

ACVREP NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 3, 2006

ACVREP – Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals

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ACVREP Buttons (“Proud to be Certified”) – A Big Thanks To Marshall Flax!

Marshall Flax, ACVREP board member, ordered and paid for these buttons, which were distributed to ACVREP certificants at the AER International Conference. Sharon Mikrut will continue to disseminate these buttons at future conferences.

ACVREP would like to thank Marshall for this great idea and for covering the expense related to developing these buttons. We appreciate you, Marshall!

AFB Comes Through Again!

ACVREP would like to thank the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB), especially Natalie Hilzen, for providing resource materials to assist in the development of a new

Low Vision Therapy Study Guide. In the past, AFB provided resource materials for our use in developing the new ACVREP O&M exam. Thanks for helping us again, AFB. We appreciate all that you do on behalf of ACVREP!

Correction To ACVREP Certificant's Last Name

In our last newsletter, when we were congratulating those individuals who were either certified or recertified during the quarter April 1 - June 30, 2006, we misspelled Carol Sargee's last name. In the newsletter it was listed as "Sarge" instead of "Sargee." Carol is a CVRT. We apologize for this mistake, Carol. Thanks for bringing it to our attention.

ACVREP Reception Award Winners And Triple Certificants

The following two awards were presented at the ACVREP Reception at the AER International Conference on July 16, 2006:

ACVREP Eileen Siffermann Volunteer Award

The ACVREP Eileen Siffermann Volunteer Award was established in 2004 to honor an individual who has made a significant contribution through volunteer work (e.g., committee service, supervision of certificants, fund raising, etc.) to further the mission and work of ACVREP, to promote professional certification standards in the rehabilitation and education of individuals who are blind or visually impaired, and/or to support the certification and re-certification of professionals in the field.

The winner of this year's Eileen Siffermann Volunteer Award was James T. Deremeik. The reasons why Jim received this award include:

1. Jim has conducted several off-site LVT internships to assist individuals in becoming ACVREP certified in Low Vision Therapy. Jim is also exploring supervising individuals off-site through the use of webcasts via the Johns Hopkins website, which is an innovative approach to supervising interns off-site.
2. Jim has been actively involved in the CMS Medicare Low Vision Demonstration Project. He is working with ACVREP so that individuals can access information about the project through www.lowvisionproject.org, a part of the Johns Hopkins University website. He has been working with Bryan Gerritsen, ACVREP's independent contractor, to post information to this website, to develop a forum for questions and answers, and, eventually, to develop live webcasts so that certificants in the six demonstration sites can speak to each other and other project participants in their respective sites. Jim is also an active participant on ACVREP's weekly Medicare LV demonstration project teleconference calls.
3. Jim actively supports ACVREP certification and continuously encourages folks to become ACVREP certified.

ACVREP Outstanding Employer Award

The ACVREP Outstanding Employer Award was established in 2004 to recognize an agency/organization that has promoted professionalism in the field by hiring ACVREP certificants and has advocated for the highest standards of professional service through the support of continuing education.

The following list includes, but is not limited to, areas in which an employer recognizes the value of certification:

1. The employer requires its vision rehabilitation staff to be ACVREP certified or to obtain ACVREP certification within a specific period of time.
2. The employer pays the five-year certification/recertification fees of those employed by the agency/organization.
3. The employer provides a salary increase for certified employees (ongoing or “bonus”).
4. The employer allows staff time to attend continuing education programs/activities and/or pays for continuing education related to recertification.

The winner of this year’s Outstanding Employer Award was the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired. The reasons why the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired received this award include:

1. They recognize the importance of employing individuals who have achieved a recognized level of education and experiences to ensure that quality services are delivered to their consumers. As such, they require all vision rehabilitation staff to be certified.
2. They reimburse those attaining certification for all costs incurred. They also reimburse their employees for the full cost of recertification as well. They even have a policy in place to support this!
3. They provide the opportunity for individuals to take the exam during work hours, even providing a state vehicle to drive to the test location.
4. They seek ACVREP approval for their workshops so that their employees can receive recertification points.
5. VRTs who are currently ACVREP certified or become certified in the future are eligible to receive a 2% salary increase.

