

## **ACVREP NEWSLETTER – JUNE 12, 2006**

ACVREP – The Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

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### **ACVREP Has A New Address!**

On May 31, 2006, we moved the ACVREP office to a new location. Please note that our new address is **3333 N. Campbell Ave., #11, Tucson, AZ 85719**. Our phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same. Although all mail sent to our old address will

be forwarded to our new address for one year, please send all future correspondence and/or documents to our new address. Thanks!

### **ACVREP Certification Marks Now Registered With the United States Patent And Trademark Office**

Although it took approximately one and a half years, all of ACVREP's certification marks are finally registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). These marks include:

1. Certified Low Vision Therapist
2. CLVT
3. Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
4. COMS
5. Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist
6. CVRT

As it is critical that only ACVREP certificants use the certification marks they worked hard to obtain, we are currently in the process of developing a "Misuse of Certification Mark" policy. Once developed and approved by the ACVREP Board of Directors, this policy will be shared with all of you and posted to the ACVREP website ([www.acvrep.org](http://www.acvrep.org)).

### **Special Website For The Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project**

ACVREP has a special initiative to support the new Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project. An integral part of this initiative is to provide helpful information to ACVREP certificants, to doctors, and to others interested in participating in the project. To help do this, we have joined with co-sponsor, Johns Hopkins Medical Center, in designing a page on the Johns Hopkins website to explain and support the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project. This page will help to inform you about the Medicare demonstration project. It is intended to be a resource to those who would like to become involved with the demonstration project.

The Johns Hopkins website is located at [www.lowvisionproject.org](http://www.lowvisionproject.org). After entering the site, you will need to create a login name. A password will be e-mailed to you. After entering your login name and password, locate the link at the bottom of the page on the first screen after login occurs, entitled "Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project — ACVREP." Once on that page, key features include a welcome and description of the page, a Fact Sheet about the project, and headings at the bottom that include:

- Agenda
- Announcements
- Polls
- Links
- Forums

By clicking on one of these headings, you can discover any announcements regarding the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project, participate in a poll or discover relevant links that have further information on the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project. This site is updated at least weekly with new and current information.

ACVREP is the only certifying body recognized by Medicare for certification of vision rehabilitation specialists who wish to participate in the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project. Vision rehabilitation specialists who are not certified by ACVREP cannot participate. For more information on certification requirements and procedures offered through ACVREP, please see the links to that on ACVREP's website ([www.acvrep.org](http://www.acvrep.org)).

We hope you will find this web page informative and helpful. Your comments and suggestions are encouraged.

Bryan Gerritsen  
ACVREP Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project Coordinator  
(801) 547-5903  
[bryangerritsen@comcast.net](mailto:bryangerritsen@comcast.net)

### **List Of Eye Doctors In Six Sites Who Include Low Vision Rehabilitation In Their Practice Is Now Available**

An initial list of eye doctors who include low vision rehabilitation in their practice in the six Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project sites is now available. For those interested in participating in this project, and linking up with an eye doctor in one of these six sites, please contact Sharon L. Mikrut for a list of the eye doctors in your site. For proprietary reasons and privacy, we do not want to list these eye doctors on the web site at this time, but we can provide you on a one-on-one basis the names of those doctors in your site. Please e-mail or call me for this information.

Sharon L. Mikrut  
President  
ACVREP  
[smikrut@acvrep.org](mailto:smikrut@acvrep.org)  
520-887-6816

### **Fact Sheet For ACVREP Certificants and Doctors On the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project**

The Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project is intended to help deliver vision rehabilitation services to patients with a vision loss in new and expanded ways, including in their homes. The project began April 1, 2006, and is scheduled to continue for 5 years, through March 31, 2011. It involves six sites, including 4 states and 2 cities: Kansas, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Washington, New York City (all 5 Burroughs), and Atlanta. To participate, patients must live in one of the six sites, and supervising physicians must practice in one of the six sites.

It is designed to allow vision rehabilitation specialists who are certified through ACVREP to work under the “general supervision” of an ophthalmologist or optometrist to perform vision rehabilitation services to patients in their homes. “General supervision” means that the doctor does not need to be physically present on the premises, whereas “direct supervision” requires the doctor to be present and available on the premises while services are provided. Only a physician can supervise the vision rehabilitation specialist. The vision rehabilitation specialists covered in this Medicare demonstration include low vision therapists, orientation and mobility specialists, and vision rehabilitation therapists (formerly called rehabilitation teachers), all of whom need to be certified by ACVREP. Other professionals who are not certified by ACVREP are not eligible to participate in this Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project, and ACVREP is the only certifying body recognized by Medicare (CMS) for this project. Other eligible providers who will be covered for direct services to patients under this demonstration include ophthalmologists, optometrists, and occupational therapists working in private practice, in a rehabilitation facility, or employed by a physician. Certain qualified rehabilitation facilities may also qualify, including outpatient rehabilitation clinics or critical access hospitals.

