

ACVREP NEWSLETTER – JUNE 29, 2006

ACVREP – Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

Table of Contents:

1. Congratulations To Those Individuals Who Were Certified Or Recertified For The Quarter Ending June 30, 2006!
2. Certificant's Corner.
3. Special Website For The Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project – Repeat Article.
4. Putting the ® After Your Certification Mark
5. ACVREP Seeks Nominations For Four New Board Members.
6. Have You Heard Of The Red Book?
7. New Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Eligibility Criteria For Category 3 Applicants – Reminder That Implementation Date Is July 1, 2006.
8. How Do I Obtain The 25 ACVREP Approved CE Hours I Need For Recertification?
9. ACVREP Email Newsletter Advertisement Program.
10. Why Does It Take So Long To Hear From The ACVREP Office Once I Submit My Certification Or Recertification Application?
11. Did You Know...
12. ACVREP Welcomes James Gandorf As New Executive Director of AER.
13. ACVREP Reception At The 2006 AER International Conference In Snowbird, Utah – Please Note New Time!
14. ACVREP Exams To Be Administered At The AER International Conference.
15. ACVREP Presence At The AER International Conference.
16. ACVREP Exams Being Administered At The Envisions Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.
17. Please Remember to Record ACVREP's New Address In Your Address Book/Directory.
18. Activities Of Daily Living Instructor/Visually Impaired Senior Alaskans Coordinator Job Opening – Alaska.
19. Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – California.
20. Orientation and Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Tampa, Florida.
21. Early Intervention Specialist Job Opening – Winter Haven, Florida.
22. Computer Instructor Job Opening – Tampa, Florida.
23. Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Illinois.
24. Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Massachusetts.
25. Visually Impaired Teacher – District Wide Job Opening – Texas.
26. Quote Of The Day!

Congratulations To Those Individuals Who Were Certified Or Recertified For The Quarter Ending June 30, 2006!

There were **51** people seeking certification (3 in LVT, 38 in O&M, and 10 in VRT) and **66** people seeking recertification (3 in LVT, 46 in O&M, and 17 in VRT) during this quarter. The following 117 individuals were recently approved by the ACVREP Board of Directors.

New Certificants

Certified Low Vision Therapists

Pamela Maraone
Susan Stokes
Janice Wormington

Certified O&M Specialists

Frank Beard III
Irene Brown
Kelly Burke
Kathleen Dalbeck
Heather DeBoer
Kate Dilworth
Becky Eagle
Nanette Easterling
Nancy Fairbanks
Michelle Gatton
Shirley Harris
Ashli Higgins
Donna Hunt
Tim Jones
Elizabeth Kane
Nancy Kirby-Sauls
Ken Kraska
Patricia Lyons
Kelly Malky
Ricardo Martinez
Ina Meagan Matkin
Mark Matthiessen
Anita Medley
Zelma Murray
Ashley Ramsey
D. Betty Robinson
Andrea Schultz
Brenda Shaffer
Antonia Torpey
Michelle Viisola
Lucy Waite

Eileen Walsh
Maureen Walsh
Aaron Wetli
Jay Whipple
Karen Wilson
Sharon Woods
Deborah Zufan

Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists

Linda Chung
Johannah Echevarria
Linda Fugate
Ellen Harris
Mark Matthiessen
Lori Miller
Christine Robbins
Ken Smith
Patricia Tassie
Brendan Tedrick

Individuals who Recertified

Certified Low Vision Therapists

Kathleen Bronson
G. Catherine Bryce
Linda Palo

Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists

Christine Baldwin
Victoria Basinger
Josette Bidlack
Jill Bohlen
Brenda Borrer
Ray Bowie
Winnie Chan
Regina Davis
Tryna Douglas
Jodie Eakin
Suzanne Eldred
Sara Eldridge
Carol Faherty
Shirley Frey
Lynelle Glaze

