
The AER Voice



Welcome to the August 2021 issue of the Voice Volume 3, Issue 8

Last Chance to Save big on 12 CEs!

The [AER School Year Start-Up Summer Camp](#) is being held **this week** from August 3-5! Join us for 12 sessions, focused each day on different topics in the field. Tuesday is "[Outdoors Day](#)" with a focus on O&M, physical activity and recreation and inclusion in the outdoors. Wednesday is "[Indoors Day](#)" with four sessions around career resources, accessibility and virtual service delivery. Thursday is "[Opening Doors Day](#)" with sessions around transition, safe independent exploration and disclosing a visual disability.

AER members save on individual sessions, single day or three-day registrations. [Hurry and register soon](#) – these prices won't last after this week! Send any questions to [Megan Doty](#).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'm fairly sure that these are the "dog days of summer", but even my dog thinks it's too darn hot in Texas! I know that many of you are busy gearing up for the start of a new school year, and even I have a new adventure ahead of me. On Monday, my three-year-old grandson will begin attending a STEM Pre-K public school program. It makes me think about how early experiences will shape his and every other child's future. Each one of us wants the very best for every child. We have the opportunity to touch only so many in our lives, so let us strive to offer the best we can for each and every one. Be that teacher, neighbor, the friend that he or she will look back upon with fondness, gratitude, and respect for what you did to help them become who they were meant to be. I have memories of teachers who made a difference in my life, those who believed in me and encouraged me to strive for more. I am sure you do too. I have even been lucky enough to tell a couple of them what they meant to me. May the 21/22 school year be a success for all of you.

For many AER members, though, the first day of school is just another day on the calendar. Maybe August is a new fiscal year for your budget cycle, or time to assess performance for the last fiscal year and set goals for FY22. Nevertheless, August seems like a transition period to me. AER is no different. We are busy preparing for the 2022

International Conference, considering a move from an annual budget to a two-year cycle that better reflects how the organization functions, and looking forward to attending Summer Camp August 3,4 & 5 virtually through AER. The AER eLearning platform continues to be the go-to destination for information we all need to stay fresh, up-to-date, and energized. [Check it out!](#)

Neva Fairchild, President, AER
nfairchild@afb.org

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Updates from OIB-TAC!

IL OIB-TAC Virtual Conference Registration Open!

Please join us for our conference September 13-16. Visit our [Community of Practice](#) for information about each session and to register. Up to 8 CRC/ACVREP CEUs are available.

Back by popular demand, Michael Nye will offer [My Heart Is Not Blind: Voices of Older Blind](#) on September 13. This session offers compelling accounts of survival, adaptation, and heightened perspective. Through the gift of images and presence, each eloquent voice will draw us into deeper understanding. A live Q&A will follow the presentation. Read more about My Heart is Not Blind: Voices of Older Blind at conference registration.

IL OIB-TAC August Webinar

Join us for our August Webinar "Using Technology to Increase the Independence of Older Adults with Combined Hearing and Vision Loss" on Friday, August 20 at 2:00 p.m. CST. Learn more about DeafBlindness and the unique considerations for this population of older adults, including technology options. For more information and to register, visit our [Community of Practice event page](#).

Perkins E-Learning

AER members receive a 20% discount on the total cost of Perkins self-paced tutorials.

Each provides an opportunity to enhance your knowledge, skills and abilities, and job performance! AER members only may use the voucher code 20aer20 to take advantage of this member benefit and earn CE hours. Click here to get started: [Perkins Discounts](#)

Instructions: Select the tutorial. Add to your cart and when checking out enter code 20AER20 in the Voucher Box. Enter re-calculate and the discount will appear.

On the next screen, sign in (if you already have an account with Perkins Learning Center or Register if you do not yet have a Perkins Learning Center account.

On the final page, enter your AER member number in the Phone Number field. Your AER member number will be verified. If you encounter any problems or have any questions, please email perkins.elearning@perkins.org.

“In fundraiser for students with vision impairment, endurance athlete attempts to become first blind person to complete grueling trek around Mt. Rainier.”

Who: [Team See Possibilities](#) is a nonprofit organization founded by blind endurance athlete Dan Berlin and his guides that offers scholarships and mentoring to students with vision impairment. In October 2014, Dan became the first blind runner to cross the Grand Canyon and back nonstop and has since taken on many more endurance challenges, including a speed ascent of Mt. Kilimanjaro, a record-making trek on the Inca Trail to Macchu Picchu, several Boston Marathons and more. The team’s adventures have received [media coverage](#) around the world.

Mission: Team See Possibilities takes on endurance challenges around the world, meeting with and encouraging children who are blind to challenge their perceived limits. The goal is to inspire young people who are blind to set ambitious goals, and to challenge the low expectations our culture has of people with disabilities.

