

# The AER Voice



## Welcome to the June 2022 Issue of AER The Voice

Volume 4, Issue 6

### Sponsored By:



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

June is going to be such an exciting month at AER! We will be announcing the name of the new Executive Director, a new staff member and the 2022-2024 Board of Directors later this month.

A huge Thank You isn't enough for all the work the Executive Director Search Committee put forth to help the Board find our new Executive Director, so please send them a personal message, pat them on the back, buy them a cup of coffee or express your appreciation in some other way when you see them next. They found and vetted excellent candidates and developed a process that has worked extremely well. John McMahan (Chair), Tracey Wicken, Bill Wiener, Chris Tabb, Audrey Dannenberg, Carole Williams, and Jordi Stringer deserve kudos and a pat on the back from all of us.

Megan Doty has accepted a new position beginning June 1, and we will miss her here at AER. She takes with her an appreciation for our field, knowledge of digital accessibility and our deep appreciation for standing up a robust eLearning platform with well over 100 offerings for anyone who has a desire to learn more about the education and rehabilitation of people who are blind or have low vision. Thanks a million, Megan. Her successor will be announced soon. The new content from the Michigan and Wisconsin conferences can already be found on AER eLearning.

Elections for the Board of Directors are almost over. We still have a few Division Cluster Leaders to decide upon, but Officer and District Representatives have been chosen and will be announced later this month. The current Board and the New Board will gather at the AER International Conference for networking and training, and I will pass the gavel to Olaya at the end of the Business Meeting on Sunday, July 24. I hope you will be there.

Speaking of the International Conference, you still have time to register at the best rate, but only until June 19<sup>th</sup>. After that, you will pay late registration.

Our hotel block is almost full, so make your reservations quickly and plan to be in St. Louis on July 20<sup>th</sup> for Symposium Day and July 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> for the remainder of the conference. Exhibits are also filling up, so if your organization hasn't yet secured a booth, reach out to Michele or visit the website [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) and complete the Exhibitor form. Thank you very much to our Sponsors. Your support of AER and the important work our members do is so empowering. See you in St. Louis!

**Neva Fairchild, President, AERBVI**  
[nfairchild@afb.org](mailto:nfairchild@afb.org)

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## CONFERENCE CORNER!



**Are You Ready?**

**Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, MO**  
**July 20-24, 2022**  
**Gateway to Community**

Early bird prices are in effect until June 19, but don't wait until the last minute. Visit the conference website today:  
<https://s5.goeshow.com/aerbvi/bic/2022/index.cfm>

**And book your hotel!! The discount room block is almost sold out – so act quickly to receive the lowest possible rate on your Union Station hotel room.**

**Want more information on Exhibiting or Sponsorships?**  
**[We've got you covered!](#)**

**See you in St. Louis!**

[2022 AER International Conference Website](#)

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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### The AER eLearning Center

**Start Your Summer with CEs and AER!**

Looking to stay inside from the heat and earn some CE credits? Check out the AER eLearning Center for all your elearning needs! Earn credits and learn from colleagues from some of our courses below:

- [Videos & Presentation Slides in the Classroom](#)
- [CVI Companion Guide Implementation](#)
- [O&M College in South Africa: A Vision for the Future](#)
- [Work Smarter, Not Harder: Tips, Tricks and Resources for](#)

While you're online, make sure to [register for our upcoming in-person conference](#) – we can't wait to see you all again!

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### **National Job Postings on the NRTC Website**

The National Research & Training Center on Blindness & Low Vision is excited to announce our new online job board for professionals who serve individuals with blindness and low vision! We currently have listings for Vision Rehabilitation Therapists, O&M Specialists, VR Counselors, Assistive Technology Specialists, and more.

Are you interested in looking for available positions in the field? Visit our [job board](#) today!

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### **AER Member Benefit Spotlight! Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness**

As an AER benefit, members receive a subscription to the Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness (JVIB), the international peer-reviewed journal of record in the blindness field and the official journal of AER. JVIB is published by the American Foundation for the Blind six times a year. All membership categories except for Associate members qualify for the subscription.

