

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

NCECBVI Vision Statement:

Courageously leading a dynamic revolution in education.

NCECBVI Mission Statement:

To improve the learning of children who are blind or visually impaired through a commitment to communication, accountability, and leadership.

SPRING 2012



WELCOME TO SECOND SEMESTER

The Outreach Department at NCECBVI is excited about second semester and the services we are able to offer you and your students. Our staff is available to provide consultative, advisory, and technical assistance for students, families, educators, local education agencies, and educational service units on a statewide basis. We welcome you to contact us for assistance in meeting the needs of students who is blind or visually impaired in Nebraska ages birth through age 21.

A variety of educational assessments, evaluation and services are provided for students who are blind or visually impaired at local districts and on campus at the Center. A consultant is also available for MDT/IFSP/IEP participation and on-site workshops.

Additional information can be obtained from our website, www.ncecbvi.org.

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CONTACT THE OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

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NCECBVI

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NCECBVI Facebook Page.



SPRING FLING CONFERENCE: MARCH 22 - 23, 2012

Thursday—Friday
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Fee:
\$75.00 / 2 days
Registration Due:
March 2, 2012

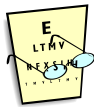
We hope to see you on the NCECBVI campus for our annual spring conference to be held March 22-23, 2012. This year's Spring Fling will focus on the topic of Low Vision and will be presented by Dr. Kelly Lusk. Dr. Lusk was most recently appointed as the Director of Education and Research for Project CLEAR (Children's Low Vision Education and Rehabilitation) and is an Assistant Professor at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Registration is currently available online at the NCECBVI website under "Professional Development."



Nebraska Instructional Resource Center (NIRC)

Federal Quota
Program
Registration
Deadline:
February 15

NIRC, located at NCECBVI, is a statewide depository of specialized materials for blind and visually impaired students in the state of Nebraska. From this site, Karen Duffy, Coordinator, and Kristie Chaney, Assistant, work to ensure that eligible blind and legally blind students are registered annually in the Federal Quota Program. As a reminder, the deadline for this year's Federal Quota Program is February 15, 2012. This program entitles students to books and educational aids purchased from the American Printing House for the Blind available at no charge to the school district when requested through NIRC. Partially sighted students listed with NIRC may also borrow materials that are shelved there and not currently in use. For more information regarding NIRC contact Karen or Kristie at (800) 826-4355.



Wednesday - Thursday
Fee: \$144
Registration Due :
February 27, 2012

Download registration form
online and mail or fax to
NCECBVI

LOW VISION CLINIC: MARCH 14-15, 2012

NCECBVI is pleased to host the Nebraska Children's Low Vision Clinic. Evaluations available include neuro-ophthalmology and optometry. Facility tours are available upon request; please let us know in advance if you are interested so that can be scheduled into your day on campus. The cost of the clinic is \$144 per child. At this cost, children may receive any or all evaluations. This rate is approved by the Nebraska Department of Education and is considered an allowable expenditure for special education reimbursement.

NEBRASKA REGIONAL BRAILLE CHALLENGE: FEBRUARY 29, 2012



Students in grades 1-12 will be participating in the 2012 Nebraska Regional Braille Challenge. This event will be held on the NCECBVI campus.

This is a great opportunity to encourage school-age Braille readers to highlight their Braille skills and perhaps qualify for the national competition. Prizes will be given to top award winners and ribbons will be presented to remaining participants.

The Nebraska Regional Braille Challenge is free for students who are Braille users.

Wednesday
9:00 a.m.

National Sponsors 2012:

- ◆ Braille Institute of America Inc.
- ◆ Humanware
- ◆ National Braille Press
- ◆ Seedlings Braille Books for Children
- ◆ Top Dot
- ◆ Perkins School for the Blind

EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKSHOP: MARCH 29, 2012



Mark your calendars for an Early Childhood Workshop focusing on the needs of infants and toddlers who are blind or visually impaired. The workshop will be held at ESU 11 in Holdrege. The presenter will be Candace Rehmeier, Outreach Consultant for NCECBVI. Topics to be presented include the following: common eye conditions associated with children and their 'red flags,' the role of the teacher of the visually impaired in orientation and mobility, simulation activities, tactile and visual supports, essential role of assessment, and accessing appropriate educational materials. Registration information is available online on the NCECBVI website under "Professional Development."