Jill Healy
Claire Holmes
Christine Householter
Suzanne Johnson
Theodore Kresky
Linda Laughlin
George Lopez
Bonnie Lawrence
Paul Lund
Connie MacLeod
Jayne Malkin
Laurie Melanson
Laura Messinger
Angela Modisett
Lynn Morgan
Margaret Olisky
Nancy Parkin-Bashizi
James Pietrzycki
Denise Pontuti
Rodney Poole
Kathleen Preece
Teresa Principe
Dennis Sharp
Jeffrey Sheldon
Scott Smith
Robert Steele
Miriam Tellick
Joan Tolla
Carol Walker
Donna Wittenstein
John Wood

Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists

Juliana Albertie
Deanna Austin
G. Catherine Bryce
Mary Beth Caruso
Joyce Dyer
Valeria Foreman
Julia Halpern-Gold
Samantha Green
Elizabeth Heidhues
Beverly Kolb
Jayne Meekings
Georgeanne Morris

Karen Orosz
Nancy Parkin-Bashizi
Karla Piper
Carol Sarge
Nancy Scharpenberg

Certificant's Corner

The following is an article in response to one that ACVREP's Board Chair, Martin Yablonski, wrote regarding people getting involved in the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project.

Medicare reimbursement to certified vision rehabilitation professionals!!! Many of us thought this day would never come, and I want to congratulate all those individuals, agencies, ACVREP and AER, who worked so hard to make this a reality. As Martin Yablonski wrote, we've now got five years to demonstrate to the Federal government that our services are vital to the welfare of those with vision loss, that these services must be provided by trained specialists, and that we, as a body, are ready and able to take on this challenge. We've also got a prime opportunity to prove to ourselves that we can tackle this task and, while providing excellent service to a large population that might otherwise go without, make the public, the government, and the eye health field aware of our existence and our place in the larger scheme of professional services to those with vision impairment.

This is also an opportunity, even a responsibility, for the two largest organizations in our professional lives, AER and the Academy, to show their value to all parties mentioned above and to enhance their prestige and clout.

The Feds, like most bureaucracies, will be convinced of the success of this pilot project by easy-to-calibrate data: numbers and outcomes. How many professionals participated in this pilot project? How many units of service were delivered? How many successful outcomes were achieved? With only nine hours total rehabilitation services available, I'm not sure how many of these last there will be, but let's not use this as an excuse to not participate. Once the undeniable data are plain to see, we can fight for increasing the amount of service.

My concern right now is: How do we get certified, experienced professionals to sign onto this effort? How can contact between individual service providers and those who will become their employers be facilitated? To only urge us to "Let [our] local Office for Aging know about this project and spread the word through your medical contacts..." will not do the trick. We are not all cut out to be salespeople. And so I echo Martin's comment that AER must take a leadership role in this effort. One concrete way to do this is to provide a mechanism to grease the path, to make that initial contact by the rehabilitation professional easier, and to serve as a second or third reminder of this project and its importance, not its first mention. In addition to a list of local eye care providers, I would suggest the following:

1. The educational material soon to be sent to all eye care providers in the pilot areas also be sent to all interested certificants so that we're all on the same page.
2. Notification through this newsletter of all such contacts being considered, and when they are implemented.
3. Information points be provided to all interested certificants, with suggestions as to how to incorporate them into a brief letter of introduction or when making personal contact with these same providers.
4. I urge all certificants living or working in the pilot areas to check out www.lowvisionproject.org to keep abreast of the latest information regarding this project.

The easier it is for rehabilitation professionals to become involved, the more who will do so. The greater that number, the greater the number of hours of service rendered, and the higher the number of successful outcomes. Then, hopefully, we'll all enjoy future success for our clients and our careers.

Rob Sunberg, COMS

Special Website For The Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project – Repeat Article

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. 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).

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

Putting the ® After Your Certification Mark

Now that our certifications marks are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), you can use the ® after your respective certification marks. For example, the correct use of this symbol is as follows:

CLVT®
Certified Low Vision Therapist®
COMS®
Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist®
CVRT®
Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist®

To access and use this symbol, do the following:

1. In Microsoft Word, go to the tool bar.
2. Click on Insert, then scroll down and click on Symbols.
3. In the dialogue box, find the ® symbol and click on it to highlight it.
4. At the bottom right hand corner of the dialogue box, click on Insert.
5. Then click on Close and your ® will appear after your certification mark.

