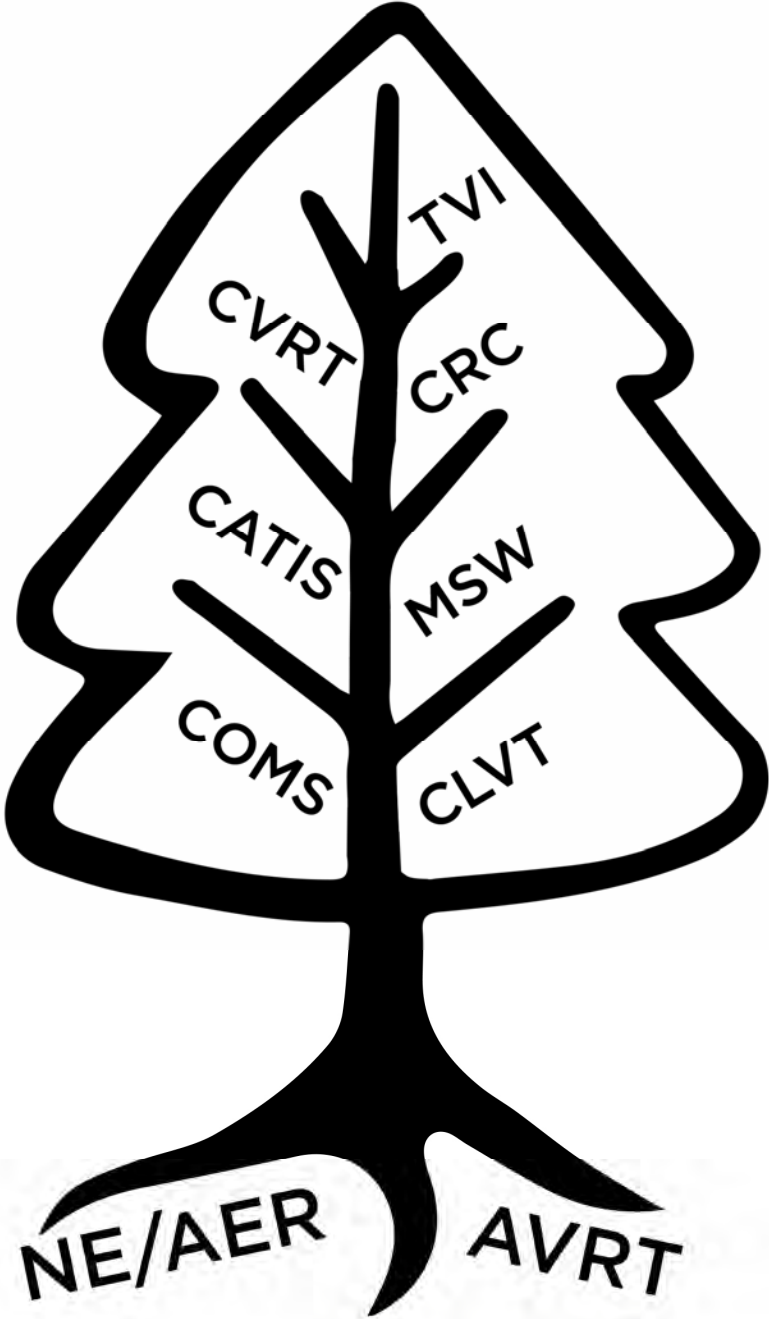


STRONG ROOTS... MANY ROUTES



NE/AER & AVRT 2023 Conference
Portland Maine

Annual NEAER Conference 2023 Agenda at a Glance

Wednesday November 1, 2023

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Registration
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Welcoming/ Opening Remarks (Salon D/E) Keynote Address - Evan Schwerbrock
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Break
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Concurrent Session (60 minutes)
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM	Boxed Lunch (Foyer/ Seating in Grand Ballroom Salon D/E)
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Concurrent Session (60 minutes)
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Coffee Break (Foyer)
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Concurrent Session (60 minutes)
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Concurrent Session (60 minutes)
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	President's Reception with Appetizers (Foyer)
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Awards Banquet + <u>Raffles</u> (Salon D/E)

Thursday, November 2, 2023

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	NE/AER Division Meetings (Salon D/E)
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	AVRT Business Meeting (Salon C)
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Break
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM	Vendor Sessions Open (Casco Bay Ballroom)
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Concurrent Session (60 minutes)
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Mid-Morning Break w/ Coffee and Melon (Foyer)
10:15 AM – 11:45 AM	Concurrent Session (90 minutes)
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Lunch- Fajita Bar (Foyer-Seating Salon D/E)
12:45 PM - 2:15 PM	Concurrent Session (90 minutes)
2:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Vendor/Poster Session (Casco Bay Ballroom)
2:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Coffee and Cookie Break (Casco Bay Ballroom)
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	<u>Vendor Session Raffles</u>(Casco Bay Ballroom)
3:45 PM – 5:15 PM	Concurrent Session (90 minutes)
5:30 PM-	Night on the town/ Walking Tours/Dinner at Seadog