[\*\*Click Here to Access the Journal \(JVIB\)\*\*](#)

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### **Predicting Assistive Technology Self-Efficacy in Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments**

You are invited to participate in a research study exploring *whether there is a relationship between TVIs' experiences and their assistive technology (AT) self-efficacy beliefs*. That is, do certain AT-related factors from TVIs' experiences play a role in their beliefs that they can perform the AT-specific duties necessary to support their students' successful use of AT?

This study is seeking TVIs who are licensed/certified/endorsed in at least 1 state in the US and also actively working as a TVI for the 2021-22 school year (including provisional licenses/emergency waivers). Dual-certified TVIs and TVIs working part-time TVI roles are eligible.

This 30-question online survey takes less than 15 minutes to complete. Upon completion of the survey, you will be able to enter yourself into a random drawing for one of five \$20 gift cards.

You can access the online survey by clicking on the following link: [https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_00oUInA5qnvmtwG](https://memphis.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_00oUInA5qnvmtwG)

Please share this invitation with your TVI colleagues and networks, as the more TVIs who respond to the survey, the more powerful the data can be in speaking to the state of AT in our field nationwide.

Email Allen Huang at [ahuang1@memphis.edu](mailto:ahuang1@memphis.edu) with any questions.

The study is anticipated to close on Friday, June 17, 2022.

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## Call for Proposals

We are excited to host the 2022 COSB Leadership Institute in person, October 4 - 5, 2022 in Louisville, KY! During the Institute, we want to learn from you through a series of workshops, panel discussions, training sessions, and seminars. We are interested in proposals that pertain to the following tracks:

- Emerging from COVID
- Innovative approaches to learning and technology
- Career Tech Education - building skills for technology-based careers
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
- Best practices for managing people
- Combatting the Great Resignation
- CVI resources and treatments
- ECC tools and resources
- Transition programs
- Fundraising and managing foundations
- Expanding your leadership toolkit

Please **[SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL](#)** by July 1, 2022. After the submission deadline, the Institute Planning Committee will review all proposals and we will let you know whether or not your session was selected.

For more information, contact the COSB executive director, Joy Harris, at [joy.harris@cosbvi.org](mailto:joy.harris@cosbvi.org) or call 609-273-4385.

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### Coming soon!

The first module of an important new series for educators from NCDB will provide practical, need-to-know information essential for working with children who are deaf-blind.

Make plans now to add it to your PD program!

<https://youtu.be/uURabrmxuGE>

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## 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](mailto:perkins.elearning@perkins.org).

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AER publishes and distributes several books that help practitioners work more effectively and contribute to the understanding of the field of blindness and visual impairment. Please visit the [AER Store](#) to purchase these books. AER members receive substantial discounts.

**[Orientation & Mobility: Techniques for Independence 2nd Edition](#)** (Cat. No. A005.1)

By Steven J. La Grow and Richard G. Long

The skills, techniques, and sequence of instruction presented in this book may be required by individuals who have experienced a loss in independence following significant vision impairment and wish to regain the ability to travel independently in many environments. Human guide, self-protective, directional, familiarization, and cane techniques are described, as are strategies for indoor and outdoor travel, including those required for crossing streets, planning routes, and using public transport. (c) 2011

**[Study Guide for the Low Vision Therapist Examination](#)** (Cat. No, A006)

Prepares test takers of the ACVREP Low Vision Therapist Examination with the material found in the Body of Knowledge developed by the Low Vision Division of AER. (c) 2008

**[Preschool Orientation and Mobility Screening 2nd Edition](#)** (Cat. No. A008)

By Bonnie Dodson-Burk and Christine Roman-Lantzy

This resource is designed to catalog a child's current level of function in a basic O&M task, identify areas in need of further assessment, recognize basic programming needs, and serve as a source in providing information to identify the need for services. (c) 2012

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## WELCOME TO THE NEWEST AER MEMBERS!

Join us in welcoming the newest members, who joined AER in May 2022. We are glad to have you!

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## 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:

**[Associate Director of Outreach – Early Intervention/Childhood Special Education \(EI/ECSE\)](#)**

Washington

Washington State School for the Blind

**[Chief Financial and Business Services Officer](#)**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Overbrook School for the Blind

**[Early Childhood Classroom Teacher](#)**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Early Childhood Program

**[Access Technology Specialist](#)**

Cincinnati, Ohio

Cincinnati Association for the Blind

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

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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](mailto:news@aerbvi.org).

**The deadline for the June issue is 7/25/2022.**



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