The following 15 individuals were also recognized for being ACVREP certified in all three areas (Low Vision Therapy, Orientation and Mobility, and Vision Rehabilitation Therapy):

1. James Martin – AL
2. Sharon Ferrari - AZ
3. Patricia Wagner – CO
4. Laurie Hallman - GA
5. Sheila Davis - MO
6. Johannah Echevarria - NC
7. Brad Walker – NC

8. Michelle Viisola - NY
9. Ruth Bachman – OH
10. Amy Joos - OH
11. Nathan Tierney – OR
12. Roberta O'Rourke - PA
13. Christie Peel – PA
14. Robert Kozel - TX
15. Marjorie Hinds - WA

Hadley School For The Blind's Interest In Providing "Advanced" Online Courses For ACVREP Certificants – We Need Your Input!

At the AER International Conference, I had the privilege of meeting Chuck Young, President of the Hadley School for the Blind. I was explaining to Chuck that ACVREP certificants are now required to get their CE hours through ACVREP approved programs. In the past, many of our certificants have used the Hadley courses for recertification as they are free of charge and online (certificants can take and complete these courses at their own time and pace). However, the Hadley courses that are ACVREP approved and on the Continuing Education Opportunities page on our website are generally elementary in nature. Our certificants have expressed an interest in having more advanced Hadley courses available for continuing education credits.

Chuck was receptive to this idea and has asked for your input. **What types of advanced courses would you like Hadley to offer online? What would you like to learn more about (e.g., different eye diseases/disorders, new assistive technology devices/equipment, multiple disabilities, diabetes, resources for the blind and visually impaired, etc.)?** Please email Sharon Mikrut at smikrut@acvrep.org by September 1st. She will then submit all ideas to Chuck Young for his review and consideration.

ACVREP Exams Being Administered At The Envisions Conference in Kansas City, Missouri – PLEASE NOTE DATE AND TIME CHANGE!!!

ACVREP will be administering its exams at the Envision 06 Conference in Kansas City, Missouri (Westin Crown Center), on Sunday, September 24, 2006, from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., in the Mayor's Meeting Room. The administration of the exams will follow the last workshop at the Envision 06 conference, which begins on September 21st and ends on September 24th.

Individuals interested in taking one of ACVREP's exams should ensure that they submit an eligibility application no later than August 18, 2006. Please contact Sharon L. Mikrut at 520-887-6816 or smikrut@acvrep.org if you have any questions.

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?

Invitation

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) Public Policy Center is inviting applications for the 2007 AFB Policy and Research Internship program. Located in our nation's capital, the AFB Public Policy Center strives to expand possibilities for people with vision loss by advocating the formulation and implementation of federal legislative, regulatory, legal, research, and funding priorities honoring the capabilities and unique needs of children, working-age adults, and seniors who are blind or visually impaired. The purpose of these internships is to provide highly motivated individuals with professional-level exposure to, and practice with, the public policy and policy research process and an opportunity to apply specialized knowledge and skills in a dynamic environment.

Qualified Applicants

Candidates for these exciting learning experiences will possess a Bachelor's degree (or will attain the degree within the year) and be pursuing a graduate or professional course of study relating to special education, rehabilitation, law, public health, or a related human services discipline. All successful candidates will also possess a demonstrable commitment to people with vision loss or other disabilities.

Structure

The AFB Policy and Research Internships are designed to provide maximum flexibility while affording participants with a serious opportunity to learn and work with clear goals and expectations. Each internship will run at least six weeks. Internships will be scheduled throughout the year. Although specific projects will vary depending on the interests and emerging expertise of each successful candidate, activities common to all internships are likely to include

- meeting with key congressional and federal agency staff;
- scheduling Hill and other appointments;
- preparation of correspondence and briefing materials;
- drafting short newsletter articles and fact sheets for distribution via AFB's website;
- participation in coalition meetings within and outside the field of vision loss; and
- experience with tools and methods for conducting policy research.

Interns will be supervised by AFB's Director of Public Policy. Extensive mentoring by AFB Public Policy, Policy Research, and other professional staff will offer participants both support and guidance. It will be our pleasure to work with candidates to structure their individual internships to accommodate specific objectives, such as the attainment of academic credit for participation.

Preferred Internship Start Dates

Spring Term: February 5, 2007; March 5, 2007; April 2, 2007; April 30, 2007

Summer Term: May 29, 2007; June 25, 2007

Fall Term: September 4, 2007; October 1, 2007; October 29, 2007

Internship Awards

All internship participants will be offered housing through one of the local universities or other resources convenient to public transportation to and from the AFB Public Policy Center. Housing costs will be covered for each full week of participation. Participants will need to make their own travel arrangements and carry all other incidental costs which they may otherwise voluntarily incur. Subject to available funds or other contingencies, participants may be sponsored to attend conferences which may be held during the internship period, either in whole or in part, as mutually agreed upon.