Friday November 3, 2023

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Breakfast (Foyer/Seating in Salon D/E)
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	NE/AER Division Meetings (Salon D/E)
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Concurrent Session (60 minutes)
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Hotel Check out Break
10:00 AM – 10:30AM	Break- Protein Bars and Drinks (Foyer)
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Concurrent Session (90 minutes)
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Closing – Dr. Natalina Martiniello, CVRT (Salon D/E)
1:00PM –1:30PM	State Basket Raffles/ AVRT 50/50 Raffle (Salon D/E)

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Shelby Cotreau, NEAER

Samantha Green, NEAER

Katherine Herbert, NEAER

Barbara Schaffer, NEAER

From NE/AER and AVRT Presidents

The crisp fall air has been present these last few days, reminding us that the conference is not far away. This year is a special coming together of colleagues. AVRT and NE/AER are putting on a joint conference – a conference that comes from the strong roots of two professional organizations providing many routes of learning. The 2023 Portland, Maine conference, *Strong Roots... Many Routes* gives our joint memberships the opportunity to share their knowledge, network, and benefit from a shared space. This is an exciting prospect to broaden our horizons beyond our typical connections. We urge you to talk to someone new or attend a presentation outside of your field.

The annual conference has always been one of our greatest member benefits. Our organizations run through volunteers who plan the conference as well as sit on the board of directors. Consider what your strengths are and if you might be able to serve the organization by serving on a committee, presenting at upcoming conferences, writing for the newsletter, and participating in a leadership role.

Portland, Maine has so much to offer! We are excited to be in such a wonderful location. Take a moment to enjoy the beautiful waterfront views and fresh seafood, but tread carefully on the old cobblestone streets! Thursday night is a wonderful opportunity to explore the Old Port area with a group of colleagues or some new friends. A couple recommendations for dinner, consider DiMillo's on the Water or Portland Lobster Company – both are accessible and on the water.

Our many thanks to the fantastic conference committees who have worked so hard over the past year to pull this all together. You have all made such an astounding team – working with new people and overcoming hurdles! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Callie Brusegaard
NE/AER President

Ian Shadrick
AVRT President

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Callie Brusegaard

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Allie Fuddy

Heidi Munschy

Kelli Jaroz

Lori Cornelius

Vacancy (this could be you)

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John McMahon PhD, CVRT

Newsletter Editor:

Veronica Harrington, PhD., CVRT, CLVT

NEAER Committees

- **Awards & Recognition:** Donna Mitchell (this could be you next year!)
 - **Bylaws:** Judi Lambert
 - **Continuing Education:** Nancy Sharon, Brenda Gaffney Larkin
 - **Legislative:** Meg Robertson
 - **Membership:** Faith Horter
 - **Newsletter:** Courtney Wescott
 - **Nominations:** Cindy Reed-Brown
 - **Recruitment, Training and Retention:** Amy Mason
 - **Website:** Callie Brusegaard
 - **International District 4 Rep:** Nancy Sharon
-

NEAER Divisions

- **Administration:** Catherine Summ
 - **Rehabilitation Counseling and Employment:** Christine Telford
 - **Deafblind/MH:** Mary Johns
 - **Psychosocial Services:** Mary Tubbs
 - **Information and Technology:** Paul Tompson
 - **Low Vision:** Melissa Limberg and Jessica Gibson
 - **Infant/Preschool:** Tammy Reisman
 - **Orientation and Mobility:** Andrew Egan
 - **Education Curriculum and Itinerant Personnel:** Lori Cornelius
 - **Vision Rehabilitation Therapy:** Aisha Smith
 - **Division of Aging:** Hana Boxerman
 - **Personnel Prep:** Laura Bozeman
 - **International Services & Global Issues:** Callie Brusegaard
 - **Physical Activity & Recreation:** Melissa Underwood
 - **Neurological Visual Impairments:** Matt Tietjen
-

AVRT Committees

- **Awards & Recognition:** John McMahon, Jane Thompson
- **By-Laws:** Linda Fugate
- **Legislative:** John McMahon, Ian's Shadrick
- **Membership:** Marge LeBrick
- **Newsletter:** Veronica Harrington
- **Nominations:** John McMahon
- **Fundraising:** Jessica Caswell
- **Website:** Dennis Lang

NEAER/AVRT CONFERENCE, 2023**WEDNESDAY, November 1, 2023****KEYNOTE:****10:00 – 11:00 AM****Our Keynote Speaker is Evan Schwerbrock of Cane & Able Fitness**

Evan Charles Schwerbrock developed Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy in November of 2014, rendering him legally blind in two weeks. This led to some adaptations in his journey but not alterations. He went on to get his Master's Degree in Kinesiology with a concentration in Applied Exercise Physiology. He also earned many certifications including his CSCS, the gold-standard of fitness certifications.