Please make sure that the ® always follows your certification mark.

You have worked hard to obtain ACVREP certification, so begin using the ® after your respective certification marks today!

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.

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?

The Social Security Administration has released the 2006 edition of what many people simply call the "Red Book," which is a summary guide to employment support for individuals with disabilities under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplementary Security Income (SSI) programs. It is imperative that we get this information into the hands of every adult with a disability who currently receives benefits under these programs and who wishes either to join or rejoin the workforce. The Red Book contains useful information that will assist these folks in knowing how to go to or return to work in such a way that helps maximize economic self-sufficiency. This publication may be an empowering and invaluable tool to enable people with disabilities to enter the world of employment as part of their overall life approach of fulfilling career dreams and aspirations and striving to reach their greatest potential as they continually seek to enhance their own economic productivity.

Here is what the Red Book contains:

INTRODUCTION

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2006

- * Amount Adjustments for 2006

RECENT AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- * The Comprehensive Work Opportunity Initiative
- * Work Opportunity Demonstration Projects
- * Spotlight on Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) and Medicaid While Working

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WORK INCENTIVES

- * Area Work Incentive Coordinator (AWIC)
- * Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) Cadre
- * How to Reach Social Security
- * Send Us Comments about the Red Book
- * Request Public Information Materials
- * Other Sources of Information
- * Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach (BPAO) Program
- * Protection and Advocacy
- * Employer Assistance Referral Network

BASIC SSDI AND SSI INFORMATION

- * What Are SSDI and SSI?
- * Are You Eligible?
- * When and How Do You File for Benefits?
- * What Records Do You Need?
- * How Do We Define Disability?
- * What if You Are Self-Employed?
- * How Do We Decide if You Are Disabled?
- * Who Decides if You Are Disabled?
- * What Are Your Responsibilities When You Work?

- * How Do We Figure Your Payment Amount?
- * Will You Get Health Insurance Coverage?
- * Will You Have to Wait For Benefits to Start?
- * When Will We Review Your Disability?
- * When Will Your Benefits Stop?
- * Can You Get Benefits Again if Your Benefits Ended Because of Work?

OVERVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

- * How Does Employment Support Help Individuals?

SSDI/SSI EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

- * Ticket to Work Program
- * Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE)
- * Subsidy And Special Conditions
- * Unincurred Business Expenses
- * Unsuccessful Work Attempt
- * Continued Payments under a Vocational Rehabilitation Program (aka Section 301)
- * Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)

SSDI EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

- * Trial Work Period (TWP)
- * Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE)
- * Continuation of Medicare Coverage
- * Medicare for Individuals with Disabilities Who Work

SSI EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS

- * Earned Income Exclusion
- * Student Earned Income Exclusion
- * Property Essential to Self-Support
- * Special SSI Payments for Individuals Who Work - Section 1619(a)
- * Medicaid While Working - Section 1619(b)
- * State Threshold Amounts
- * Special Benefits for Individuals Eligible under Section 1619 (a) or (b) Who Enter a Medical Treatment Facility
- * Reinstating Eligibility without a New Application

SPECIAL RULES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

- * How SGA Is Applied Under SSDI to Individuals Who Are Blind
- * How SGA Is Not Applied Under SSI to Individuals Who Are Blind
- * Blind Work Expenses (BWE) Under SSI

EXAMPLE OF CONCURRENT BENEFITS AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

ADDITIONAL HELP WITH HEALTH CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

- * Medicaid Protection for Working Individuals with Disabilities
- * Help with Medicare Part A Premiums

GLOSSARY 62

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADDRESSES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY REGIONAL OFFICES

Online versions are available both in PDF and HTML formats. To view a copy online and to download it for your use, please visit:

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/redbook.htm>

To reach the Social Security Administration by phone to obtain the Red Book, which is also available in alternative formats, you may call (800) 772-1213 [Voice] or (800) 325-0778 [TTY].

New Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Eligibility Criteria For Category 3 Applicants – Reminder That Implementation Date Is July 1, 2006

Historically, the intent of Category 3 was to enable the agency trained VRT professionals, with experience in VRT, the opportunity to become certified based on experience, and enable professionals with similar educational degrees the opportunity for certification based on relevant formal education and employment experience. Because quality standards are a priority, and our mandate is to establish a minimum standard of both academic and skills training that we would be able to support, the VRT Committee revised Category 3 in order to clarify objectives necessary for taking the certification examination. We have significantly increased the number of hours of experience for our Category 3 applicants as this will help to ensure the standard of care that we need professionally.

In the past, Category 3 applicants had to possess at least a Bachelor's degree (or foreign equivalent, as verified through an independent credential evaluation company) in any field, submit documentation attesting to their knowledge in the required 15 core domain areas, and complete a 350 hour internship under a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT).

The new eligibility criteria changes are as follows:

1. The Body of Knowledge (found in the VRT certification handbook) and 15 core domain areas were condensed into one document, titled "Body of Knowledge Core Domain Areas." As a result, there are now the following 16 core domain areas.

1. Knowledge of the Blindness System.*
2. Medical Aspects of Blindness and Low Vision.*
3. Professionalism and Practice Methods.*
4. Personal Management.*
5. Home Management.*
6. Communication Systems.*
7. Braille and Other Tactual Systems.*
8. Adaptive Computer Technology.*
9. Recreation and Leisure.*
10. Aging and Vision Loss.*
11. Deaf-Blindness.
12. Teaching and Learning Strategies.
13. Psychosocial Aspects of Blindness and Vision Loss.
14. Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired with Additional Disabilities.
15. Research.
16. Orientation and Mobility.

2. **Of the new 16 Body of Knowledge Core Domain Areas listed above, the first ten (#1 - #10, with an * following each area), which are considered VRT specific core domain areas, must be met through formal education (university/college coursework) or ACVREP approved CE programs.** Documentation would include official transcripts or a Certificate of Completion/Attendance.

3. For the last six non-VRT specific core domain body of knowledge areas listed above (#11-#16), applicants can demonstrate knowledge through formal education, ACVREP approved CE programs or other activities. Examples of documentation include course descriptions or course syllabi, certificates of completion/attendance, continuing education (CE) hour information, continuing education unit (CEU) information, etc. Documentation must be provided to verify course content.

4. **Applicants must now successfully complete at least a 1,000 hour “discipline specific, supervised practice (internship) that includes, but is not limited to, direct service hours, and related phone calls, meetings, observations, report writing, etc.”** The practice must be supervised by a Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (CVRT), whether the internship is on-site or off-site.

The following items remain the same:

1. The applicant must still submit official transcripts documenting at least a Bachelor’s degree (or foreign equivalent, as verified through an independent credential evaluation company) in any field.
2. The applicant must still submit a “*Clinical Competency Evaluation Form*” form completed by the CVRT practice supervisor at the end of the internship.

3. The applicant must still sign a written statement agreeing to uphold high ethical and professional standards (found on the second page of the VRT Eligibility Application).
4. Once determined eligible to sit for the exam, the applicant must still pass the VRT written exam demonstrating knowledge of VRT principles and applications.
5. Once the applicant has passed the VRT exam, s/he must then apply to and be approved by the ACVREP Board of Directors for certification for a five year period.

Should you have any questions regarding the above changes, please contact Sharon L. Mikrut at 520-887-6816 or smikrut@acvrep.org.

PLEASE NOTE: Although the new eligibility criteria for Category 3 are not effective until July 1, 2006, the new VRT Eligibility Application and VRT Certification Handbook, reflecting these changes, are now posted on the “Download” page of the ACVREP website (www.acvrep.org).

How Do I Obtain The 25 ACVREP Approved CE Hours I Need For Recertification?

What is the CE hour requirement under the new recertification criteria?

Under the new recertification criteria, you are required to earn 100 recertification points every 5 years. A minimum of 25 of these points must be ACVREP approved continuing education (CE) hours. That amounts to an average of five (5) CE hours a year. Of course, you can obtain all 100 points in “Category 1 – Continuing Education” (see Category 1 in the new recertification application under the “Download” page at www.acvrep.org).