Vision rehabilitation specialists may provide up to 9 hours of vision rehabilitation training over a consecutive 90 day period to a patient with a qualifying level of visual impairment. Qualifying visual impairment levels include patients with a visual acuity less than 20/70 OU, or those with a documented central scotoma, a general constriction of field loss, or a bilateral hemianopia. Qualifying patients must show a medical necessity for the services rendered, be capable of progress, and must be able to derive a benefit. A plan of treatment must be written and followed by the vision rehabilitation specialist, and agreed upon and signed by the supervising physician. The physician must review the plan of treatment every 30 days. Documentation of key components of the plan of treatment must be strictly adhered to for Medicare guidelines. The plan of treatment must include measurable goals and a statement of where the services are to be provided. Vision rehabilitation services must be provided one on one, face to face, and may not be provided in a group setting.

If guidelines and procedures are correctly followed for qualifying patients, Medicare will reimburse the supervising physician for vision rehabilitation services provided by certified vision rehabilitation specialists under this test “general supervision” arrangement provided in the patient’s home. Only the supervising physician, a qualifying rehabilitation facility, or an occupational therapist in private practice may directly bill Medicare for vision rehabilitation services. Payments from Medicare will not be paid directly to the vision rehabilitation specialist (unless s/he is an occupational therapist in private practice), since s/he does not have a Medicare provider number, and it will be the physician who will be billing Medicare.

The vision rehabilitation specialist can be paid for his/her services by having an employment arrangement or contract with the supervising physician or rehabilitation facility. The nature of the employment arrangement or contract, as well as the

reimbursement rates for services provided, are strictly between the supervising physician (or rehabilitation facility) and the vision rehabilitation specialist.

Vision rehabilitation services are billed in 15 minute increments. Most Medicare regional directors do not allow more than 75 or 90 minutes of services in one session. Patients may not receive more than 9 hours of services during the life of this demonstration project. The supervising physician or his/her billing person submits the bill to Medicare and the secondary insurance carrier for reimbursement. Not all secondary insurances cover vision rehabilitation services, so in those cases, the patient must be billed for the portion (20%) not covered by Medicare. Patients who do not have a qualifying level of vision loss may be responsible for the entire portion of vision rehabilitation services provided.

Special “G” codes are to be used for billing these vision rehabilitation services during this demonstration project, to help identify these services in the six sites. Therapy codes that were formerly used for vision rehabilitation services are not required during this demonstration project. The G-codes to be used by the respective vision rehabilitation specialists, with the approximate current reimbursement rates, are listed below:

Occupational Therapists	G9041	\$28.04/15 min.
Orientation & Mobility Specialists	G9042	\$14.97/15 min.
Low Vision Therapists	G9043	\$14.97/15 min.
Vision Rehabilitation Therapists	G9044	\$12.81/15 min.

The evaluation of the patient must be done by the supervising physician. The vision rehabilitation specialist may not do the evaluation for the purpose of developing a plan of care. The evaluation may not be billed as part of the demonstration services.

This Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project is not an evaluation of the effectiveness, need, importance, or efficacy of vision rehabilitation services for patients with a vision loss. For the purpose of this project, it is generally accepted that this need for vision rehabilitation and its effectiveness is well established. Instead, the focus of this project is an investigation of new coverage aspects by new providers under CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), using “general supervision” rather than “incident to” supervision.

For more information and for other resources, we suggest the following:

- Contact your local Medicare carrier or fiscal intermediary (FI) with questions.
- E-mail [visiondemo@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:visiondemo@cms.hhs.gov) with questions.
- [www.lowvisionproject.org](http://www.lowvisionproject.org), then log on and click “Medicare Updates.” Then listen to the February 22, 2006 archived broadcast by James Coan on the implementation of this Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project.
- [www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts) for more information on the Medicare Demonstration Project.
- [www.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnMattersArticles](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedlearnMattersArticles) for specific information on conditions, limitations, and billing practices, and provides easy to understand educational materials for new Medicare program policies.

## **ACVREP Seeks Nominations For Four New Board Members**

The Nominations Committee of the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) Board of Directors is seeking nominations for **four** positions on the ACVREP Board. These positions will be open **January 1, 2007**. The ACVREP Board elects each position by ballot. For consideration, a completed nomination packet must be received no later than **September 6, 2006**.

### **Current ACVREP Board Openings**

There are **four (4)** 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 four open positions for the year 2007 must be filled by two ACVREP certificants and two non-certificants, with at least one of the non-certificants being an employer of Academy certified professionals.** The other non-certificant seat can be filled by an individual representing other constituencies as the Board deems necessary,

### **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 6, 2006 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 6-7, 2006. Notification of the results of the selection will be made following the board meeting.**

**2006 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.

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**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?