Evan has worked as a college professor, rehabilitative exercise specialist, personal trainer, strength and conditioning coach and entrepreneur, often simultaneously. But his main passion lies in helping create applicable and accessible fitness content for the blind and visually impaired of the world with his company Cane and Able Fitness. In this role, he has performed seminars and consulted for programs and companies on an international level.

Evan tries to lead by example, avidly learning, exercising and competing in strength competitions. He has won strongman competitions including Illinois Strongest Man in 2019.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:15 – 12:15 PM (60 mins)

W1 Salon B	Cane and Able Fitness	Evan Schwerbrock
<p>Hear more from our keynote speaker and learn some of ways of modifying exercise for B/VI and being a great Training Partner.</p>		
W2 Salon E	VRT Expert Witness: Exploring Professional Opportunities Beyond Traditional Service Delivery	Lachelle Smith
<p>The role of the VRT practitioner is primarily thought of as providing education, skills training, and adjustment to visual impairment counseling to individuals who are blind/visually impaired, their support team, and among other related professionals serving the community. While this represents the foundation of VRT practice, the scope of work of the VRT should not be limited to that traditional model. Exploring professional opportunities that will cultivate a greater awareness, reach, and influence of VRT expertise will help preserve the profession. This presentation will discuss how VRTs can expand their professional opportunities by serving as an expert witness.</p>		
W3 Portland Room	Parenting While Blind	Allie Fuddy
<p>Diaper changes, diaper rash, breastfeeding, bottles, advocating with your pediatrician—no topic is off the table! This presentation will be focused on that most vulnerable time in any new parent’s journey- the first two years. Your confidence is low, the demands are high, and all those gadgets modern parents rely on were not designed for you. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of how to help support new parents with visual impairments.</p>		

W4 Salon A	Walk Your Own Path: A Mobility Mural	Shelby Glass
<p>Come together to learn how to make a Walk Your Own Path mobility mural– made from cane strokes and guide dog pawprints– in your community. By creating public art that is celebratory and accessible, this project acts as a gateway for advocacy, connecting sighted and visually impaired worlds.</p>		
W5 South Portland Room	LEAP Program	Sarah Kirby & Hannah Peach
<p>Join LEAP to learn about how to deliver effective and successful virtual programming! Program staff will share about how to develop engaging virtual curriculum that focuses on creating and fostering connections. Information will also include practical applications for virtual work readiness training.</p>		
W6 Salon C	How to Create an Accessible Board Game	Erika Teal
<p>This presentation will discuss how to modify popular board games to allow students - and adults! - with visual impairments to get the most out of the gaming experience. Participants will learn how to identify the most important elements of a game, then discuss a variety of modification techniques for each component. Then, participants will get to test their new knowledge by modifying a board game from a set of options.</p>		

12:15 – 1:00 Break- Box Lunches (Foyer)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:00 – 2:00 PM (60 minutes)

W7 Salon E	CVI Ally: An Academic Access Companion for Students with Brain-based Visual Impairments and Their Teams	Rachel Bennett, Nai Damato & Matt Tietjen.
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The presenters have been spending the past year on a book that will be a collaboration resource for students with CVI and their teams. The emphasis is on the ways in which CVI can impact the different “domains” of the school day (i.e. reading, math, science, music, art, etc.) both on a “surface” access level and a deeper conceptual level. This will be a summary of our work so far and how our thinking about CVI has developed as a result of our collaboration.

W8 Salon C	Empowering Deafblind	Jeri Cooper
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Empowering DeafBlind will demonstrate how to interact with individuals having both a vision and hearing loss. This workshop will show you simple tips to assist with communication, socializing, and interacting with those having a dual sensory loss. Together we can change stumbling blocks into steppingstones.

W10 Portland Room	Diversity Among Our Clientele	Tina Laffer
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Individuals who are blind are increasingly representing a diverse population. However, our professionals who work with them do not. This session will be interactive to discuss the dilemma this creates and how professionals may address this challenge. We will also discuss ways our professionals can proactively encourage more diversity among our professionals. The idea is that for the first 30 minutes, there will be a discussion on some topics that could be less familiar to teachers or instructors such as observing Ramadan, keeping a kosher kitchen, or hair care for all persons. The second half of the workshop would be identifying how we as professionals can bring more diversity to our field through various recruitment efforts.

W11 South Portland Room	Reevaluating Career Advancement in Vocational Rehabilitation Services	Dr. Ian Shadrick
<p>Despite efforts to improve employment, under-employment of persons with blindness or low vision remains a significant barrier. Career advancement is an often overlooked or under-utilized consideration for determining the need for employment services as part of vocational rehabilitation. Despite advancements and improvements in legislation this is still an issue facing persons seeking career advancement beyond their current employment. This session will discuss considerations for providing career advancement services in vocational rehabilitation. Innovations in employment services and job placement and development will be discussed.</p>		

W12 Salon A	The Adapted Low Vision Clinic at LLMCR – An Interdisciplinary Approach to Assessment for Children & Youth	Kelly White & Dr. Alexandra Fraser
<p>At the Lethbridge-Layton-McKay Rehabilitation Center, the Adapted Low Vision Clinic aims to provide an interdisciplinary approach to the assessment process of children's functional vision, with the close collaboration of optometry and occupational therapy. This presentation will share our assessment model, newly renovated adapted clinic space, as well as our collaboration with the children's treating clinicians.</p>		