How do I obtain CE hours?

CE hours can be obtained by attending ACVREP approved presentations at conferences, workshops or in-service trainings, and also by taking ACVREP approved online courses, distance education programs, etc. Often by attending just one of the many ACVREP approved state or international professional conferences, certificants can satisfy and even exceed the minimum CE hour requirement.

What documentation do I need to submit to claim credit for my CE hours?

You will need to submit the following three items in order to document any CE hours you are claiming for recertification:

1. The name of the CE activity/program.
2. The date or dates of the CE program/activity.
3. The number of CE hours you obtained, excluding meals, breaks, and business meetings.

Documentation to meet the above three items include, but is not limited to, a copy of the conference/workshop/in-service training program, brochure or agenda; a Certificate of Completion/Attendance; or a letter written by your immediate supervisor, on agency letterhead, verifying attendance and providing information on the three items listed above for each CE program/activity.

Do all CE hours have to be ACVREP approved?

Yes. However, there is one exception to this rule. If you take a university/college course that meets one or more of the 13 approved content areas, you simply have to submit a transcript(s) from the respective college or university; the transcript(s) will indicate where and when you took the course as well as the number of semester/quarter hours that were granted.

How can ACVREP approval be obtained for a CE program/activity?

There are two ways in which ACVREP approval can be obtained for a specific CE program/activity:

1. **Contact the CE provider.** Providers may include the chair/co-chair/member of a conference/workshop planning committee, an agency training coordinator, a marketing representative of a for profit organization, etc. Let the CE provider know that you and your certified colleagues are required to obtain all of your CE hours through ACVREP approved CE programs/activities. Inform them that they can download the CE application from the ACVREP website at www.acvrep.org (see the “Downloads” page). If they have any questions or need assistance in completing the application, encourage them to contact the ACVREP office at 520-887-6816. You may also inform them that there is a “Continuing Education Provider Information” page on the ACVREP website that will answers many of the basic questions CE providers have regarding how to apply for ACVREP approval. This page will also discuss application and offering fees.
2. **Get a group of certificants to submit a CE application.** CE applications don't necessarily have to be submitted by a CE provider. You and your colleagues can also submit a CE application to seek ACVREP approval for a specific upcoming CE program/activity and cover the application and offering fee(s). As noted above, the “Continuing Education Provider Information” page on the ACVREP website can answer some of the basic questions you may have regarding applying for ACVREP approval.

How do I know which CE programs/activities have been ACVREP approved?

Please visit the “Continuing Education Opportunities” page on the ACVREP website. This page provides a current listing of all ACVREP approved CE programs/activities.

How much does it cost to apply for ACVREP approval?

Please see the “Continuing Education Provider Information” page on our website (www.acvrep.org). This page provides specific information related to all CE application and offering fees.

What if I’m not sure that I can meet the 25 CE hour requirement?

Call the ACVREP office at 520-887-6816. We are often able to help certificants realize that they do have the 25 CE hours required for recertification.

ACVREP Email Newsletter Advertisement Program

DID YOU KNOW?

*ACVREP is the world’s largest certification organization of professionals in the field of vision rehabilitation and education.

*ACVREP certifies Low Vision Therapists, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, and Vision Rehabilitation Therapists (formerly Rehabilitation Teachers).

*Our monthly e-mail newsletter goes directly to approximately 3,000 recipients and the number is growing!

*Limited advertising space is available in each newsletter. Each newsletter edition will feature no more than four ads (text only, with a maximum of 256 characters) positioned immediately after the Table of Contents.

REACH YOUR TARGETED AUDIENCE...

For \$50.00 (US dollars) per ad, advertisers may buy one ad per issue, which can be purchased up to 12 months in advance. This is a small price to pay to reach 3,000 targeted email boxes.

**Call the ACVREP office at 520-887-6816 or e-mail us at info@acvrep.org today!
Don't miss out on this premium advertising opportunity!**

Please note: All ad content is subject to approval by the ACVREP office. Also, the following disclaimer will accompany all ads: “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.”