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ALEXANDRIA, VA; June 12, 2006 – The Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) announces the appointment of James Gandorf, CAE, as the association's executive director.

Gandorf comes to AER with over a decade of association experience. In his most recent position, Gandorf served as associate executive director of the Mathematical Association of America. He began his association career in 1990 with the American Trucking Associations. He has also served the members of the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the Alumni Association of the University of Maryland, College Park. In 2002, Gandorf earned the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation from the American Society of Association Executives.

"After a thorough search for an association manager who can grow AER into an exemplary association, the Board selected Jim for the executive director position for his strong association management, marketing, membership, and meeting planning background," said AER President, Gregory Goodrich, Ph.D. "The Board of Directors and I feel strongly that Jim will ably lead our organization into a promising future."

Gandorf assumes his position at AER effective June 12, 2006. "I am eager to meet the challenges of this position head on and to achieve the organization's goals," says Gandorf. "In addition, I look forward to meeting the association membership at the upcoming AER Biennial International Conference in Snowbird, Utah, in July."

Established in 1984, the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired is the only international membership organization dedicated to rendering all possible support and assistance to the professionals who work in all phases of education and rehabilitation of blind and visually impaired children and adults. Our membership is comprised of more than 4,000 professionals who provide services to people with visual impairments. For additional information, contact AER at 877-492-2708 or visit [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org).

### **Dr. Laura Bozeman Named Director Of The Regional Teacher Education Programs In Visual Impairments At The University Of Massachusetts - Boston**

Dr. Laura Bozeman has accepted the position of Program Director of the Regional Teacher Education Programs in Visual Impairments at UMass Boston. The position is established through the Institute for Community Inclusion's Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education (NERCVE) in conjunction with the Graduate College of Education. Dr. Bozeman will provide academic oversight and program support to the Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Orientation & Mobility M.Ed. programs.

Dr. Bozeman is nationally recognized in the field of visual impairments and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her to the UMass Boston's TVI and O&M M.Ed. programs. Dr. Bozeman is certified in Orientation and Mobility and Low Vision Therapy, and has held licensure as a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments. For the past four years, she has taught post-graduate level courses in the Vision Program at

Massey University-Auckland, New Zealand. Dr. Bozeman received her Ph.D. in Special Education/Vision Impairment and Multiple Disabilities from the University of Texas at Austin and arrives at UMass Boston with 32 years of experience in the field of education and rehabilitation for individuals with visual impairments.

“The staff at the Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education is very excited to have Dr. Bozeman join our team,” said Robert McCulley, Director of the Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education. “In addition to her most recent work at Massey University in New Zealand, Dr. Bozeman was instrumental in establishing the Professional Development School partnership between North Carolina Central University and the Governor Morehead School for the Blind. Her skills in establishing community partnerships will be essential to continuing our regional mission to address the critical shortage of educators of students with visual impairments and provide community-based, accessible professional development opportunities for our graduates as they enter the field.”

Dr. Bozeman has taught at North Carolina Central University, served as a consultant for the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind, held several director-level positions at state schools for students with disabilities, and has been published in many respected publications, including the Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness. She also teaches graduate courses at National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei each year, has a black belt in karate, and conducts workshops in self-defense for people with visual impairments. Laura has been recognized for her leadership as a past Chair of the O&M Division of AERBVI and currently serves as the Chair of the International Committee-AERBVI O&M Division.

“The Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility programs and the Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education are incredibly innovative,” said Dr. Bozeman. “They serve such a critical regional and national need in the field of visual impairments by ensuring that students who are blind or visually impaired can receive an education from highly qualified teachers. It is truly exciting to have the opportunity to be part of the diverse and vibrant community at UMass Boston.”

NERCVE is an established center within the Institute for Community Inclusion that is academically affiliated with the Graduate College of Education at UMass Boston. NERCVE is dedicated to improving the education and rehabilitation of children and adults with visual impairments through regionally accessible professional educator training, technology, and research. [www.nercve.umb.edu](http://www.nercve.umb.edu)

The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities through training, consultation, clinical and employment services, and research. ICI is based at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Children's Hospital Boston. [www.communityinclusion.org](http://www.communityinclusion.org)

**ACVREP Reception At The 2006 AER International Conference In Snowbird, Utah**

As it did in 2004, **ACVREP will be hosting a reception at the 2006 AER International Conference on July 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** At our reception, we will recognize those certificants who are certified in all three areas, the individual who receives the ACVREP Eileen Siffermann Volunteer Award, and the employer who receives the ACVREP Outstanding Employer Award. There will also be an opportunity to meet and talk with ACVREP board members. We hope to see you there!