2:00 – 2:15PM Coffee Break (Foyer)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2:15 – 3:15 PM (60 minutes)

W13 Salon C	Embracing Multiple Truths: An Honest Conversation About CVI	Matt Tietjen, Alicia Tucker, Rachel Bennett, & Nai Damato
<p>The CVI field is developing and expanding rapidly. It feels like there is more to learn every day, which can be both exciting and anxiety-producing for all of us, who want to know better in order to do better for our students. This is an opportunity to have an open conversation about the current state of our field and share where we are on our own CVI journey, including mistakes we have made and how we have learned from them. This facilitated discussion will emphasize vulnerability as a path to true collaboration with families and students.</p>		
W14 Portland Room	Rehabilitation Teaching from the Lived Experience Perspective	Mirrandra Williams & Goddest Thraikill
<p>As an individual who has the lived experience of living with multiple disabilities, primarily blindness, my co-presenter and I will tell the stories of how we became RTs in hopes that we can engage, educate, empower, and enrich.</p>		
W15 Salon E	Book Creator App 101: Using iPad Technology to Create Learning Tools for Students with CVI and Low Vision	Kim Carnegie & Anita Boothroyd
<p>This session will demonstrate how to use the Book Creator app to create learning tools with visual and audible components. Attendees will be presented with examples of digital books created to reinforce positional concepts, social skills, reading, travel skills and more. Attendees will have the opportunity to trial the app and create books of their own. After this interactive training, attendees will be able to create a story with photos, graphics and sounds that is unique to the needs of a student with visual impairment. This educational tool is especially helpful for working with children who have CVI and multiple disabilities.</p>		

W16 Salon A	Build Your Own Virtual Classroom	Molly Bryant
<p>Gone are the days of complete virtual learning, however, learn how to create your own customized virtual interactive classroom in this make and take workshop! View examples of virtual classrooms, create your own avatar, customize your classroom to create a central learning hub for your students who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Learn how to embed links to create a fun and interactive classroom, filled with informational sites, games, toys and more, for education teams, Para Educators, Transcriptionists, parents and students!</p>		

W17 Salon B	Successful Outcome from Separate vs Combined VR Services	Steve Kelley
<p>Maine passed LD 1339 to consider a combined Commission on Disabilities. This presentation will review research, such as Dr. Cavanaugh's, from NRTC, on the outcomes of service from separate vs combined VR services.</p>		

W18 South Portland Room	Big Data and Its Impact on Vision Rehabilitation	Dr. Pris Rogers
<p>For years our field has discussed the coming tsunami of older people with vision loss. With the Big Data project undertaken by VSA's Aging and Vision Loss National Coalition, we have data by state and county to help with planning service delivery on a national, state, and county level basis.</p>		

3:15 - 3:30 BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3:30 – 4:30 PM (60 minutes)

W19 Portland Room	Starting Off Strong: Vision Development/Impairment and Early Supports and Services	Lauren Baron
<p>Vision development begins in the womb, carrying on through childhood and adolescence. Differences in vision or ocular health can potentially impact development of visual skills, which can cause developmental delays in all areas. Find out how to support infants and toddlers with vision impairment through Early Supports and Services.</p>		
W20 Salon C	Following the Best Route for Providing Assistive Devices	Jennifer Ottowitz
<p>How do you provide assistive devices to clients when there are limited funds? Maybe you hesitate to provide information on devices you feel cannot be purchase, or get bogged down by requests to change batteries? This session will explore best practices for managing assistive devices along with creative solutions.</p>		
W21 Salon A	A Guide to Updated Recommendations for Remote Assistive Technology Services	Dr. Rachel Sessler Trinkowsky
<p>We will explore updated technologies to support remote AT instruction and services for people who are blind or who have low vision. This includes combining video conferencing software with remote tools for assessment, configuration, instruction, consultation, and supervisory services. Come learn and discuss best practices for remote AT services!</p>		
W22 Salon B	Envision Optical Magnification Training Program	Erin Weaver
<p>Participants will get a chance to look at a variety of magnification solutions and discuss how the Envision Kit can be used in a rehabilitation setting. Presenters will discuss focus group findings on the preferences of low vision transition students and adults using optical devices for near and</p>		

distance reading tasks. Take this opportunity to learn how optical magnification devices can help your students and clients.

