

ACVREP NEWSLETTER – APRIL 12, 2007

ACVREP – Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

Table of Contents:

1. “In The Zonule Productions” Ad.
2. "In-Community Placement" At Fidelco: A Pioneering Program.
3. ACVREP Board Meeting – Certificant Feedback Requested.
4. The AFB Senior Site: A Unique Web Resource For People With Age-Related Vision Loss.
5. CARF Recruiting Vision Rehabilitation Services Surveyors.
6. AER Membership Provides Support To Certified Vision Professionals.
7. Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist And Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Job Openings – Arizona.
8. Regional Consultant For Blind And Visually Impaired Job Opening – Idaho.
9. Blind Skills Specialist Job Opening – Missouri.
10. Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening - Jersey City, New Jersey.
11. Rehabilitation Teacher Job Opening – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
12. Rehabilitation Teacher Job Opening – Vermont.
13. Rehabilitation Teacher Job Opening – Virginia.
14. Quote Of The Day!

“In The Zonule Productions” Ad

In the Zonule Productions presents “The Nuts and Bolts of Low Vision Rehabilitation.” This workshop has been ACVREP approved for 12 CE hours. Presented by Orli Weisser-Pike, OTR/L, CLVT, SCLV, and Marshall Flax, COMS, CLVT, June 2-3, 2007 in Evansville, IN and October 27-28, 2007 in Las Vegas, NV. For registration information, visit www.InTheZonule.com. If you have any questions, please contact us at mail@inthezonule.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.

"In-Community Placement" At Fidelco: A Pioneering Program

Fidelco pioneered In-community placement in the United States. This one-on-one, personalized program allows recipients to remain in their home communities carrying on their daily activities while training with their new Fidelco guide. It also enables Fidelco to customize its training to the particular lifestyle, needs, and locale of the student, making certain that the student and the dog are accustomed to working together in the environment where they will spend most of their days.

The new guide team trains under the supervision of a Fidelco trainer/instructor for about three weeks. These daily training sessions provide the student with the education necessary to work effectively with his or her new guide. The result is a smooth-working team able to travel safely and confidently under all conditions. The training begins with a few days of general instruction after which the student keeps the dog with him, or her, around the clock, petting and talking to the dog as much as possible to promote bonding.

The Fidelco instructor shows the student how to care for the dog including grooming, feeding and exercising. This critical bonding period helps the dog transfer its allegiance from the trainer to the student. Guide work begins by rehearsing with the student; that is, holding the harness that the instructor pulls in order to simulate actions of the guide. Test walks familiarize the student with the subtle movements of the harness as well as providing an introduction to essential commands. Instruction progresses to supervised walks with the dog in harness, again beginning in quiet areas and moving to busier, more congested areas. The student learns how to follow the dog's lead and interpret its actions. Soon the team is navigating its way through office buildings, stores and shopping centers. It will also be exposed to different forms of public transportation, including subway travel for those who live in, or close to, a major city.

Most of the training is done where the student lives, works, or goes to school. But, because we want the student to have the freedom to travel out of the home community, instruction is received in a variety of environments. The new guide team must reach a mutual comfort and safety level before the training is concluded. Fidelco's goal is to assist recipients in gaining the increased independence and activity level they desire while keeping both members of the team safe from everyday hazards. At the end of the instruction period, the new guide team is ready to begin its independent work together.

Fidelco prides itself not only on the quality of its guide dogs but also the quality of its care. The Fidelco staff is never more than a phone call away and available to address questions or concerns about anything pertaining to the guide team or even to schedule an in-home visit and evaluation. Graduates requiring a guide are given first priority when applying for successor dogs. New graduates are honored each year at the annual graduate banquet. For more information, visit www.fidelco.org.

ACVREP Board Meeting – Certificant Feedback Requested

The ACVREP Board of Directors meets face-to-face twice a year. As a reminder, the next board meeting is scheduled for April 20-21, 2007 in Phoenix, AZ. 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 17, 2007. She will take them to the board on your behalf.

The AFB Senior Site: A Unique Web Resource For People With Age-Related Vision Loss

A major public health issue is brewing in America. Over the next two decades, rates of vision loss from diseases like age-related macular degeneration are expected to double as the nation's 78 million baby boomers reach retirement age. To help prepare for this dramatic increase in Americans with vision loss, and to help the 6.5 million Americans over age 65 currently experiencing age-related vision loss, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) has created the first web resource of its kind – a proactive, virtual vision center that encourages older adults to live independently and productively with vision loss. Senior Site is available via a prominent link on AFB's home page (www.afb.org/seniorsite). A major component of Senior Site is the connection it provides to seniors and family members to local vision rehabilitation services through its online Directory of Services and special section, Finding Help and Support. Make sure your agency's information and services are included in the directory and are up to date. Please send all comments/revisions to seniorsite@afb.net.