### **ACVREP Exams To Be Administered At The AER International Conference**

Sharon Mikrut will be administering all three of ACVREP's exams at the AER International Conference on July 19th, from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in taking any of ACVREP's exams, please make sure that you submit an eligibility application first. Eligibility applications can be downloaded from the ACVREP website ([www.acvrep.org](http://www.acvrep.org)) under the "Downloads" page. In addition to submitting an eligibility application, you will also need to complete and submit an Exam Registration Form, with the \$100 exam fee, at least three weeks prior to July 19th. Exam registration forms will be sent to you only after an eligibility application has been submitted. For more information, contact Sharon Mikrut at 520-887-6816 or [smikrut@acvrep.org](mailto:smikrut@acvrep.org).

### **ACVREP Presence At The AER International Conference**

Sharon Mikrut will be giving a presentation on July 18th from 4:20 p.m. – 5:20 p.m. If you have any questions regarding certification, recertification, applicable fees, the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project, etc., this workshop is for you.

On July 17th, during the general session from 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Bryan Gerritsen will briefly speak about the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project, information posted on the ACVREP website and Johns Hopkins University website, and our progress regarding the project thus far.

If you miss Sharon's workshop or Bryan's presentation, ACVREP will also have a table next to the AER International Conference registration table throughout the entire conference. Sharon Mikrut will be available to answer your questions, listen to your concerns, etc.

### **Teacher Of The Visually Impaired Job Opening – San Francisco, California**

Agency: West Contra Costa Unified School District

Qualifications: BA or MA in teaching students with visual impairments and California teaching credential or equivalent. Dually credentialed (TVI/O&M) applicants are welcome to apply.

Duties: Provide itinerant VI services to a diverse group of visually impaired students (preschool to 22 years) in the San Francisco Bay Area (north of Berkeley). Includes braille readers and low vision students, and students with multiple disabilities.

Salary: Competitive; excellent health and retirement benefits.

Contact: Visually Impaired Program office (510) 741-2896 or E-mail:  
[tyeomans@wccusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:tyeomans@wccusd.k12.ca.us)

### **Executive Director Job Opening – Palo Alto, California**

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D), a national organization, provides educational materials in recorded and computerized formats for non-standard readers. Volunteers record these books in 30 studios throughout the country. The headquarters in Princeton, New Jersey, serve as a central distribution center and repository for over 100,000 titles already recorded. The Northern California Unit of RFB&D, founded in 1967, seeks a dynamic, entrepreneurial Executive Director (ED) who will serve as the public face of the organization and will bring new energy to the RFB&D finances and programs.

The new ED will:

1. Increase targeted outreach efforts designed to raise the level of public visibility of RFB&D and increase overall community support for its activities;
2. Design a top-tier fundraising program calculated to double individual and corporate sponsorship over the next few years;
3. Develop and leverage the Board to create new sources of sponsorship;
4. Build a strong team of professionals and volunteers to implement key programs;
5. Manage the annual budget and create strong working systems of internal accountability; and
6. Strengthen ties with the national headquarters and with local partners.

Qualified candidates will possess:

1. Relevant senior leadership (5+ years), preferably at a nonprofit or public sector organization;
2. A robust network in the Bay Area giving community;
3. Proven Board development strategies;
4. Strong team-building and mentoring skills;
5. Ability to motivate and inspire others to succeed;
6. Tact, diplomacy and the ability to broker compromise between and among competing interests;
7. Open, collaborative and communicative management;
8. Superior written and spoken language skills;
9. Engaging public presence and public speaking ability;
10. Master's degree; and
11. Professional references.

To apply, send your resume and a cover letter explaining your interest to:

Karen Alphonse  
Vice-President  
execSearches.com  
RFBFD@execsearches.com

(954) 252-3743 (fax)

Salary will reflect candidates' credentials, experience and ability to meet RFB&D's mission. RFB&D has a competitive benefits package, which it will share with qualifying candidates. For more information about RFB&D, kindly visit us at [www.rfbd.org](http://www.rfbd.org).

**Living Skills Specialist Job Opening – West Haven, Connecticut**

VA Connecticut Healthcare System  
950 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516

Announcement: # 06-126  
Salary Range: \$46,944-\$73,842  
Closing Date: July 31, 2006  
For information, contact:  
1-203-932-5711  
Marianne Dubois, ext. 2347  
Pauline McKee, ext. 3804

HOW TO APPLY: Internal employees must submit VA Form 5-4078, Application for Promotion or Reassignment, to Human Resources Management Service, Bldg. 4, West Haven Campus, on or before closing date. Employees should also update their Official Personnel Folder prior to the closing date of the announcement to show any additional qualifying experience. All internal applicants must submit their KASO's no later than seven calendar days after the closing date.