Applications

To apply, send a resume or CV along with a letter of interest via e-mail to mrichert@afb.net. Your materials must include

- the academic program in which you are currently enrolled and/or which will commence within the year;
- any specific issues of particular interest to you which you would like to pursue during your internship;
- your preferred start date;
- at least one academic or professional reference; and
- an expression of your personal sense of how participation in the internship fits within your overall career objectives.

The deadline for applications for internships during the 2007 spring term (February 5, 2007; March 5, 2007; April 2, 2007; April 30, 2007) is September 30, 2006. However, applications for internships in the summer and fall terms are also welcome now.

Successful applicants will be notified within one month of receipt of a complete application.

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<http://www.afb.org>

AFB Announces Call for Nominations for 2007 Migel Medals and 2007 Access Awards

The American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) announces the invitation for nominations for its 2007 Migel Medals and 2007 Access Awards. The American Foundation for the Blind Migel Medal, the highest honor in the blindness field, was established in 1937 by the late M.C. Migel, the first chairperson of AFB, to honor professionals and volunteers whose dedication and achievements have significantly improved the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired.

The Migel Medal Awards consists of two categories, the Professional Award and the Lay Volunteer Award.

Professional Award nominees should be those whose career work significantly impacted services to people with vision loss on a national level. Prospective candidates include, but are not limited to, professionals with specific training and expertise in education, rehabilitation, assistive technology, vision rehabilitation, personnel preparation, administration, or related fields. They may work in the public or private sector and their work should span several years.

Lay Volunteer Award nominees may be volunteers or employees within the blindness and visual impairment field whose efforts have supported or extended service to people with vision loss. Professionals from other disciplines may include, but are not limited to, those who develop assistive technology equipment and software, health care devices, and improved medical services.

Nominations for AFB's Migel Medals are due by September 29, 2006 and should be e-mailed to Gil Johnson at gil@afb.net.

Access Awards

The Access Awards honor individuals, corporations, and organizations that are eliminating or substantially reducing inequities faced by people who are blind or visually impaired. Nominations for the AFB Access Awards should illustrate an exceptional and innovative effort that has improved the lives of people with vision loss by enhancing access to information, the environment, technology, education, or employment, including making mainstream products and services accessible. The effort should be one that has a national impact or can be a model for replication on a national level.

Nominations for AFB's Access awards are due by September 29, 2006 and should be e-mailed to Jacki Packer at jpacker@afb.net.

The award ceremonies will take place during the 2007 Josephine L. Taylor Leadership Institute, March 23-25, in Dallas, Texas.

For more information on the Migel Medal and Access Awards, visit the events section at <http://www.afb.org>.

William C. Hansen Elected Director Of Lions Clubs International

OAK BROOK, IL, USA— William C. Hansen of Rochester Hills, Michigan, USA, was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of The International Association of Lions Clubs at the association's 89th International Convention, held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, June 30-July 4, 2006.

As a member of the Lions Clubs International Board, Hansen will help govern the world's largest service club organization, with nearly 1.35 million members in 199 countries and geographical areas. Worldwide, Lions aid the blind and visually impaired, sponsor the world's largest drug abuse prevention curriculum, and support diabetes education and research.

Hansen will help oversee the Lions SightFirst II program, a US \$150 million effort to rid the world of preventable and reversible blindness. This unprecedented initiative joins Lions volunteers, leading blindness-prevention experts and blindness organizations in an effort to establish long-term solutions to eye health care problems through training eye care professionals, treatment, and public education.

A member of the Rochester Lions Club since 1988, Hansen has held many offices within the association.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards, including the Lions of Colorado Anne Sullivan Award, Lions of Colorado Humanitarian Service Award, Lions of Virginia Humanitarian Service Award, District 11-A2 H. L. Pocklington Award, Multiple District 49 Anne Sullivan Award for Humanitarian Service, Multiple District 11 S. A. Dodge Award and five International President's Certificates of Appreciation. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Hansen is active in numerous professional and community organizations, including the National Council of Private Agencies for the Blind and Visually Impaired, the International Guide Dog Federation, Assistance Dogs International, United States Council of Dog Guide Schools, and the Military Officers Association of America. In the past, Director Hansen served as commissioner of the Michigan Commission for the Blind, on the Rochester Hills Strategic Planning Committee, board member of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, and past president and past secretary of United States Council of Dog Guide Schools.