ACVREP accepts Visa and MasterCard.

Why Does It Take So Long To Hear From The ACVREP Office Once I Submit My Certification Or Recertification Application?

Answer: Because the ACVREP Board of Directors only meets quarterly. The following information should help you to understand why it can take some time between when you submit your application and when it is approved.

Initial Certification

After you've submitted your eligibility application (which can be submitted at any time), were determined eligible to sit for the exam, and took and passed the exam, you are now ready to apply for certification to the ACVREP Board of Directors. As the Board only meets quarterly, your certification application needs to be submitted by March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, and December 1st, in order to be considered in that quarter. For example, if you submit your application by June 1, 2006 and the Board approves it, your certification expiration date will be June 30th (in this case, June 30, 2011). However, if you submit your application after June 1st, you will have to wait until the board meets again in September (your application is put "on hold" until that time). As information related to when the Board approves applications is in our materials and on our website, we do not inform applicants that their application has been filed and is waiting for approval. However, you can call the office at any time to check on the status of your application.

Recertification

Your recertification application is due the first day of the month in which your certification expires. For example, if your certification expiration date is June 30, 2006, then your recertification application is due June 1, 2006. Your application is reviewed before it goes to the ACVREP Board of Directors. If there is a problem with it (e.g., missing documents), you will be contacted to discuss the information needed in order to forward your application to the Board. If your recertification application is due June 1, 2006 and you submit it in time, and the Board approves it, your certification expiration date will remain June 30th and your new expiration date will be June 30, 2011. However, if you submit your application after June 1st, you will have to wait until the board meets again in September (your application is put "on hold" until that time). As above, information related to when the Board approves applications is in our materials and on our website; therefore, we do not inform applicants that their application has been filed and is waiting for approval. However, you can call the office at any time to check on the status of your application.

After all certification and recertification applications are reviewed, we develop a certification report for our Board. Although we send the report to them by the 10th of the month in which they are approving applications, we may not receive approval until the third or fourth week of that month. However, approval should be granted before the end of the month.

Did You Know...

...that you can access all previous ACVREP email newsletters on our website under the "ACVREP Newsletters" page?

...that as of July 1, 2004, any continuing education (CE) hours ACVREP certificants obtain for recertification need to be ACVREP approved?

...that the “Continuing Education Opportunities” page on our website (www.acvrep.org) contains a current listing of all ACVREP approved CE programs/activities?
...that if you supervise an intern you can obtain points for recertification (one point for every four hours of supervision)?
...that a current Directory of Certificants is available for your review on our website (you can access this Directory from the home page or the “Directory of Certificants” page)?
...that as of September 2004, you can now earn two points for every hour of a presentation?

ACVREP Welcomes James Gandorf As New Executive Director of AER

In our last email newsletter, we shared the press release regarding James Gandorf’s appointment as the new Executive Director of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER). ACVREP welcomes James and is looking forward to working with him on a variety of projects.

Congratulations, James!

ACVREP Reception At The 2006 AER International Conference In Snowbird, Utah – Please Note New Time!

As mentioned in previous newsletters, **ACVREP will be hosting a reception at the 2006 AER International Conference on July 16th. However, instead of the reception starting at 6:30 p.m., please note that it will now start at 7:00 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. Bryan Gerritsen will also be available to discuss the Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project and answer any questions you may have. You will also have 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) 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.

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. In addition, **Bryan Gerritsen will be at the table on July 16th, from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., July 17th, from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., and July 18th, from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

ACVREP Exams Being Administered At The Envisions Conference in Kansas City, Missouri

ACVREP will be administering its exams at the Envision 06 Conference in Kansas City, Missouri (Westin Crown Center), on Thursday, September 21, 2006, from 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., in the Mayor's Meeting Room. The administration of the exams will precede the start of the Envision 06 conference, which begins on September 21st and ends on September 24th.

Please Remember to Record ACVREP's New Address In Your Address Book/Directory

Please remember to note ACVREP's new address in your address book, directory, database, etc. ACVREP's 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!