Wednesday
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Fee: \$50.00
Registration Due:
March 2, 2012



KAREN MARKUSSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Mrs. Markussen served as a teacher of the visually impaired in central Nebraska for many years. She passed away on July 16, 2006. It was her wish to assist teachers who are pursuing their degree to teach children with visual impairments in Nebraska. NCECBVI and NDE will be awarding a **\$500** scholarship to a teacher who is currently enrolled in the "senior" year of their vision endorsement program or orientation and mobility training program.

For Application:
www.ncecbvi.org
Application deadline:
February 20, 2012

For additional information or questions contact:

Sally Giittinger, Administrator
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Technology Workshop: February 20, 2012



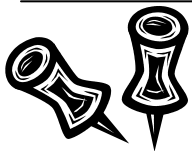
Join us for a Technology Workshop on the NCECBVI campus. The presenter for this one-day workshop is Bob Taylor from the Kansas State School for the Blind. Topics will include using iPads and IntelliTools with students with visual impairments. Registration information is available online on the NCECBVI website under "Professional Development." The cost for this workshop is \$60 and the deadline for registration is February 10.

Monday
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Fee: \$60
Registration Due:
February 10

VisionHub Google Group



Attention TVIs and O&M Staff! You are invited to become a member of the Nebraska VisionHub Google Group. If you are already a member, you know this is an informal and user-friendly resource which connects professionals serving students who are blind or visually impaired across the state. Feel free to ask questions, post a comment, or share an excellent resource that you feel would benefit your colleagues in Nebraska. To join, please email Tanya Hilligoss at thilligoss@esu4.net. Upon receiving your email, Tanya will send you an electronic "invitation" to join. Simply click on the link and you will become a member. What a wonderful connection between vision professionals in the state!



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Fall Foliage: October 18-19, 2012



Our featured presenter will be Ike Presley, Project Manager for the American Foundation for the Blind. Taking advantage of Mr. Presley's extensive background in assistive technology, he will lead participants in a two-day training featuring an assessment in assistive technology, as well as various categories of technology that are available and the rationale for using each with students.

Best Practices for Dual Media Readers

NCECBVI was pleased to host Dr. Frances Mary D'Andrea as a presenter for this year's Fall Foliage conference held in October. Dr. D'Andrea's presentation was titled, "Success with Braille and Print: Ensuring Positive Outcomes for Dual Media Readers." The following information was provided to conference participants; it is Dr. D'Andrea's list of best practices for dual media readers:

Ensure students have been fully assessed by a low vision clinic and best correction has been reached.

(Reminder: Low Vision Clinic at NCECBVI has been scheduled for March 14-15, 2012 . Look on our website or call for more information. Clinic dates for the 2012-2013 school year will be announced this spring).

- ✦ Ensure that recommendations of the clinical assessment have been followed up on, including prescription of low vision devices.
- ✦ Ensure that a comprehensive Functional Vision Assessment (FVA) has been conducted.
- ✦ Ensure that a comprehensive Learning Media Assessment (LMA) has been conducted. Understand the child's eye condition and implications of the eye condition well.
- ✦ Assess the reading rate, comprehension, size of print, distance from page, and fatigue factor of all types of learning media.
- ✦ Check factors that can influence visual performance and the child's ability to read print.
- ✦ Ensure students develop solid experiential and conceptual basis for literacy.
- ✦ Think about Cambourne's model of learning and teach within Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development.
- ✦ Structure early literacy experiences in the home so as not to rely solely on incidental experiences.
- ✦ Teach efficient use of both tactual and visual skills in real contexts.
- ✦ Teach students how to interpret pictures of increasing detail.
- ✦ Teach students how to interpret tactile graphics efficiently.
- ✦ Teach students how to use a variety of tools (both high tech and low tech).
- ✦ Provide training in and practice with the use of these devices.
- ✦ Provide instruction to increase fluency and stamina in reading.
- ✦ Teach functional applications of reading and writing skills.
- ✦ Ensure that the physical environment of the child's workspace is conducive to optimum learning (e.g. lighting, height of desk, position of monitor).
- ✦ Help students assume responsibility for gaining access to print media (i.e. promote self-advocacy).
- ✦ Teach efficient keyboarding and computer word processing skills with keyboard shortcuts.
- ✦ Involve the student whenever possible, in the decision-making process.
- ✦ Consider the child's likes and dislikes when discussing the use of assistive technology.
- ✦ Base decisions on real data—low vision evaluation, LMA, FVA, student progress, and student performance.
- ✦ Keep records of progress/student performance in *both* media.
- ✦ Provide lots of practice reading connected text!