Hansen and his wife, Carole, also a Lion and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have one daughter, Lindy, who is also a Lion.

For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit www.lionsclubs.org.

VRT & O&M Job Openings – Phoenix, Arizona

The Rehabilitation Services Administration has positions open for itinerant Rehabilitation Teachers and Orientation & Mobility specialists working with blind and visually

impaired adults. Requirements include a Master's degree in each field or a related field and ACVREP certification or the ability to become certified. If you are interested in working in beautiful, sunny Arizona, please contact Joan Ellis at 602-266-9286 x7303 or email at jellis@azdes.gov.

Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist Job Opening – San Diego, California

The VA San Diego Healthcare System has a job opening for a Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS), GS-601-11/12 (Vacancy Announcement is MPA#06-175). The salary is GS-11: \$55,053 - \$71,572 per annum, GS-12: \$65,984 - \$85,775 per annum.

DUTIES: Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS) meets the special needs of our visually impaired population; to facilitate and enhance the accessibility of vision screening, low vision training and blind rehabilitation services to this population through outreach services. The incumbent manages and provides direct blind rehabilitation training services to eligible beneficiaries. The incumbent is a multi-skilled and experienced blind rehabilitation instructor who has advanced technical knowledge and competencies in at least two of the following disciplines at the journeyman level: Orientation and mobility, living skills, manual skills, and visual skills. A Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist has been cross-trained to acquire broadly based knowledge in each of these Blind Rehabilitation Center disciplines, plus computer access training (CAT). BROS represents a treatment option in the continuum of care for visually impaired veterans. Identifies, assesses, trains, manages and provides follow-up for clients using clinical resources of the facility. The incumbent is an active member of the interdisciplinary Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST), and interacts with all relevant services in the medical center, agencies of the VA and the community. In concert with VIST and other facility resources, the BROS is responsible for identifying beneficiaries who have blind rehabilitation training potential. Consults with VIST, VA and community clinics, VA and community Blind Rehabilitation Centers, state and local agencies and other community resources to locate potential qualifying patients. Selects, interprets and adapts traditional strategies in order to meet client needs. Develops an individualized rehabilitation-training plan for each client with rehabilitation potential. Consults with State, local and regional resources for information. Rehabilitation training will be designed to shorten waiting time and minimize use of the inpatient treatment at a Blind Rehabilitation Center. Maximizes client's rehabilitation potential by utilizing a wide variety of complex training aids and devices. Works closely with local VIST, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service and the local regional state rehabilitation agencies to fabricate, prescribe and obtain equipment for clients during their rehabilitation training. The incumbent administers a blind rehabilitation training program by creating necessary local policies, projecting and administering budgets, maintains equipment and supplies, documents treatment, outcomes and workload, writes reports, schedules patients, travels to and transports patient during treatment/training, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS: Degree: major study in an academic field related to the health sciences or allied sciences appropriate to the work of the position. Plus one (1) year of

specialized experience, equivalent to the next lower grade level, 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. Must possess a valid Driver License.

BASIS OF RATING: Qualified applicants may be evaluated on knowledge, skills, and other factors as measured by the following job-related elements and must be addressed as part of the application package:

1. Ability to teach in blind rehabilitation disciplines (skill areas).
2. Ability to organize, coordinate and manage the activities of the Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient program.
3. Ability to use assessment techniques in skill areas (orientation/mobility, living skills, low vision, manual skills, computer access training) to determine the rehabilitation needs of blinded veteran patients.
4. Ability to provide counseling to blinded veterans concerning blindness related issues.

NOTE: Targeted positions; (a) selection does not guarantee promotion to the target grade or any intervening grade, if appropriate; (b) all legal and regulatory requirements for promotion to the next higher grade must be met; and (c) subsequent promotion to the next higher grade is dependent on the selectee's demonstration of the ability to perform the duties of that grade to the satisfaction of the supervisor and the availability of enough work at the next higher grade to support the target position.

SUBSTITUTIONS: Permissible substitutions for experience (education and training) may be reviewed in Human Resources Management Service, Room 1545. See Qualification Standards Operating Manual.