W23 South Portland Room	VIBE: Visually Impaired and Blindness Empowerment	Cheryl Snow, Julia Bailey, & Deitra Woody
<p>Oklahoma DRS has instituted a one-week comprehensive assessment and training program that will jumpstart persons adjusting to vision loss in the areas of daily living skills, orientation and mobility and technology. Clients arrive at this program anxious and scared and leave empowered to regain their lives and fulfill their desire for employment. Two different curriculums designed to serve transition and adult clients. Come learn more about the week that changes lives.</p>		

W24 Salon E	Meaningful Social Engagements: Social Skills and Implications for Young Individuals with Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment	Burju Sari
<p>This workshop will describe the potential implications of developing and maintaining social skills for individuals with Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI). Individuals with CVI may have difficulties with attention to faces, facial recognition, understanding facial expressions, and body language. This often impacts their access to social interactions and engagement. In this workshop, we will explore strategies and techniques to best facilitate individuals' social development.</p>		



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THURSDAY, November 2, 2023

7:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast	Grand Ballroom Salon D/E
8:00 – 8:45 AM	NEAER Business Meeting	Grand Ballroom Salon D/E
8:00 – 8:45 AM	AVRT Business Meeting	Salon C

DIVISION MEETINGS- 7:15-8:00 AM

**Grand Ballroom
Salon D/E**

Low Vision
Personnel Prep <i>AND</i> International Services
Education Curriculum & Itinerant Personnel
Deafblind/MH
Administration

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:00-10:00 AM (60 minutes)

T1 Salon C	The ECC in Early Childhood	Dr. Callie Brusegaard
<p>Have you wondered how you can incorporate the ECC into your teaching with young children? This session will provide you with a basis for how to integrate each area of the ECC into your lessons with children aged 0-6 through play and daily routines. Ideas for caregivers to incorporate the ECC will be provided as well.</p>		

T2 Salon E	Getting on TOP of Countertop Cooking: Training Considerations, Options for Consumers/Students and Planning Lessons	Susan M. Dalton & Jennifer Ottowitz
<p>Discover why and when countertop appliances would be the best options, not just the trendy option, for our rookie cooks or elderly consumers. Learn various training considerations, adaptations for adults and youth, along with sample lesson plans you can use right away!</p>		

T3 Portland Room	CVI & Assistive Technology, A Starting Place	Allie Fuddy
<p>This presentation is meant to be a starting point for teachers working with children with CVI who feel lost on where to start when making assistive technology decisions for this population. Our primary focus will be on covering the basics on how to start thinking through robust assistive technology programming for a student with CVI. Topics will include what the law says, assessment, program planning, and how to think about tool selection.</p>		

T4 Salon B	Physical Skills for Assessment and Training	Andy Egan
<p>This will be a dive into key physical skills such as grip strength and coordination, balance and posture, and modifications that can be provided during lessons and assessment.</p>		

T5 South Portland Room	Applied Ethics: Traps, Decision Making and Dilemmas	Dr. John McMahon
<p>We all strive to deliver services in an ethical manner, but it can be inherently easy to fall into a variety of ethical traps along the way. This presentation will identify and explore four major ethical traps that rehabilitation professionals might encounter and introduce five steps for helping us make ethical decisions.</p>		

T6 Salon A	SBVI Partnership for Progress	Scott Vittner, et al.
<p>In this interactive program, participants will hear first-hand accounts of the positive impact of vocational rehabilitation agency supports available for transition-age students with blindness/low vision. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in some of the fun, hands-on activities that bring Granite State teens together every month.</p>		

10:00- 10:15 BREAK- Mid-Morning -Melon Coffee/Drinks (Foyer)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:15 – 11:45 AM (90 minutes)

T7 South Portland Room	Supporting Students with Combined Vision and Hearing Concerns (Deafblindness): High Quality Practices for Education	Dr. Tracy Evans Luiselli & Brenda Allair
<p>Students with combined vision and hearing differences (Deafblindness), including those with and without additional disabilities, face unique learning challenges. This session will provide educators with current research on the High-Quality Practices, including assessment and instructional strategies, that support the educational needs of all deafblind learners.</p>		

T8 Salon A	ECC Meets VRT Assessment Resource to Help TVIs Determine If Their Students are Eligible for VRT Services	Cathleen McGuire & Frankie Ann Marcille
<p>In this presentation, CVRT Cathleen McGuire and VRT Frankie Ann Marcille will outline the nine areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum and demonstrate how VRTs can support TVIs in teaching these necessary skills to school age students ages 5-18+. Through case studies and hands-on instruction, attendees will leave this presentation with a broader understanding of how the ECC and VRT go hand in hand as well as with resources to determine their student's eligibility for VRT services.</p>		