HOW TO APPLY: VA CT Employees: Must submit VA Form 4078, Application for Promotion or Reassignment to Human Resources, Bldg. #4, on or before closing date. Employees may also update their Official Personnel Folder to the closing date of the announcement to show any additional qualifying experience. External Applicants: Must Submit VA Form 10-2850c, Application for Associated Health Occupations and Optional Form 306, Declaration for Federal Employment. Veterans: Must attach a copy of their DD 214 Form to their application packet to insure they receive veteran's preference.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP: All applicants for federal employment must be a U.S. citizen.

DUTIES: Incumbent works in the EBRC as a Living Skills Specialist. In the written communications phase of the program he/she evaluates and instructs blind patients in use of handwriting guides, signature guides and check-writing templates to aid the patient with correspondence and personal business needs; recording skills and recorder usage are also taught for note-taking and list-making needs; teaches basic typewriting skills, such as manuscript writing, footnoting, tabulations, and various personal and business letter forms; the activities of Daily Living (ADL) program is to instruct the students in personal, food preparation and household tasks, designing the program to promote independence and confidence in the veteran's current or projected living situation, etc. Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: If applicable, must also meet any time-in-grade, physical, language, license or degree requirements. Qualification standards are available for review in Human Resources Management Service, Building 4, West Haven Campus.

**SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE:** Experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the next lower grade level in the normal line or progression for the occupation in the organization.

GS-9: Specialized experience 1 year equivalent to a GS-7, OR 2-full years of progressively higher level graduate education, OR Master's OR equivalent graduate degree.

GS-11: Specialized experience 1 year equivalent to a GS-9, OR 3-full years of progressively higher level graduate education, OR Ph.D. OR equivalent doctoral degree.

**BASIC QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:** Degree; major study in an academic field related to the health sciences or allied sciences appropriate to the work of the position.

**RATING/RANKING PROCEDURES:** The following knowledge's, skills, abilities, and other characteristics (KSAO's will be used as rating factors):

1. Demonstrate your knowledge of the blind rehabilitation process and of multi-disciplinary teamwork within a medical, residential setting.
2. Demonstrate your knowledge of theories, principles and practices in at least two of the following: Orientation and Mobility, Living Skills, Manual Skills or Low Vision.
3. Demonstrate your knowledge of the effects that additional handicapping conditions, e.g., physical, cognitive, or medical, have on the Blind Rehabilitation process.
4. Demonstrate your ability to develop an individualized program of instruction based on the needs and capabilities of the veteran.
5. Discuss your ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with individuals of varying backgrounds or educational experience, and with different target audiences. Include computer software programs which you have used for writing.

**QUALIFICATIONS USED:** OPM Handbook Group Qualification Standard for Professional and Scientific Positions, 601 series (TS-2), dated 8/94.

Displaced/surplus Federal employees covered under the provisions of the inter-agency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP) and Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP) (displaced VA employees) eligible's will be given priority consideration for vacancies within the local commuting area for which they are well qualified. To be considered well-qualified, applicants must meet all selective placement factors and rate at the fully successful level on all ranking factors for the position. Applicants requesting this consideration must attach appropriate proof of the ICTAP eligibility with their application. "Preference eligible's or veterans who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service may apply". This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis. VA CT Healthcare System is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Teacher Of The Visually Impaired/Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Cleveland, Ohio**

Cleveland Sight Center, a leader in the rehabilitation of persons who are blind and visually impaired since 1906, seeks a Teacher of the Visually Impaired/Orientation & Mobility Specialist to work as a member of our Children and Young Adult Services team. While a TVI/COMS is preferred, we will consider an individual who is solely a Teacher of the Visually Impaired. Cleveland Sight Center offers the unique opportunity to work in an agency providing a full service team environment and includes a comprehensive compensation and benefits package.

Qualifications/Experience - Valid Ohio Teaching Certificate with special education VI endorsement and certified by ACVREP as an orientation and mobility specialist.

Position Summary - The qualified individual will assess student needs, develop individualized training plans and provide instruction in a variety of itinerant settings; provide support to students and parents; and serve as a consultant and resource to teachers and therapists.