TIME-IN-GRADE REQUIREMENTS: GS-11 and GS-12: One (1) year at or equivalent to the next lower grade level.

HOW TO APPLY: Comply with VAMC/HRM INST. 030104, Instructions to Applicants.

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

Read the job announcement, the eligibility, and qualification requirements for the position for which you are interested. If you feel you meet those requirements, comply with the following applicable instructions:

1. PERMANENT VA SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM EMPLOYEES:
 - a. Submit completed VAF 5-4078 by the closing date of the announcement. VAF 5-4676a, Employee Supplemental Qualification Statement, and VAF 5-4667b, Supervisory Appraisal of Employee for Promotion will be completed for all Wage Grade positions, and for GS positions when rating and ranking procedures are required.

b. Ensure that your Official Personnel Folder (OPF) is up-to date. Training or job experiences not recorded in your OPF should be documented on OF-612 or resume, and must be included with your application package for submission by the closing date of the announcement. This will assure that all your experiences, education, and qualifications are considered. A separate copy of this package should be submitted for filing in your OPF.

2. OTHER APPLICANTS: VRA (Veterans Recruitment Appointments), VEOA (Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1988), TRANSFER or REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBLES, PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC (for temporary positions) submit one of the following:

- a. OF-612, Optional Application for Federal Employment and OF-306, Declaration for Federal Employment, or;
- b. A resume or any written application format of your choice, which must include at minimum the items of information requested on OF-612 and OF-306. Forms may be accessed at www.opm.gov.

3. PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY/QUALIFICATIONS:

- a. VRA - Veterans must attach a copy of the most recent DD Form 214 that indicates the type of discharge received.
- b. To claim 10-point veterans preference, attach a copy of the Civil Service Preference Letter ("802 letter") issued from the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office within a year from the closing date of the announcement.
- c. VEOA - Veterans who have been separated under honorable conditions from the armed forces with substantially three or more years of continuous active service. Veterans must attach a copy of the most recent DD Form 214, which indicates the type of discharge received.
- d. TRANSFER OR REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBLES - Must include a copy of the most current SF-50 (Notification of Personnel Action), which identifies transfer or reinstatement eligibility.
- e. PERSON WITH DISABILITY - Must attach a copy of Schedule "A" certificate from The Department of Rehabilitation for the State of California within a year from the closing date of the announcement.
- f. ALL APPLICANTS - In cases where college level education is used as the basis to be eligible to apply or qualify for a position, you must attach a school transcript or a completed OPM Form 1170 for verification of college courses/degrees. Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications (particularly positions with

a positive education requirement.) Therefore, applicants must report only attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Applicants can verify accreditation at the following website: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>. All education claimed by applicants will be verified accordingly.

4. DRUG TEST: All applicants tentatively selected for VA employment (in a testing designated position) are subject to random urinalysis to screen for illegal drug use prior to appointment. Applicants who refuse to be tested will be denied employment. Appointment to the position will not be effected upon a verified positive drug test.

5. NOTE: Applications will be accepted for posted announcements only, and must be received by 4:00 PM on the closing date of the announcement. The application must contain the position title, corresponding announcement number, signature, and date. Applicants must meet all eligibility and qualification requirements as of the closing date of the announcement. Documents required by these instructions and in the announcement must be submitted by the closing date. Applications and any attached material will not be returned. Do not submit original documents that you may need in the future. Mail application to:

VA San Diego Healthcare System
Human Resources Management Service (05)
3350 La Jolla Village Drive
San Diego, CA 92161

Call (858) 552-8585, ext. 3401, for additional information. Applications sent in government-metered envelopes or sent by electronic transmission (fax) will not be processed.

Orientation & Mobility Instructor Job Opening – San Rafael, California

Guide Dogs for the Blind is seeking an Orientation and Mobility Instructor to develop and provide coursework in O&M, appropriate for all levels of staff in our Guide Dog Training Department. The incumbent will provide practical instruction as well as lectures to staff on both our California and Oregon Campus. In addition, the position may be requested to provide students in class at either campus with O&M consultation, advice, and training, and to conduct lectures on sighted guide techniques and other appropriate subjects. The Training Department O&M will assist in further developing programs for GDB clients and may also be called upon to provide O&M instruction to graduates as well as applicants when appropriate. The Training Department O&M may also provide instruction to staff participating in University programs. For a detailed job description, please click on this link: <http://www.guidedogs.com/career-O&MInstructor.html>.