T9 Salon B	Switching-On Learning: Establishing Switch Skills for Students with Complex Vision and Bodies	Jennifer Stylianos & Melissa Beachum
<p>For students experiencing complex physical, visual and medical needs, we'll discuss a systematic approach to build motor and cognitive skills necessary for progressing switch access. We'll demonstrate switch features with real-life examples, along with mid and high-tech applications. FREE options and how-to handouts are included to easily replicate activities afterwards.</p>		
T10 Salon C	O&M and CVI: Just What is the Difference? (cont.)	Lori Spencer
<p>This is a continuation from last year's conference. How does O&M with students/clients with CVI differ from services with those that have ocular visual impairment? Presentation is part lecture and part group discussion so participants will have some new information and functional ideas for their O&M/CVI toolbox.</p>		
T11 Salon E	Do The Right Thing: Using your Code of Ethics to Solve Professional Dilemmas	Nancy Parkin-Bashizi
<p>Every day as professionals we face situations in which we may encounter an ethical dilemma. Understanding how your Code of Ethics may be applied to an ethical decision-making process can help you navigate these situations more confidently. This is a follow-up to 'Applied Ethics' by Dr. John McMahon (session T5).</p>		
T12 Portland Room	Perkins CVI Protocol: A Comprehensive Assessment Tool for Students with Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment	Ilse Willems
<p>The Perkins CVI Protocol is a new, inclusive, comprehensive, and ground-breaking assessment tool for students with CVI, based on the latest research in the field. This presentation will walk participants through the components and flow of the process and discuss the embedded learning opportunities that are based on the 16 assessment areas.</p>		

Internship Opportunities for Students and Professionals



Are you looking for an internship in the blindness profession? The Carroll Center for the Blind, located just outside of Boston, MA, is the perfect destination for you! Our beautiful campus offers comfortable room and board accommodations, providing an ideal environment for completing your internship in just 4 months (a minimum of 20 hours weekly). By the end of the program, you will be fully prepared to take and pass your ACVREP certification exam.

The Carroll Center offers three internship sessions each year, starting in January, May, and September, respectively. During the internship, students will take on the responsibility of managing their own caseload. This includes conducting assessments and creating personalized programming based on consumer objectives and current and projected skills.

The team at The Carroll Center is a dynamic group of professionals who closely collaborate to ensure a cohesive and positive experience for all consumers. They support not only the consumers' growth but also each other's professional development.



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MAY-AUGUST

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For more information visit

WWW.CCB.ORG

11:45 – 12:45 LUNCH BREAK- Fajita Bar (Foyer) Seating in Salon D/E

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

12:45 – 2:15PM (90Minutes)

T13 Salon E	Independent Living Skills: Preparing Students for Life	Amanda English & Stephanie Bissonette
<p>Independent Living Skills (ILS) are a critical component of the Expanded Core Curriculum. Explore the Michigan Department of Education-Low Incidence Outreach ILS Modules and ILS Checklists. Learn how to create your own parent partnership and find resources to expand your skills for teaching students how to manage their daily life, such as housework, hygiene, and time management.</p>		
T14 Salon B	Teaming Up for Success: Best Practices in Collaborative Assessment Vision Rehabilitation Therapy and Rehabilitation Counseling	Dr. Ian Shadrick
<p>Collaboration is vital for client success in rehabilitation and employment. VRTs demonstrate best practices establishing comprehensive assessments and resources for continued success in independence and employment. Recent legislation and the pandemic have reinforced the impact of VRT services. This session will present methods for assessment, service delivery, and reconsidering working age clients.</p>		
T15 South Portland Room	Welcome to Android: The Dark Side of Technology	Shannon Payne
<p>Come learn about the Android phone. Learn how to set up accessibility features and the Google Voice Assistant. You will also learn about several apps and a few basic Talkback and Magnifier gestures.</p>		

T16 Salon C	O&M Considerations for Individuals with CVI	Matt Tietjen, Rachel Bennett, Nai Damato, & Evelyn Furey
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We will explore the unique ways that CVI can impact a person from an orientation and mobility standpoint. Emphasis will be on deep visual processing issues like topographical agnosia, differences in motion processing, difficulty with spatial mapping, and more. We will explore both the potential impact and discuss intervention strategies.

T17 Salon A	Successful Employment Strategies for Individuals Who are Deafblind	Christine Telford
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Participants will increase their knowledge and skill to be able to support individuals who are DeafBlind achieve successful employment outcomes.

T18 Portland Room	A Peek Into the Relationship Between Blind/VI and Suicide	Dr. Henry J. Tyszka
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The B/VI suicide rate is virtually unknown as data on B/VI suicide rates is extremely rare. This study found stressors to which the B/VI have a heightened susceptibility and additional stressors that affect the B/VI in a manner unique to them.

Casco Bay Ballroom	
2:15 - 3:45 PM	Visit Our Vendors and Poster Sessions Cookies, Drinks and Coffee Break
3:30- 3:45 PM	Vendor Raffles

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

3:45 – 5:15 PM (90 mins)

T19 Salon A	Pathways for Students with Visual Impairments to STEM Careers Through Assessment, Access, and Activities	Erin Weaver
<p>A major barrier exists between STEM educators who do not have the pedagogical expertise to teach Students w/VI and TSVIs who do not understand the content well enough to support the student and the STEM educator. This workshop addresses barriers and the collaborative partnerships of vision professionals and STEM educators.</p>		
T20 Salon E	Let's Get Physical: Ways to Make Sports More Accessible for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Meghan Fink
<p>Physical activity provides multiple health benefits. Some of these benefits include maintaining a healthy body weight, healthy growth and development in young adults, increases thinking, learning, and judgement skills, and increases an overall well-being. There are multiple adapted sports available to the blind and visually impaired community. It is our job to provide knowledge to our clients about adaptations available for them to stay physically active. The goal of this presentation is to provide knowledge about adaptive sports, organizations and funding.</p>		
T21 Portland Room	AAC App Rundown! iOS ACC Application Options for Visual Accessibility.	Heather Gray & Melissa Beachum
<p>This session provides an overview of several common AAC iOS apps, including a discussion of the assessment decision-making process. We will view several settings that can and can not be modified within each app including button size, spacing, font, symbol options, movement, and background colors.</p>		