Please forward resume to Human Resources, Cleveland Sight Center, 1909 East 101 Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216-791-8118 ext. 290; 216-791-1101 (fax); email: [pbuckhold@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:pbuckhold@clevelandsightcenter.org). Visit our web-site at [www.clevelandsightcenter.org](http://www.clevelandsightcenter.org)

**Assistant Or Associate Professor And Co- Director Of Professional Preparation Program For Teachers Of Children With Visual And Multiple Impairments (TVI) Job Opening – Elkins Park, Pennsylvania**

This is a tenure track full-time position at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Department of Graduate Studies in Vision Impairment

Primary Function: Teach and advise students and Co-Direct the TVI Program. Will participate fully as a faculty member in the Department of Graduate Studies in Vision Impairment.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

1. 100 % FTE as faculty member in the department of Graduate Studies in Vision Impairment.
2. Teaching responsibilities in TVI Program (and other areas of specialization, if qualified, such as Low Vision and O&M).
3. Provide day-to-day management of the TVI program along with program Co-Director.
4. Prepare and secure funding for TVI Program.
5. Assist in preparation of federal proposals and reports.
6. Conduct research.
7. Publish professional materials such as peer reviewed articles, chapters in relevant textbooks.
8. Develop and provide professional presentations at state, regional and national conferences.
9. Collect and report programmatic data.

10. Supervise student interns.
11. Other related duties as assigned, e.g., may be assigned specific responsibilities with National Center for Leadership in Visual Impairment (NCLVI) or within other Graduate Studies programs, depending on knowledge and experience of candidate.
12. Serve on various college and department committees.

Skills and Other Requirements:

1. Doctorate preferred (Master's degree considered) in special education in vision impairment.
2. Experience in teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum skills to children who are blind or visually impaired.
3. Experience working with parents of children who are blind or visually impaired.
4. Superior and demonstrated written, oral communication and organizational skills.
5. Experience working with and collaborating with consumers who are blind or visually impaired.
6. Experience working with diverse populations.
7. Experience in working with teams and collaborative efforts.

Skills and Other Preferred Requirements:

1. Additional related certifications: Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Early Childhood Certification, O&M Certification, Low Vision Certification, etc.
2. Experience working with individuals who are blind or visually impaired with multiple disabilities.
3. Experience in teaching within Higher Education.
4. Demonstrated success at securing federal and/or private grants.
5. Experience in administration.
6. Experience working with individuals with deaf-blindness.
7. Experience teaching infants and toddlers who are blind or visually impaired.
8. Experience in project management, including fiscal responsibilities.

Anticipated Start Date: Mid-August 2006 or when position is filled.

Salary: Commensurate with degree, certifications and experience.

Final candidates will be requested to interview and demonstrate teaching skills by giving a presentation to the graduate faculty.

If interested, send Letter of Application with professional vita and three letters of support to: Dr. Kathleen Mary Huebner, Professor, Associate Dean, and Chair of Search Committee, Graduate Studies in Vision Impairment, Pennsylvania College of Optometry, 8360 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027; [kathyh@pco.edu](mailto:kathyh@pco.edu); Fax: 215-780-1361.

**Visual Impairment Teacher (Orientation & Mobility) Job Opening – Staunton, Virginia**

The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind at Staunton is seeking a Special Education Teacher with experience in Orientation and Mobility to provide a quality instructional program to children with blindness and visual impairment. The hiring range is \$33,408 - \$51,154 and the position number is F0005.

Responsibilities include:

Instructional/unit planning.

Instructional implementation.

Classroom organization and management.

Evaluation, reporting and recordkeeping.

Participation in staff development.

Development of Individualized Educational Programs (IEP).

Minimum Qualifications:

1. A minimum of a Baccalaureate Degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
2. Hold or be eligible for a valid Virginia teaching license issued by the Board of Education with endorsement in Visual Impairment. Prefer certification as a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist.
3. Ability to design and implement appropriate instruction for children with visual impairments, including blindness.
4. Knowledge of child growth and development, and special needs of children with disabilities.
5. Knowledge of teaching reading using a variety of instructional methods and techniques.
6. Ability to read and teach Braille or agreement to acquire this skill within three years.
7. Ability to plan and organize work.
8. Ability to work using a team approach.
9. Ability to follow school policies and procedures.
10. Experience in teaching children with visual impairments and using behavior management techniques is preferred.

Physical Requirements: Ability to interact on a physical level with children and to perform repetitive motion to include standing, sitting, reaching, lifting, walking, bending, and climbing.

Note: A criminal history check will be required for final candidates.

For consideration, submit State application form #10-012 to: The Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind-Staunton, Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 2069, Staunton, VA, 24402-2069. For assistance, call TDD (540) 332-9069, FAX (540) 332-9042, or visit our website at [www.vsdbs.virginia.gov](http://www.vsdbs.virginia.gov). Applications are available on our website.

**National Independent Living Associate Job Opening – Dallas, Texas**

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) seeks a National Independent Living Associate for the Center on Vision Loss in Dallas.

Responsibilities include promoting and implementing AFB's aging and independence initiatives through content development, program implementation and leadership, and expanding the awareness of the capabilities and needs of persons who are blind or vision impaired by serving as primary on-site coordinator at the Center on Vision Loss.