Requirements: Graduate of AER Accredited University Orientation and Mobility Program at the Masters Level; at least 4 years practical O&M experience required, preferably instructing adult clients, or equivalent experience as a Guide Dog Mobility

Instructor; excellent planning, organizing, communications and public speaking skills; willing to travel up to 25% of the time. Experience in developing or teaching O&M courses highly desirable. ACVREP certified Low Vision Therapist (or comparable experience) also desirable.

How to Apply: Email your cover letter and resume to icareer@guidedogs.com.
Fax your cover letter and resume to 415-492-4196. Or, mail your cover letter and resume to the following address:
Guide Dogs for the Blind
Attention: Recruiting
P.O. Box 151200
San Rafael, CA 94915-1200

Blind Rehabilitation Specialist Job Opening – Manchester, New Hampshire

Blind Rehabilitation Specialist - Announcement #06H-11, GS-11/12.

DUTIES: The Blind Rehabilitation Specialist serves as the Visual Services Team (VIST) Coordinator and is responsible for planning, developing, implementing, directing, evaluating and controlling all services to visually impaired veterans and their families at this facility. Has full professional responsibility for visually impaired and blinded veterans' cases that are difficult and complex both in terms of severity of the visual impairment and the presence of complicating physical and emotional factors. Using professional and administrative skills, he/she makes VIST and other support staff aware of complex medical, rehabilitation, social, psychological, vocational and other economic factors which must be considered in developing a comprehensive and sensitive rehabilitation plan. Develops screening and procedural mechanisms that will identify this target population within the Medical Center's catchment area and maintains appropriate linkages with the medical center and the community in support of program goals and objectives. Provides professional assessment of health care and related needs and arranges for the full range of authorized health care services. Provides assistance to the medical and allied health staff with the acquisition and replacement of low vision and sensory aids required in effecting the blinded veteran's rehabilitation and/or daily living needs and orients the staff on the VIST Program. Makes home visits to the visually impaired, severely disabled veterans and counsels them and their families about benefits to which they are entitled. Develops and maintains effective working relationships with key medical center staff and community agencies to enhance the scope and functioning of the VIST program and to develop needed community support. Completes applications for all state and federal benefits, entitlements, and rehabilitation programs appropriate to each case. Maintains a VIST database on all identified veterans and meets VACO requirements for semi-annual and annual VIST reports. Develops and administers a formal systematic plan for evaluating the effectiveness of each phase of the VIST Program.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must meet the qualification requirements stated in the Qualification Standards Operating Manual for GS-601 General

Health Series and the “Group Coverage Qualification Standard for Professional and Scientific Positions”. Basic Requirement: 4 year degree with major in an academic field related to the health sciences or sciences appropriate to the work of the position.

GS-12: One year of specialized experience equivalent to a GS-11.

GS-11: One year of specialized experience equivalent to a GS-9.

Specialized experience: Applicants must demonstrate experience working independently, using sound working knowledge of the theories, principles, practices, and techniques of the treatment and rehabilitation of blindness; assessing needs and developing complex treatment plans; evaluating the psychosocial needs of blind patients and helping them in solving a broad range of physical, social, economic and emotional needs; demonstrated knowledge of the disease process as it relates to blindness and rehabilitation; knowledge of community resources in order to assist patient and families; working closely with other interdisciplinary team members to help patients receive maximum care benefits.

NOTE: Candidates will be evaluated on degree to which their specialized experience demonstrates the above and: (1) knowledge of the sociological, psychological and physiological aspects of blindness; (2.) Knowledge of and ability to use assessment techniques as they apply to blinded individuals; (3.) Ability to coordinate the delivery and assessment of outpatient services to blind veterans involving VA and non-VA resources. Candidates are encouraged to provide information, on a separate sheet of paper if necessary, describing experience related to these factors.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES: Current Manchester employees interested in being considered for this position should submit an E-mail or a memorandum expressing their interest through their supervisor to Human Resources Management, including supplemental information as described above. Others please submit a resume or application (VAF 10-2850c) to Mary Walker, HR Specialist (05), VA Medical Center, 718 Smyth Road, Manchester, NH 03104, FAX 603-626-6580 or Mary.Walker4@med.va.gov. Current VA employees please submit a copy of most recent “Notification of Personnel Action” (SF-50B) and most recent performance appraisal.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact Mary Walker, Human Resources Specialist at Ext. 6606.