What: Dan and his guides go on epic endurance challenges never before done by an athlete who is blind, making history in iconic locations and supporting local efforts to work with children who are blind. The team is attempting to complete endurance challenges on seven continents and, so far, have successfully completed grueling feats in the Grand Canyon, Machu Picchu, Mt. Kilimanjaro, The Great Wall of China and New Zealand. If successful, Dan will become the first blind person documented to circumnavigate Mt. Rainier on the Wonderland Trail.

When: From **August 1 – 4, 2021**, Dan and his two Team See Possibilities guides will attempt their latest challenge: to complete a 93-mile circumnavigation of Mt. Rainier on the rugged Wonderland Trail in Washington State.

Impact: To date, Team See Possibilities has donated over \$250,000 to local schools and organizations working for societal change to ensure children who are blind have full opportunities. They also established the Team See Possibilities [Global Scholars Program](#) for students with vision impairment. There are currently 18 Scholars in the program who receive an annual \$5,000 scholarship, monthly mentoring sessions with Dan and other accomplished blind professionals, and a peer group that does not allow vision impairment to prevent them from setting ambitious goals.

Why? To inspire each individual, with or without disabilities, to go beyond their perceived limitations.

Hunter College, City University of New York: COVID Update

Hunter College programs in Blindness and Visual Impairments was able to hold its summer Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT) and Orientation and Mobility (O&M) labs in-person, after having to restructure during Summer 2020 due to COVID.



Our summer included twenty students and five instructors. The VRT kitchen labs were held in the adaptive kitchen of Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) in Sands Point, New York. HKNC is where our dorm students live during the two-week summer lab schedule.

Our VRT non-kitchen (e.g., sewing) activities were taught on Hunter Campus.



The O&M labs take place in and around HKNC and Hunter College's New York City campus on Park Avenue in the heart of Manhattan.

Hunter's O&M students learn to navigate the NYC subway, bus, and taxi system. We teach travel with wayfinding applications as well as traditional O&M strategies. We practice with accessible and traditional street crossing methods.



Hunter inspires young professionals to learn from the traditions, to embrace change and modern methods, to have fun, to be creative, and never lose one's desire to learn and grow.

For more information:

L. Beth Brady, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Special Education Department; Program Coordinator, Blind & Visual Impairments/ Severe & Multiple Disabilities - LBrady@hunter.cuny.edu

CHAPTER UPDATES

Northern Rockies AER Chapter

Save The Date! The Northern Rockies AER Chapter Conference will be held in Cody, Wyoming on October 26-28, 2021. Stay tuned for more information.

Northeast AER Annual Conference: Navigating Our Way Together

November 4, 2021- November 5, 2021 Virtual Online Conference

The conference committee is currently working on putting together a 2-day unique virtual conference full of engaging sessions with a virtual evening opportunity.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqeN7ja_CKEzNnb3zICwm6nMS1Ru4DTQ-3saM6nEGdTukj1A/viewform

DIVISION UPDATES

Multiple Disabilities and Deafblind

Session: The Impact of the Need for Closure for Students and Youth Who are Deafblind

Date: October 21, 2021

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm EDT

Register here: <https://aerelearning.org/courses/32835>

Earn 1.5 CEs! All are welcome to attend! This session will answer the questions:

- What is closure?
- Why do we want and need closure?
- What happens if we do not get closure?
- Why might lack of closure be a significant source of stress for children and youth who are deafblind?
- What can we do to provide closure for children and youth who are deafblind?

Description:

Join us as we continue a conversation begun during the 2021 Texas Symposium on Deafblind Education. Maurice Belote will share his thoughts on the basic human need for closure, the impact of lack of closure on individuals who are deafblind, and ways that service providers might reduce stress, identify motivators, and increase active engagement. A panel discussion featuring David Brown, Mary Gyori, Adam Graves, and Linda Mamer, and a member of the deafblind community will follow. Stay after the formal presentation for an opportunity to chat about this topic more informally.

WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!

Join us in welcoming the newest members, who joined AER in July 2021. We are glad to have you! [Newest AER Members!](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the new positions that are available in the field. There are many exciting jobs that are posted via the AER Job Exchange:

Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, MD
[Orientation and Mobility Supervisor](#)

Maryland School for the Blind, , Baltimore, MD
[Orientation and Mobility Specialist](#)

Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, MD
[Teacher – Itinerant TVI](#)

Maryland School for the Blind, Baltimore, MD
[Speech Language Pathologist](#)

For more jobs that are available, please visit: [Job Exchange](#)

The AER Voice is a monthly newsletter that serves as an information hub for members and offers an easy and dependable way of keeping current. This electronic newsletter includes AER updates, events, special announcements, useful tidbits and so much more. If you have news, resources, information, recipes, or any updates that you would like to share with the membership, please send them to AER at news@aerbvi.org. **Deadline for the August issue is 8/25/2021.**



[**Visit our website**](#)