T22 Salon C	Cerebral/Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) Visual Behaviors as Addressed within Perkins CVI Protocols	Burju Sari
<p>This presentation will discuss visual perception and implications that may arise with Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI). Research from the field and functional examples will be integrated alongside the CVI visual behaviors within the Perkins CVI Protocol as it relates to the impact of visual accessibility and the use of valuable compensatory strategies. An overview of the essential components of the Perkins CVI Protocol will also be shared.</p>		

T23 South Portland Room	From Roots to Shoots: Planting the Seeds of Employment and Beyond with the APH ConnectCenter	Katie Frederick & Lori Scharff
<p>Individuals who work with transition youth, job curious adults who are blind or low vision or adults exploring retaining, entering or reentering the workforce as well as the professionals who work with them.</p>		



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- Educational services for students with multiple disabilities, ages 3-22
- Educating the whole child through individualized instruction
- Applying the Expanded Core Curriculum

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FRIDAY, November 3, 2023

7:30-9AM Breakfast (Foyer) Seating in Salon D/E

7:30-8:30AM NE/AER DIVISION MEETINGS Salon D/E

Orientation & Mobility
VRT <u>AND</u> Aging
Infant, Toddler & Preschool
Information & Technology
Neurological Vision Impairment

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:00 – 10:00 AM (60 mins)

F1 Salon C	Thinking Outside of the IEP: Fostering Effective Socialization Through Extracurricular Skill-Building Experiences	Courtney Wescott & Allison Bull
<p>Let's "think outside of the box" while conducting an LMA for students with complex needs. Learn how to determine the use of sensory channels, gather information about general media, including what is used for pre-symbolic learners and those with complex communication needs, and determine the learning media or dual mediums.</p>		
F2 Portland Room	More Than Knowing the Code, Techniques for Teaching Braille to Adults	Jennifer Ottowitz
<p>Learning braille may not be the primary goal you consider for adult consumers. However, benefits such as independence in identifying items and socialization with others through playing cards may result if even a few braille symbols are taught. Strategies and resources for adult braille instruction will be discussed.</p>		

F3 Salon E	Think Outside the Box for Learning Media Assessments for Students with Complex Needs	Dr. Callie Brusegaard & Tammy Reisman
<p>Let's "think outside of the box" while conducting an LMA for students with complex needs. Learn how to determine the use of sensory channels, gather information about general media, including what is used for pre-symbolic learners and those with complex communication needs, and determine the learning media or dual mediums.</p>		
F4 Salon B	Implicit Bias in Rehab	Steve Kelley
<p>What is implicit bias and how does it impact the rehab process? What bias does the employer bring to the interview? The counselor or therapist to the client? What bias does the client have about their own vision loss?</p>		
F5 Salon A	Visionary Leadership	Tina Laffer
<p>We all harness the power to not only educate but lead. This discussion will focus on the intersection of education and leadership and how it pertains to the vision field. After a dive into the history of the founding father of rehabilitation and an evaluation of his leadership style, we will learn how we could choose to follow in his footsteps and become leaders in our field, workplace, and community. At the closing we will take away methods to spark joy, ignite a passion for more, and innovate change.</p>		
F6 South Portland Room	What Now? Understanding How to Implement Recommendations from a CVI Assessment	Lacey Smith
<p>A CVI Assessment is a critical assessment that looks at the visual behaviors impacting an individual. After a thorough assessment, (i.e., after using the Perkins CVI Protocol), we need the confidence to embed recommendations throughout an individual's day. This presentation will share case studies on the implementation based on the assessment.</p>		

10:00 – 10:30 AM BREAK-Hotel Check Out Break

10:00 – 10:30 AM BREAK-Trail Mix/Fruit/ Protein Bars/Drinks (Foyer)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:30 – 12:00 PM (90 mins)

F7 Portland Room	Looking From the Inside Out	Elizabeth Myska & Michael Marciello
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We are VIPs-visually impaired professionals in the fields of law and medicine. We offer different perspectives and deploy different approaches and techniques. We will identify, describe and demonstrate the different trainings and the varied ways we have employed successfully. Our presentation will offer true insights to the sighted.

F8 Salon C	The Future of VRT	Daniel Norris
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An overview of the findings of the VRT SWOT (strengths, weakness, opportunity & threat) team survey, presentations at International AER & AVRT in 2022 and the current efforts of the VRT Strategic Planning Committee that AER Division 11 and AVRT have assembled. Group breakout discussion and strategic planning to occur during this meeting to help influence the Strategic Plan.