Employment Specialist Job Opening – Manhattan, New York

Lighthouse International is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping people with all ages overcome the challenges of vision loss.

Job Summary: The Employment Specialist will provide supported employment services for a small program serving approximately 14 adult blind and visually impaired clients throughout Westchester County. Responsibilities include intake and assessment, service

coordination, pre-vocational counseling, job placement, job coaching and follow along services.

Requirements: Need caring, enthusiastic, sales-oriented candidate with Bachelor's degree in related area; one year marketing experience, preferably for job seekers with disabilities; excellent writing and computer skills. Must be available to work a flexible schedule including evenings, nights, and weekends if required. Must have a valid NYS driver's license.

Applicants must send resume with cover letter and salary requirements to Michael Young, HR Associate, Lighthouse International, 111 East 59th Street, NY, NY, 10022. MYoung@lighthouse.org. Fax (212) 821-9708.

Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Certified Orientation and Mobility Instructor Job Opening – Manhattan, New York

Job Summary: The dual certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapist/Orientation and Mobility Instructor will provide high quality consumer assessments utilizing approved agency interviews and instruments and identify individualized instructional and training needs for persons who are visually impaired. Responsibilities also include developing an individualized plan while providing necessary instruction to meet the client's needs in the areas of rehabilitation teaching and orientation and mobility. This will be done while working within other disciplines within program services and with the family, as required, in meeting the individual client's goals and objectives and in line with departmental and agency goals.

Requirements: The ideal candidate must have dual degrees (Bachelor's or Master's) in Rehabilitation Teaching and Orientation and Mobility from an accredited university. In addition, the candidate must hold both VRT and O&M Certification/License from ACVREP with a minimum of one year experience, preferably working with persons who are visually impaired and/or persons with multiple impairments. Must be available to work evenings and Saturdays, as assigned, and have a driver's license and/or access to a car. Bilingual in Spanish and English preferred.

Applicants must send resume with cover letter with salary requirements to Mike Young, HR Associate, Lighthouse International, 111 East 59th Street, NY, NY, 10022. MYoung@lighthouse.org. Fax (212) 821-9708.

Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist Job Opening – Cleveland, Ohio

The Cleveland Sight Center has a job opening for a COMS.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in orientation and mobility. Master's degree preferred. ACVREP certified or certifiable. Dual certification (Low Vision Therapist or Vision Rehabilitation Therapist) desirable.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Community-based position. Qualified individual provides assessment and instruction in skills that enable visually impaired adults and seniors to maximize their orientation and mobility skills.

SALARY: Commensurate with experience.

CONTACT: Human Resources, Cleveland Sight Center, 1909 East 101 Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; jpirnat@clevelandsightcenter.org.

Occupational Therapist Job Opening – Milwaukee, Wisconsin

We are seeking a full-time occupational therapist interested in low vision rehabilitation to join our vision rehabilitation team. We want strong occupational therapy skills. We will provide training in low vision and vision rehabilitation.

Job duties include providing low vision services in a clinical environment serving adults (primarily seniors) and working within a multidisciplinary vision rehabilitation team that includes social work, technology, occupational therapy, vision rehabilitation, and optometry.

Job requirements include a minimum of two years of experience as a licensed occupational therapist; a strong interest in low vision services and a willingness to learn; experience working with the older population; strong interpersonal skills; and a successful track record of working in a multidisciplinary team.

What Do We Offer?

A dynamic and growing organization and a work environment that employees consistently rate as positive highly satisfying.

Competitive salary and benefits.

Formal and informal training in the specialized services of vision rehabilitation.

The opportunity to have a tremendous positive impact on the lives of individuals dealing with vision loss.

Send resume with salary requirements to:

Badger Association of the Blind & Visually Impaired

Attn: Administration Director

912 N. Hawley Rd

Milwaukee, WI 53213

E-mail: jcline@badgerassoc.org

FAX: 414-615-0164

Website: www.badgerassoc.org

Vision Therapist Job Opening – Waukesha, Wisconsin

A Vision Therapist is needed for a school near Waukesha, WI. It is a part time position and is one day per week for 3 high school students. Please call Arlene Bell for more information at 1-800-877-7018, x435, or apply on line at www.mjcare.com.

Quote Of The Day!

“Defeat in this world is no disgrace if you fought well and fought for the right thing.” – Katherine Anne Porter