Position requires a graduate degree or equivalent with knowledge of national issues and trends in the vision rehabilitation field and related fields, and an understanding of vision rehabilitation concepts and processes. Five years hands on experience in providing independent living skills training in the field of blindness, and experience working with seniors, family members, caregivers, professionals and minority populations. Spanish is a plus. Must have knowledge of assistive technology and independent living devices, and experience in demonstrating their use.

Salary range: \$48,000 to \$60,000

E-mail resume and letter of interest, including salary expectations or history, and three professional references to Judy Scott, [jscott@afb.net](mailto:jscott@afb.net).

### **Blind Rehabilitation Specialist Job Opening – Waco, Texas**

The Department Of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, has a full-time job opening for a Blind Rehabilitation Specialist (Job Announcement Number T38-2006-28).

Salary range: \$42,955.00 - \$67,567.00 USD per year. Series and Grade: GS-0601-9/11. : Applications will be accepted from all qualified United States citizens.

Hours may vary to include irregular tours, evenings, weekends, and holiday coverage. The incumbent serves as the orientation and mobility specialist on an interdisciplinary team whose goal is rehabilitation of visually impaired veterans. Duties include aiding veterans in the achievement of the maximum level of travel independence within the limits of their potential; providing appropriate instruction in Orientation/Mobility skills, including instructions in basic skills, techniques of long cane usage, basic spatial orientation, orientation to the Blind Rehab Center, instruction in traveling to destinations on the hospital grounds, residential area travel, commercial area travel, rural and use of public transportation; providing patient care that is appropriate to the cognitive, emotional, and chronological maturation needs of the adult and/or geriatric patient; and providing advanced level professional counseling to blinded veterans and their families concerning medical, emotional, and instructional problems related to the blindness or severe visual impairment. Incumbent will be required to transport veterans to a variety of areas in the city for training activities and will be required to transport veterans to and from a local bus station, airport, or train station.

Qualifications are derived from the Office of Personnel Management Group Coverage Qualification Standard for Professional and Scientific Positions and the GS-601, General Health Science Series, available in Human Resources Management Service (HRMS). Must have successfully completed the requirements for a four-year degree in Blind Rehabilitation.

GS-9: At the GS-9 level, in addition to completing the basic requirement, must have at least one year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-7 level in federal service OR have 2 years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a master's degree or master's or equivalent graduate degree in Blind Rehabilitation.

Must meet time-in-grade requirement of one year at the GS-7 level in federal service.

GS-11: At the GS-11 level, in addition to completing the basic requirement, must have one year specialized experience equivalent to the GS-9 level in federal service OR 3 years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a Ph.D. degree or Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree in Blind Rehabilitation.

Must meet time-in-grade requirement of one year at the GS-9 level in federal service.

If education is to be substituted for experience, transcripts must be submitted with application packet in order to receive credit.

Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited toward qualifications. Therefore, applicants must report only attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by this agency.

Selectee may be required to take and successfully complete a pre-employment physical.

Must have a valid driver's license. A copy of this license must be a part of the application packet.

Appointees to direct patient care positions must be proficient in spoken and written English as required by 38 USC 7402(d) and 7407(d).

Applicant is responsible for submitting with application appropriate documentation that proves time-in-grade restrictions have been met. Failure to submit this documentation may result in determination that this requirement is not met, resulting in non-consideration for the position.

You must be a U.S. citizen to qualify for this position.

Qualified candidates will be rated and ranked on the following knowledge, skills, and abilities:

- a. Knowledge of the blind rehabilitation process and ability to apply this knowledge in a multi-disciplinary setting.
- b. Ability to evaluate patient's needs, interests, and skill levels in the Orientation and Mobility area.
- c. Ability to provide effective Orientation and Mobility training programs for visually impaired persons.
- d. Ability to adapt training methods to effectively serve patients with disability variables in addition to blindness.
- e. Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.

You may participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program, with costs shared with your employer. More info:  
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#FEHB>.

Life insurance coverage is provided. More info:  
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#life>

Long-Term Care Insurance is offered and carries into your retirement. More info:  
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#ltci>

New employees are automatically covered by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). If you are transferring from another agency and covered by CSRS, you may continue in this program. More info: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#retr>

You will earn annual vacation leave. More info:  
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#VACA>

You will earn sick leave. More info:  
<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/jobextrainfo.asp#SKLV>

All Federal employees are required by PL 104-134 to have federal payments made by Direct Deposit.

The materials you send with your application will not be returned.

Job offers are contingent on passing a physical (if required), satisfactory completion and positive results of the following: the healthcare integrity and protection data bank (hipdb), exclusionary individuals/entities (leie), background investigation and completion and adjudication of fingerprint investigation.

An Applicant with no listed grade(s) requested will be evaluated for all grades and then referred at all grades for which the applicant is eligible.