F9 South Portland Room	Improving Employment Outcomes: Strategies for Integrating Career Exploration and Work Skills Training into Vision Rehabilitation Programs	Nancy Parkin-Bashizi
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This workshop will introduce a model and roadmap for helping Vision Rehabilitation professionals learn to integrate career exploration and job readiness into their traditional skills development curriculums. The goal of using these strategies include increasing client engagement and improving employment outcomes while shortening the total Rehabilitation timeline

F10 Salon E	Beyond Mobility: Providing Effective and Meaningful O&M Services to Students with Significant Multiple Disabilities	Bri Killoran
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Where am I? Where am I going? How will I know when I get there? Students who do not ambulate through their environments and are visually-impaired are still continuously tasked with answering these questions. We will explore how to effectively deliver O&M services for students with complex needs and limited independent movement, including individualized methods to promote greater awareness, understanding and interaction within their school and community environments.

F11 Salon A	Causes, Prevention, and Intervention of Cytomegalovirus (CMV): Critical Information for Vision Professionals	Dr. Tracy Evans Luiselli & Brenda Allair
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Congenital Cytomegalovirus (CCMV) is a major cause of neurodevelopmental disabilities and sensory impairment in children. Using presentation and panel discussion methods, this workshop will address the causes of CCMV, effective prevention and intervention strategies for TVIs, Eye Care Providers, and Families, and the importance of universal screening.

**CLOSING SESSION:
12:00 – 1:00 PM (Salon D/E)**

CLOSING SPEAKER: Natalina Martiniello, Ph.D., CVRT, Immediate Past-President Braille Literacy Canada; Lecturer, University of Montreal

A Forest of Strong Foundations: Forging Infinite Routes together through allyship and empowerment:

It begins with a seed and a strong foundation. When Natalie was 17 years old, she lost the remainder of her sight overnight due to Glaucoma. Thanks to her parents' foresight in equipping her with essential non-visual skills, nothing changed. Like the many blind people before her, she continued to read, write and travel. It flourished into many branches, cultivated by the powerful allies she has met along these routes, from her earliest teachers and mentors to the blind leaders who boldly reclaim and redefine what society tells us it means to be blind. But how do we look beyond and transcend the confines of a single seed to cultivate an entire forest of strong foundations? IN this presentation, Natalie weaves stories from her own lived experiences and those of others to highlight how we hold the collective power to either shape and sustain or minimize and eliminate the disabling barriers encountered by others. Join Natalie as she elevates the essential and empowering role of allyship needed to advance equity and inclusion and to build sustainable forests of change.

1:00 – 1:30PM State Basket Raffles & AVRT 50/50 Raffle (Salon D/E)

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The New England Consortium on Deafblindness

A federally funded grant serving the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.



NEC provides virtual and on-site consultation and training for families and providers, information regarding evidence-based practices and family learning and networking activities.



Who Qualifies?

Child eligibility is determined by:

- Ages birth to 21
- Documented hearing AND vision loss
- Vision loss and suspected hearing loss (or the reverse)
- Progressive hearing or vision loss OR those at risk
- Cortical/Cerebral Vision Impairment
- Auditory Neuropathy/Auditory Dyssynchrony



Who Should I Refer?

Those with the following conditions may be at risk:

- CHARGE Syndrome, USHER Syndrome, Down Syndrome
- Congenital Cytomegalovirus, Hydrocephaly, Microcephaly
- Asphyxia, Severe Head Injury, Meningitis
- Complications of prematurity
- Frequent ear infections
- Global Developmental Delay
- Pediatric cancer treatment patients



What Services are Available?

Educational Consultants work with teams and families to address:

- Communication and language development
- Vision and hearing skills and related environmental arrangements
- Strategies to support successful early and later transitions
- Strategies to support access to the curriculum
- Strategies regarding home based routines

Contact us to learn more



Watertown, MA



NEC@Perkins.org



<https://www.perkins.org/nec/>

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New England Consortium on DeafBlindness <https://www.perkins.org/nec/>

Accessibyte <https://www.accessibyte.com>

Vispero/ Freedom Scientific <https://vispero.com>

Eschenbach Optik <https://eschenbach.com>

Maine Cite <https://mainecite.org>

Helen Keller National Center <https://www.helenkeller.org/hknc>

Mattingly Low Vision <http://mattinglylowvision.com>

National Braille Press www.nbp.org

New England Low Vision <https://nelowvision.com>

Perkins School for the Blind <https://www.perkins.org>

AYES (Accessible Pedestrian Signals) <https://www.eyes.ai>

American Printing House for the Blind and Visually Impaired www.aph.org

AdaptiVision lowvisionsource.com

UMass Boston Vision Studies [Vision Studies MEd - UMass Boston \(umb.edu\)](http://VisionStudiesMEd-UMassBoston.umb.edu)

Seedlings www.seedlings.org

MCB/DDS Partnership Project focusonvisionandvisionloss.org

View Plus <http://viewplus.com>

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