Activities Of Daily Living Instructor/Visually Impaired Senior Alaskans Coordinator Job Opening - Alaska

The Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired as a full-time permanent Job opening for an Activities of Daily Living Instructor. The salary range is \$37,000-\$42,000 per year DOE and Certification. Fully paid health and dental and good vacation and holiday benefits.

This position has two primary functions:

1. Activities of Daily Living Instructor - The person in this position develops and provides training in independent living skills, including home management techniques

and adaptive aids, to blind or low vision residential and day clients who are participating in the Center's rehabilitation and transition programs. The instructor also conducts assessment of client skills and needs, develops a service plan to meet those needs, maintains current records and reports on client progress, and provides service management.

2. V.I.S.A. Coordinator - The person in this position provides instruction, guidance, and training to elderly blind individuals throughout South central and Southwest Alaska (excluding the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak) to support and promote their continued independent living. Home visits for assessment, adaptation, and training are required. Expectations include identification and recruitment of program participants and marketing the program generally. Support groups and an annual Enrichment Retreat are important aspects of this Program.

Preferred Qualifications: Master's Degree in Rehabilitation, Education or a related field, three (3) years of prior experience in delivering rehabilitation services to the blind and visually impaired, and a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor/Teacher accreditation, Low Vision Therapist Certification, or Orientation and Mobility Certification.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Rehabilitation, Education or a related field with two (2) years of prior experience in delivering rehabilitation services to the blind and visually impaired or other disabled.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

1. the use of adaptive aids and appliances by those who are blind or visually impaired,
2. the principles of adult education and essential independent living skills,
3. and the issues of blindness/low vision and their implications for adult learners and the elderly.

Skills in:

1. dealing effectively with diverse populations (clients/families, general public, agency personnel),
2. and effective training for people who are blind or low vision and who may have multiple disabilities.

Ability to:

1. travel to homes, senior service facilities, and other points of contact in the Center's assigned V.I.S.A. service area,
2. compile, write, and maintain monthly reports and composite service delivery information,
3. work as a team member in providing rehabilitation training to blind/low vision clients,
4. meet deadlines and work under pressure,
5. and use computers for word processing and data collection.

Karen B. Coady, Program Manager
Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

3903 Taft Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517-3069
info@AlaskaBVI.org
www.AlaskaBVI.org

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – California

The Grossmont Union High School District announces a vacancy for a full-time Orientation and Mobility Instructor, Special Education. All applicants must have an application on file at the District Office. Please view the description of job #1434 and download an application from our website at www.guhsd.net.

Primary function: To teach all the basic components of Orientation and Mobility to students with wide ranges of physical and mental abilities in the Grossmont Union High School District.

Minimum qualifications: Possession of valid California teaching credential authorizing teaching of the visually-handicapped.

Dianne Hendricks
Human Resources
Grossmont Union High School District
P.O. Box 1043
La Mesa, Ca 91944-1043
(619) 644-8025
TDD/TTY (619) 644-8132

Orientation and Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Tampa, Florida

Agency: Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

Qualifications: BA or MA in O&M, or Visual Disabilities Education or Rehabilitation Teaching or related with ACVREP certification in O&M. Must be computer literate.

Duties: Provides orientation & mobility (O&M) training services primarily to adult clients in Tampa and surrounding counties. This is a community-based program and requires extensive local travel.

Salary: Negotiable depending on qualifications and degree.

Contact: John Jerome, Human Resources Manager. Phone: 813-251-2407. Fax 813-254-4305. Email: HRMgr@tampalighthouse.org.

Early Intervention Specialist Job Opening – Winter Haven, Florida

Agency: Lighthouse for the Blind, A Division of Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind

Qualifications: BA or MA in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Special Education, Visual Disabilities Education, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, or Speech Therapy. Must be eligible for Florida Infant Toddler Developmental Specialist certification and be computer-literate.

Duties: This is an itinerant teaching position that provides early childhood development, education and enrichment program services, working with children who are blind or visually impaired, from newborn to age 5, primarily in the home and school, along with other appropriate environments in West Central Florida – mainly Polk and Hardee Counties. Extensive local travel required.

