Rockland office is located on the beautiful coast of Maine.

For additional information please contact:

Andrea Bickford - (207) 561-4023 or Andrea.B.Bickford@maine.gov - Ellsworth position.

Carolyn Bebee - (207) 624-5190 or Carolyn.O.Beebe@maine.gov - Rockland position.

Minimum qualifications: Graduation from an accredited O&M program with ACVREP O&M certification or eligible for certification. Preference may be given to a candidate with dual certifications (CVRT, CLVT, CRC).

Interested persons must complete the new Direct Hire Application. Applications are available at Career Centers, Security and Employment Service Center, Office of Human Resources Office in Augusta, or online at:

http://www.maine.gov/bhr/state_jobs/how_to/direct.htm. Completed application including a copy of O&M certification and copies of post-secondary transcripts are required. The completed application must be postmarked on or before date listed below to the Security and Employment Service Center, Office of Human Resources, 45 Commerce Drive, State House Station #108, Augusta, ME 04333-0108. Telephone: 207 623-6738, TTY: 1-800-794-1110, or can be emailed to: Sandra.m.Chivington@maine.gov.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Butte, Montana

The State of Montana is now seeking a qualified individual for the position of Orientation & Mobility Specialist. This position is located in unique Butte, Montana.

Requirements: A Bachelor's degree in O&M for the Blind from a certified college or university and one year job-related experience or a Master's degree in O&M. Other equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered, including students in an O&M program who need to complete an internship for their degree.

Training Assignment: If there are not a sufficient number of qualified applicants, a training assignment will be considered. To be eligible for a training assignment, an applicant must possess a Bachelor's degree in a human services related field and be willing to commit to obtaining a Master's degree in Orientation and Mobility. Up to 100% of tuition assistance may be provided toward obtaining a Master's degree in Orientation and Mobility.

You can apply on-line at <http://mt.gov/statejobs/application.asp>.

More information on this position can be found at http://statejobs.mt.gov/pls/mjs/MJS0110W.QueryView?P_EMPR_ID_SEQ=4113&P_JORD_APPL_SEQ=2600

Melanie Beagle
Butte Blind & Low Vision Services – Program Manager
700 Casey Street; Suite B
Butte, MT 59701
Phone: (406) 496-4925
Fax: (406) 782-8728

Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Openings – New Jersey

Once again, the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired is seeking to recruit full-time certified Orientation and Mobility Instructors. Our instructors provide itinerant (field) instruction to blind children and adults. There is a vacancy in the Commission's Toms River office which provides field services to the central part of the State of New Jersey. ACVREP or NOMC certification in O&M required. Attractive starting salary from 51K to 61K, commensurate with experience, credentials, and education. Excellent employee benefits including medical/dental/prescription, pension, and tuition reimbursement.

If interested, fax a cover letter and resume to "Attn: CBVI-O&M" at (732) 255-0949 or email to Margaret.Stroud@dhs.state.nj.us.

The New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired is a great place to work. We encourage professional development and offer a rewarding professional experience to qualified individuals. We look forward to hearing from you.

F. Marcus Stabile, Esq.
Director, Human Resources
Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
PO Box 47017
Newark, NJ 07101-47017
973-648-4795
973-693-5034

Rehabilitation Teacher Job Opening - Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Agency: Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Position requirements include having knowledge of alternative modes of communication for individuals who are blind, deaf, or have cognitive disabilities; resources in the community such as economic assistance, state library services, and adult services and aging; and technology, including assistive technology; and accommodations for individuals with disabilities in independent living settings and employment. The right candidate for the job must have the ability to understand and interpret reports for the purpose of determining eligibility and identifying potential low vision equipment needs; establish and maintain effective working relationships with consumers, family members, and various professionals involved in the rehabilitation process; and provide one-on-one training on independent living skills to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Maintain a referral network used to provide individuals with disabilities the appropriate services and other resources; effectively manage individual case records including case notes, individual service plans, and individual progress developed as a result of services; and seek new referrals by contacting resources and referral network.

Closing date for applications is September 21, 2007

Comprehensive benefits package can be reviewed at
<http://www.state.sd.us/bop/workforus.htm>.

Apply online at <http://www.state.sd.us/bop/Jobs/Applying/applications.htm>.

Having received top accolades from Kiplinger's, Forbes Magazine, CNN/Money Magazine, Business Week, Ladies Home Journal among others, you'll find Sioux Falls, SD is be a great place to live and work.

Quote Of The Day!

"Courage can achieve everything." – Sam Houston