Senior Site focuses on common sense, daily living solutions to help seniors with vision loss better adjust to their changing eyesight, and includes the following sections related to living with vision loss: Understanding Vision Loss, Daily Living, Changing Your Home, and Fitness and Fun. Visitors to the site will also find inspiring video testimonials from seniors who aren't letting their vision loss slow them down and sections on exercise, travel and recreational opportunities for people with vision loss. In the near future, Senior Site will also contain message boards, Blogs, and support group links designed to foster a sense of community among seniors with vision loss and family members. Like the rest of the AFB web site, Senior Site is designed with adjustable text, color and contrast to make it accessible to those with low vision. The site also meets Web Content Accessibility Guidelines so blind or low vision users can navigate the site using voice browser technology.

Please visit Senior Site and discover what a great resource and tool it can be for staff members as well as consumers and family members. Feel free to forward this exciting information.

CARF Recruiting Vision Rehabilitation Services Surveyors

CARF...Rehabilitation Accreditation Commission is recruiting individuals to become surveyors specifically in the area of Vision Rehabilitation Services. The ideal candidate will have five years experience in the field for which the individual is applying, at least three of which are within the last six years. The person will need to be able to conduct at least three surveys each standards manual year (July 1-June 30), including two in the first six months following initial training. Excellent interpersonal and communication (written and verbal) skills and the ability to work well as a team member, good time management skills, good computer skills, and access to a laptop to take on surveys are needed in this position.

Please send an email to surveyorapps@carf.org if you are interested in becoming a CARF surveyor. If you have any questions about being a CARF surveyor, please feel free to contact Mary K. Boegemann at mboegemann@carf.org or 888-281-6531, x142.

AER Membership Provides Support To Certified Vision Professionals

Since its foundation, the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) has believed in the importance of certification for vision professionals. For years, AER administered the field's certification program and, although the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) now handles the administration of the certification process, AER stands firmly behind its commitment to the professionals who seek certification. And, ACVREP certified professionals can benefit from being active members in AER.

By becoming a member of AER, certified vision professionals can earn the credits needed for recertification. Whether it's being a speaker at an AER chapter or division meeting, writing an article for RE:view, AER's peer-reviewed journal, or AER Report, the association's newsletter, attending a continuing education program at an international conference, or participating in a conference seminar or an on-line continuing education program, AER provides vision professionals a multitude of opportunities for continuing education advancement.

The benefits of being an AER member are far greater than the recertification opportunities available. AER chapters and divisions are two of the most important components of AER membership. The AER chapters provide their members with educational opportunities at chapter and regional conferences and meetings, local legislative support, and informative newsletters and email updates of important issues and events happening in your community. AER divisions provide similar benefits but on specific areas of the vision field. Division membership gives you access to topic-specific newsletters and listserv discussions that augment your professionalism.

AER members also receive an annual subscription to the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness (JVIB), accessibility to a wide range of insurance programs and cost-saving discounts on top-selling books, valuable programs, products, and services. AER can even help advance its members' careers with its on-line job bank, AER Job Exchange, where only AER members can access the most current job opportunities available in the field.

ACVREP certified professionals will benefit from the support AER provides, and it's easy for certificants to become AER members. Visit the AER website, www.aerbvi.org, to download the membership form, or contact the member services department of AER at 877-492-2708. Become an active member of AER, take advantage of the recertification opportunities available, and benefit from the enhanced professionalism that is provided through AER membership.

Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist And Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Job Openings - Arizona

The Rehabilitation Services Administration, Services for the Blind, currently has vacancies for certified, itinerant O&M and VRT specialists serving the Phoenix area and surrounding counties. The positions involve teaching adults who are either vocational rehabilitation or independent living clients. This is a full-time position with competitive salary and benefits. Qualified O&M and VRT specialists are invited to inquire or apply and to pass along this announcement to any certified O&M specialist and VRT who may be interested.

Further information is available by calling Joan Ellis, Supervisor, Rehabilitation Instructional Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired, at 602-266-9286, ext. 7303, or by emailing jellis@azdes.gov. You can post your resume at www.azstatejobs.gov.

Regional Consultant For Blind And Visually Impaired Job Opening - Idaho

The Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind has a job opening for a Regional Consultant for the Blind and Visually Impaired beginning in August of 2007. The consultant's duties include, but are not limited to, providing home intervention programs for parents of blind and visually impaired children from birth through three and providing educational and consultative services to students from birth through 21 who are blind or visually impaired on an itinerant basis.