Attendance at New Employee Orientation (Temple) is mandatory from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. for the first three days of employment.

This is a bargaining unit position.

If patient needs arise, the incumbent of the above position may be reassigned within the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System.

Apply to:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Human Resources Management Service  
ATTN: Carol Blackwell  
1901 Veterans Memorial Drive  
Temple, TX 76504

1. Submit either a resume or OF-612 (Optional Application for Federal Employment).
2. Narrative assessment of your qualifications in terms of the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities, (KSAs) identified within this announcement. Describe experience (paid or unpaid), education, training and self-development as related to the KSAs.
3. Submit DD-214 (Member 4 copy) for all periods of active service if you are a veteran.
4. Submit letter from VA Regional Office if receiving VA compensation.
5. Submit Standard Form 15 (Application for 10-point Veterans Preference) if applying for preference.
6. Submit current Form SF-50b (Notification of Personnel Action) if you are presently employed by the Federal government or have prior Federal service.
7. Submit DA Form 5433-4 (Verification of Overseas Employment) if applying under Executive Order.
8. Selectee must provide at least one letter of reference from recent employment. This letter of reference must be received in HRMS no later than the first day of duty.

Federal employees seeking CTAP/ICTAP eligibility must submit proof that they meet the requirements of 5 CFR 330.605 (a) for CTAP and 5 CFR 330.704 for ICTAP. This includes proof of eligibility, a copy of their most recent Performance Rating and a copy of their most recent SF50 noting current position, grade level, and duty location. Please annotate your application to reflect that you are applying as a CTAP or ICTAP eligible.

Status applicants with career or career-conditional status or reinstatement eligibility must submit a copy of their most recent Notification of Personnel Action (Standard Form 50) showing tenure group and promotion potential (if any). To ensure full consideration, status applicants should submit a copy of current performance appraisal report. If available non-status applicants claiming veteran preference or eligibility for Veterans Readjustment Appointment should submit a copy of their DD-214 and, if disabled, an

SF-15 with letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs; tentative five point preference will be granted in the absence of the paperwork.

Agency Contact Information:

Carol Blackwell

Phone: (254) 743-1831

Fax: (254) 743-0007

Internet: [carol.blackwell@med.va.gov](mailto:carol.blackwell@med.va.gov)

Or write:

Department Of Veterans Affairs

1901 Veterans Memorial Drive

Temple, TX 76504

Fax: (254) 743-0007

Applicants will be notified of selection or non-selection.

Veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and were separated under honorable conditions may be eligible for veterans' preference. For service beginning after October 15, 1976, the veteran must have served the required length of time and have a Campaign Badge, Expeditionary Medal, a service-connected disability, or have served in the Gulf War between August 2, 1990, and January 2, 1992.

The Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA) gives veterans access to job vacancies that might otherwise be closed to them. The law allows eligible veterans to compete for vacancies advertised under agency's promotion procedures when the agency is seeking applications from outside of its own workforce.

To claim veterans' preference, veterans should be ready to provide a copy of their DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or other proof. Veterans with service connected disability and others claiming 10 point preference will need to submit Form SF-15, Application for 10-point Veterans' Preference.

For more specifics on all veterans employment issues such as Veterans preference or special appointing authorities see the Vet Guide.

Legal and Regulatory Guidance

Social Security Number - Your Social Security Number is requested under the authority of Executive Order 9397 to uniquely identify your records from those of other applicants who may have the same name. As allowed by law or Presidential directive, your Social Security Number is used to seek information about you from employers, schools, banks, and others who may know you. Failure to provide your Social Security Number on your application materials, will result in your application not being processed

Selective Service - If you are a male applicant born after December 31, 1959, you must certify that you have registered with the Selective Service System, or are exempt from having to do so under the Selective Service Law.

## **Rehabilitation Services Manager Job Opening - Washington, D.C.**

DC-based non-profit organization seeks individual to plan, develop, implement and manage the day-to-day programs in blindness rehabilitation. This position requires familiarity of process and procedures, rehabilitation concepts and the ability to plan, coordinate and accomplish goals. The ideal candidate will hold a Masters' degree in orientation and mobility or rehabilitation and 3-5 years of experience as a practitioner in the field of blindness. Must be familiar with blindness community and professional resources, as well as standard concepts, practices, and procedures within the rehabilitation field. Excellent computer skills required. The position offers an excellent benefits package and a salary range based on experience.

Please forward cover letter, resume and salary requirements in confidence to:

HR Consultant  
Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind  
1120 20th Street, NW  
Suite 750 South  
Washington, DC 20036

(202) 454-6413

Or e-mail [helmore@clb.org](mailto:helmore@clb.org)

### **Quote Of The Day!**

*“And in the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.” - Abraham Lincoln*