Salary: Negotiable depending on qualifications and degree.

Contact: John Jerome, Human Resources Manager. Phone: 813-251-2407. Fax 813-254-4305. Email: HRMgr@tampalighthouse.org.

Computer Instructor Job Opening – Tampa, Florida

Agency: Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

Qualifications: Prefer BA or MA teaching degree along with high degree of expertise in commonly used applications software and hardware, operating systems, internet usage, and ability/willingness to learn assistive technology. Prefer experience working with persons with disabilities. Some local travel required.

Duties: Organize and teach adaptive personal computer skills and job readiness skills to students with visual disabilities. Classes are held in the Tampa office and may include home and worksite visits along with period visits to the Winter Haven office as needed. May assist LAN manager with LAN management, client tracking system, and training staff in the use of the same.

Salary: Negotiable depending on qualifications and degree.

Contact: John Jerome, Human Resources Manager. Phone: 813-251-2407. Fax 813-254-4305. Email: HRMgr@tampalighthouse.org.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening - Illinois

TCRC Sight Center, a not for profit Social Service Agency, is seeking a dedicated individual to fill an Orientation and Mobility Specialist position, working with individuals who are blind or have low vision. The individual must possess an undergraduate or graduate degree in orientation and mobility as well as be certified or able to be certified by ACVREP. This individual will be responsible for providing orientation and mobility training to children and adults who are blind, visually impaired, or have multiple disabilities throughout Central Illinois. Salary is competitive and

commensurate with training and experience. TCRC offers a competitive benefit package. If interested, please send resume along with letter of interest to: TCRC Sight Center, 111 W. Washington, Suite 410, East Peoria, IL 61611 Attn: Jennifer Lee or email at lee@tcrcorg.com.

Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Massachusetts

ViHAB (Vision Habilitation Services) at MAB Community Services is currently looking for an ACVREP certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist to provide mobility and low vision services to individuals with vision loss and developmental disabilities.

ViHAB is a fast growing program that is contracted by the Department of Mental Retardation to provide vision services to their consumers. This population of visually impaired individuals has been underserved, and is in need of quality, professional services. Massachusetts Commission for the Blind and Department of Mental Retardation have recognized this and have proposed to increase funding and expand services to meet these needs.

It is an exciting opportunity to work with a diverse and eager community of consumers, families, direct care staff, support networks, and DMR professionals. We provide direct service, consultative service, advocacy, and public education to the Greater Boston Area.

Independent travel and knowledge of and/or willingness to learn the Department of Mental Retardation service model are required. It is a full time position with benefits. Compensation is based on experience.

Please contact Gail Brash at MAB Community Services, 200 Ivy Street, Brookline, MA 02446, email to gbrash@mabcommunity.com or fax to 617-732-0226.

Visually Impaired Teacher – District Wide Job Opening - Texas

QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor's degree from accredited college or university.
Master's or Bachelor's degree in the field of Visual Impairments.
Valid Teaching Certificate with certification in Visual Impairments.

SPECIAL SKILLS:

Knowledge in Braille, Assistive Devices for VI students.
Knowledge in the ARD process and setting IEP goals for students.
Knowledge of the curriculum.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

Develop and implement plans for the curriculum program assigned.
Present subject matter according to guidelines established by Texas Education Agency, board policy, and administrative regulations.

Shall cooperate with other staff members in planning and implementing instructional goals, objectives, and methods according to district requirements.

Create environment conducive to learning and appropriate for the physical, social, and emotional development of students.

Shall use technologies in the teaching/learning process.

Shall keep informed of and comply with state, district, and school regulations and policies.

Maintain professional relationship with colleagues, students, parents, and community members.

SALARY:

Salary according to experience and qualifications.

TERM OF SERVICE: 187 days

CONTACT:

Office of Human Resources

Brazosport Independent School District

P.O. Drawer Z

Freeport, TX 77542

Phone: 979-730-7000

Email: Human Resources

Quote Of The Day!

“Don’t compromise yourself. You are all you’ve got.” – Janis Joplin