Qualifications: Idaho Exceptional Child certificate with Teacher of the Visually Impaired endorsement, and experience working with parents and infants, school districts, and related service providers. Minimum of Bachelor's degree, Master's degree preferred.

A comprehensive fringe benefit package included. Employees and spouses receive reduced tuition at state universities (\$5 per credit hour).

Interested persons are to submit a letter of application, resume, official transcripts, copies of certification and three letters of recommendations to:

Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind
ATTN: Human Resources
1450 Main St
Gooding, ID 83330

The position is located in Southwest Idaho/Treasure Valley – Middleton office.

Blind Skills Specialist Job Opening - Missouri

The Southeast Regional Professional Development Center has a job opening for a part time/term/grant funded Blind Skills Specialist.

The Southeast Regional Professional Development Center (RPDC) has been housed on the campus of Southeast Missouri State University since 1996. The grant under which the center operates has been renewed annually over the past ten years. The Center serves more than eighty (80) school districts in the Southeast region. RPDC personnel provide training programs for the teachers and administrators throughout the area on a continuous basis.

Primary Responsibilities: Acts as a resource for school districts that serve students who are blind or visually impaired; makes programming and placement recommendations to schools using assessment information developed with the IEP process; provides functional vision assessments and/or orientation and mobility evaluations as necessary for decision making/planning during the IEP process; provides in-service training in alternative techniques of blindness to classroom teachers and teacher assistants; supports the application of appropriate technology in the education of eligible students; provides parents of eligible students with referrals and information regarding services available within the state; collaborates with RPDC personnel and other regional personnel associated with the RPDC; and contributes ideas for future educational reform initiatives.

Required Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Education; ability to communicate ideas clearly and effectively to both large and small groups; evidence of excellent organization skills; experience collaborating in a variety of teaming opportunities both regionally and statewide; demonstrated ability to work independently with minimal supervision; ability to travel extensively with or without accommodations to remote areas in the Southeast region; evidence of excellent verbal and written skills involving public speaking and presentations skills; and demonstrated commitment to working with multicultural populations and awareness of issues affecting women and minorities.

Preferred Qualifications: Certified Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments or Orientation Mobility Specialist (this is a special certification which connotes sight training adaptation and working with the blind); competent in using American Sign Language; graduate work in assisted devices and related technology; experience in writing and administering IEPs; competent in grade II Braille; and grant writing experience.

Compensation: Commensurate with experience. The University provides an excellent benefits package including retirement, medical and life insurance, vacation, sick leave, holidays, reduced summer hours, individual and dependent tuition benefits.

Application Deadline: Position to be effective July 1, 2007. Review of application will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. To apply, send a letter of interest addressing all position requirements, a current resume, and the names and telephone numbers of three professional references via email to jobs@semo.edu or mail to Dana Seabaugh, Employment Specialist, Human Resources, Southeast Missouri State University, One University Plaza, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening - Jersey City, New Jersey

St. Joseph's School for the Blind has a job opening for an O&M Specialist.

Qualifications: Must possess an ACVREP certification and a B.A.

Responsibilities: Must evaluate the needs of the students, develop and institute programs, and make referrals for further evaluations when needed. Must be able to develop plans and implement an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for each student. The O&M Specialist will prepare Individual Transitional Plans and assume the duties of the transition case manager, as assigned. Must also maintain records of evaluations and student progress. The O&M Specialist will also provide instruction to staff and parents to encourage consistency across environments, will assume responsibility for anticipating equipment and supplies needed to implement the program, and assume equal responsibility for keeping equipment and supplies in working condition.

Terms of Employment: Work eleven months per year.

Benefits: Competitive

Salary: Commensurate with experience.

Please send your resume, with a letter of interest, to:

St. Joseph's School for the Blind

Attn: Ms. Fielding – H/R

761 Summit Avenue

Jersey City, NJ 07307

Phone: 201-876-5432

Fax to: 201-876-5431

E-Mail: cfielding@sjsnj.org

Rehabilitation Teacher Job Opening – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services, Philadelphia District Office, seeks a Rehabilitation Teacher for the blind and visually impaired.

Headquarters: BBVS Philadelphia District Office

444 N. 3rd Street, 5th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19123

Salary Range: \$39,824-60,519

Job Description: Provides rehabilitation training to blind and visually impaired consumers, which will promote optimal personal and social adjustment to blindness, leading to self-sufficient and independent living. The candidate is responsible for evaluating and assessing referred consumers through observation and interviewing, in order to develop an individualized plan of instruction with consumers. Individualized plans will include service objectives, course content, recommendations for instructional

equipment, and projection of time for completion of instruction. The candidate will monitor and report progress, adjusting objectives as necessary, and plan for further instruction to ensure favorable outcomes and attainment of objectives. The candidate will motivate and support the consumer and their families by providing related counseling and/or referrals to facilitate an environment conducive to learning and adjustment. The candidate will keep informed on current techniques and developments by reviewing relevant materials and participating in conferences and trainings to enhance professional practice.

Eligibility Requirements: A Bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Teaching of the Blind and Visually Impaired or 1 year of experience in rehabilitation teaching of the blind and visually impaired; and a Bachelor's degree with a major course work in early intervention, special education with an emphasis in visual handicaps, secondary or adult education, home economics, or a related field. Pennsylvania residency requirement is waived. Must be eligible for selection in accordance with Civil Service rules.

To apply: Complete a Civil Service Application at www.scsc.state.pa.us. Click Job Opportunities", "Education & Museum", "Announcement Number 1996-719 Rehabilitation Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired", and click "How To Apply".

Rehabilitation Teacher Job Opening - Vermont

Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired is seeking an ACVREP certifiable, full time itinerant Vision Rehabilitation Therapist for northeastern VT. Responsibilities include functional vision assessments and itinerant teaching as well as group instruction in all areas of adult daily living. Low vision experience required. Computer skills, organizational ability, and good time management skills are desirable.

The salary is based on education and experience. Excellent benefits package. Send resume to Carol Eaton, 38 Park Place, Suite 2, Brattleboro, VT, 05301-6797, or email ceaton@vabvi.org

Rehabilitation Teacher Job Opening - Virginia

The Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired has a job opening for a Rehabilitation Teacher (Trainer & Instructor II), position #00053, in Staunton, Virginia. The pay band is 4 (\$30,146-\$61,872) and the hiring range is negotiable based on qualifications and salary history. The close date is 4/13/07.

The Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) is the Commonwealth's agency solely dedicated to empowering individuals who are blind, vision impaired, and deafblind to achieve their maximum level of employment, education, and personal independence. DBVI services include vocational rehabilitation, education, independent living skills, orientation and mobility, deafblind services and a comprehensive statewide low vision program. The agency also operates the Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired, (a residential training facility), a

Library and Resource Center that provides library services and produces and distributes educational materials in alternative media, the Virginia Industries for the Blind, and the Randolph-Sheppard vending facility program. DBVI employees embody the values of integrity, honesty and teamwork, ensuring respect for customers and supporting personal choice.

Responsibilities: Visits, thoroughly evaluates and instructs customers in their homes in all areas of rehabilitation teaching, which may include communication skills (handwriting, Braille, typing, etc), activities of daily living, homemaking skills, functional vision evaluations and training in the use of prescribed low vision aids, leisure activities and adjustment counseling. Provides resource information and advocacy. Arranges for diagnostic exams and assesses the need for adaptive aids. Determines eligibility and manages and documents caseload in a timely manner. Coordinates and conducts in-service training on related topics. Conducts professional outreach programs to market DBVI/services.

Qualifications: Knowledge of causes and effects of vision loss/other disabilities; good oral & written communications; ability to assess blind and visually impaired customers then develop and implement appropriate rehabilitation plans based on identified needs; must be skilled in adjustment counseling, assessment of functional vision, communication, Braille, homemaking, daily living and leisure activities; must have considerable caseload management skills; must possess demonstrated ability to communicate well with persons with disabilities, and have exemplary customer service skills; ability to complete related forms and reports; travel to customers homes to provide services; skilled in basic computer operations of word processing and e-mail; interest and ability in keeping abreast of adaptive equipment and technology for the blind and vision impaired; degree from an accredited college/university with major study in Rehabilitation Teaching or related field or equivalent applicable experience or training; and ACVREP requirements as CVRT preferred.

Successful completion of fingerprinting and background check. Requires annual completion of Statement of Economic Interest/Conflict of Interest.

Salary is negotiable above the minimum of the pay band based on qualifications and salary history. Comprehensive state benefits program. Visit our Career Center at www.vdbvi.org for more information.

Contact Information: Applications are required. The Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired ONLY accepts fully completed online applications for all employment opportunities. Online application and job listings are located at <http://jobs.agencies.virginia.gov/>. Resumes may NOT be substituted for State applications.

Don't have a computer? Internet access may be available to you through your local library, Virginia Employment Commission office, and in the Department of Human Resource Management's Career Center.

Reasonable accommodations are available to persons with disabilities during application and/or interview processes per the Americans with Disabilities Act. Contact 804-726-1920 for assistance. Minorities and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Quote Of The Day!

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.