**Vision Summit**

for Parents and Educators of Children

with Visual Impairment/Blindness

April 29, 2013

## Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center

**2601 S. Providence Road**

**Columbia, Missouri 65203**

**-program partners-**

**Blind Task Force of Missouri**

**Missouri School for the Blind**

**Rehabilitation Services for the Blind**

**Missouri Council of the Blind**

**Missouri Guide Dog Users**

**St. Louis Society for the Blind**

**Lighthouse for the Blind St. Louis**



4- Kansas City Royals Baseball tickets

2 – St. Louis Cardinal baseball tickets

A variety of Restaurant Gift Cards

And many more items.

Thanks to all that donated to our great event:

KC Royals Organization

Bank of Advance

Bank of Missouri

MSB Alumni Association

Missouri Council of the Blind

Service Club for the Blind Inc.

Denny’s Restaurant

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 9:00 - 9:30 am | Registration Continental Breakfast |  |
| 9:30 - 10:30 am | Welcome/Introduction of Keynote Speaker: Stephen Barr *Stephen Barr, Ph.D., is the Assistant Commissioner of Special Education, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.* Keynote Speaker: Karen BlankenshipThe Transition from Birth to Positive Adult Outcomes:The Importance of the Expanded Core Curriculum The keynote address will discuss the effective instructional continuum in the ECC from birth to adulthood to improve adult outcomes. The keynote will address the critical skill set needed for positive adult outcomes and how each educational partner has a role to play. Current transitional data will be shared for children and youth who are blind or visually impaired and the disconnect between some data points and the low employment rate will be explored.  ***Karen E. Blankenship****, Ph.D., CTVI is an assistant professor of the practice at Vanderbilt University in the Program in Visual Disabilities. Karen completed her Ph.D. with Dr. Anne Corn at Vanderbilt. Karen is currently professional chair of the National Agenda, chair of AER Division 10, Education & Curriculum, and president of the Tennessee Chapter of AER.* | |
| 10:30 - 10:45 am | Break | |
| BREAKOUT SESSION I10:45 - 11:30 am | **(choose one session to attend)**  **Transition and the IEP**  Kent Kolaga  This session takes a look at the transition requirements in IDEA and the resources beyond the high school diploma. Your student is nearing graduation. A happy time, but what about after graduation? Transition planning will help answer those questions. Where in the IEP should transition be addressed and what should be included for effective transition planning?  ***Kent Kolaga*** *has more than  50 years experience as a blind student, teacher, advocate, and consultant for both special education, rehabilitation programs, and students and their families. For the past 13 years he has worked as a Children’s Specialist for Missouri Rehabilitation Services for the Blind.*  **An Introduction to the Braille Code**  Aundrayah Shermer and Anthony Blades  This workshop is designed to provide information for parents/educators interested in knowing more about Braille. Participants will learn how to load a brailler and use a slate and stylus. The basic fundamentals of Braille will be emphasized. Parents, paraprofessionals, and anyone else interested in learning about Braille are invited to attend. Participants should bring a brailler and slate/stylus if possible.  The Blindness Skills Specialists are available to help teachers modify and design instruction in all subject areas including the expanded core curriculum unique to students who are visually impaired. The primary goal of the Blindness Skills Specialist program is to enhance the educational performance of students who are blind or visually impaired.  ***Aundrayah Shermer*** *has been the Blindness Skills Specialist based at Missouri State University for the past 10 years. She has 20 years experience as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Aundrayah primarily serves the Southwest region of Missouri.*  ***Anthony Blades*** *has been the Blindness Skills Specialist based at Truman State University* *for the past 9 years. He has 25 years experience as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) and as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Anthony primarily serves the Northeast/North Central part of the state.*  **Going to College? Are You Ready?**  Barbara Hammer  The presentation will focus on what students with disabilities need to know to prepare for college.  Highlights include an overview of the differences in services between high school and college, a review of the laws and regulations, and current practices with respect to documentation requirements.  The presentation will also include a discussion of the importance of self-determination.  Information will be shared regarding the process students follow to request accommodations at the University of Missouri.  ***Barbara Hammer*** *is the Director of the Office of Disability Services at the University of Missouri.  Barb has 12 years of experience in disability services in higher education, and more than 30 years in the field of disability services in general (public and private sector).  She is a seasoned counselor and consultant and has a wide range of experience in the areas of education and employment of persons with disabilities.  Her interests are in universal design in education, study abroad, and technology accessibility.  She is a member of the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD), is Vice-President of the Missouri chapter (MOAHEAD) and is a member of the Board of Directors* for *Services for Independent Living in Columbia.* | |
| 11:30 - 12:45 pm | Luncheon and Speaker: Chip Hailey Exploring Horizons Beyond the Imagination  ***Chip Hailey****, our luncheon speaker,* will address the importance of "Exploring Horizons Beyond the Imagination" by using communication skills and mobility/orientation to engage the resources and opportunities available in your community; explore your abilities and come to a higher level of acceptance and understanding of your strengths and needs; develop personal and social skills to a level that will permit integration and independence.  *Chip is a highly successful blind man. As a motivational speaker, he has shared his life-story for more than twenty-five years. He was licensed as an ordained minister in 1983. Chip has been employed at the Joplin Independent Living Center since 1996. Chip served in the following positions: President of the Missouri Council of the Blind, 2000-04, on the Statewide Rehabilitation Council, 1994-96, as co-chairman of the Joplin ADA Access Committee and as chairman of the subcommittee on signage, interpretations, and public notices of the Joplin ADA Access Committee, as chairman of the Joplin Public Library Access Committee, on the Missouri Council of the Blind on a local, state, and national level. Currently Mr. Hailey serves on the Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council, the Wolfner Advisory Council, and the RSVP Advisory Council for Southwest Missouri.* | |
| 12:45-1:00 pm | Break | |
| BREAKOUT SESSION II1:00-1:45 pm | **(choose one session to attend)**  **Perspectives on Least Restrictive Environment:**  John Cary, Diana Lawson and Patty Yocum  This session is a panel discussion about how IEP teams determine Least Restrictive Environment for visually impaired children. The focus will be on considerations for program planning for VI students as it relates in particular to LRE and transition. The panel will provide information and answer questions parents/educators may have about IEP team determination of least restrictive environment, the expanded core curriculum for blind/visually impaired students, and considerations for transition programming.  ***John Cary*** *is the Superintendent of Special School District (SSD) of St. Louis County, MO which serves PK-12 students with disabilities. SSD's enrollment is currently 26,380 students. John began his career in education teaching work skills/ coordinating job placements for students with moderate to severe disabilities. His background also includes positions as secondary principal and superintendent in small and large public schools. He was the CEO of Melville School District and also vice president at Banc of America Securities LLC for four years where he was involved in advising school districts on bond issues. He was appointed superintendent of SSD in July 2007.*  ***Diana Lawson*** *is the Special Education/ 504/ ELL administrator for the Advance RIV School District.  She has been involved in Special Education since 1992 as a Paraprofessional, Elementary, Junior High, and High School Special Education Teacher. She became a district-wide administrator in 2006.*  ***Patty Yocum*** *is the Superintendent for Missouri School for the Blind, St. Louis, MO. She has been involved in K-12 education for 34 years. Her background includes public school speech therapy, classroom teacher, special education administrator, principal, and superintendent. She joined the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education 2008 as the Director of Special Education Compliance for State Board Operated Schools. She was appointed superintendent at MSB in 2009.*  **Exploring Low Vision Through the Use of Simulators, AMDs, and Canes:** Tim Cobb  This presentation will focus on the use of AMD’s (Adaptive Mobility Devices) and long canes. Simulators will be used in this interactive experience. Participants will be able to experience different visual impairments for a better understanding of how a person "sees" with a particular visual impairment and how the person is able to function with adaptive tools (canes) to promote independence in travel.  ***Tim Cobb*** *is an O&M teacher at Missouri School for the Blind. He is also the Athletic Director and coaches track and field, goal ball, and wrestling. Mr. Cobb has been at MSB for 11 year~~s~~ and is a member of AER, MO AER and St. Louis C.O.M.S. Mr. Cobb also coaches the International Blind Track Team for the United Association of Blind Athletes (USABA).*  **Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB)**  Michael St. Julien  In this presentation services provided by Rehabilitation Services for the Blind for transition aged-youth will be discussed.  In addition, Mr. St. Julian will share his personal experience not only about things he has learned over the years as a teacher and O&M instructor, but also as a client of vocational rehabilitation services.  ***Michael St. Julian*** *is the Assistant Deputy Director for Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) where he is responsible for Field Services. Mr. St. Julian worked in the field for 14 years as an Orientation and Mobility Instructor at New Mexico Commission for the Blind, Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, and South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind. He also has experience in various states with STEP program providing services to transition- aged clients for summer job training, LEADERS providing summer training for transition-aged youth, and BUDDIES program (below age 14) teaching O&M skills.  He was also the Post Secondary Program Coordinator at Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.* | |
| 1:45 - 2:00 pm | Break | |
| Break Out Session III **2:00--2:45** | **(choose one session to attend)**  **Advancements in Technology for Students in Transition**  Ian Shadrick  This presentation will focus on recent advancements in technology for transition age students. Mr. Shadrick will demonstrate mobile technologies that can be used in academic, employment, and leisure  environments, including iPad, iPhone, and iPod applications, as well as basic navigational applications.  ***Ian Shadrick*** *is an instructor for graduate programs in Blindness & Low Vision and Orientation & Mobility at Missouri State University (MSU), Springfield, MO. Prior to employment at MSU, he worked as a vision rehabilitation therapist and rehabilitation counselor with the Michigan Commission for the Blind, and spent three years as an instructor in the Department of Blindness & Low Vision Studies at Western Michigan University. Ian is currently Chair-Elect of Division 11 (VRT) of AER and is also President-Elect of the Missouri Chapter of AER.*  **Lighthouse for the Blind**  John Thompson The Mission of the Lighthouse for the Blind – St. Louis is to assist individuals who are legally blind maintain dignity and independence by making available employment, education, and support services. Mr. Thompson will be presenting information about the Lighthouse programs, including a new comprehensive low vision evaluation program for children ages 2 ½ up to about age 8. The program includes the evaluation at no charge and also "the solution" with follow-up training by teaching professionals. Mr. Thompson will provide information on the Lighthouse funded for programs and services available to parents/students with visual impairment.    ***John Thompson*** *has been the President/CEO of the Lighthouse for the Blind (LHB) in St. Louis, Mo since 2000.   Currently LHB operates two manufacturing plants in St. Louis – a medical packaging plant and a chemical packaging plant. LHB offers a variety of employment opportunities, education and support services for blind and visually impaired individuals. With just over 100 employees, more than 70 individuals are legally blind.*    **Transition in the Early Years**  Pam Thomas and Louise Whitworth  This session will focus on early identification and services available for visually impaired infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.   In addition, transitioning from First Steps/MoSPIN early intervention programs to Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program in public schools will be discussed.    ***Pam Thomas*** *is the Coordinator of the First Steps Program for the Office of Special Education, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).  Pam will present information on specific programs and services for young children with developmental disabilities.   Pam has worked for the DESE for 6 years.   She has 11 years of experience with programs for young children with disabilities, including experience as a First Steps service coordinator.*  ***Louise Whitworth*** *is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) with more than 20 years of teaching experience for grades Pre-K through college. She is currently employed as a TVI for Jefferson City Public Schools. Ms. Whitworth is also a Mo-Spin parent advisor and a member of the Mo. Blind Task Force. As a parent of a visually impaired child, Ms. Whitworth has personal experience with early services for children with visual impairments.* | |
| 2:45 - 3:00 pm | Break | |
| 3:00 - 3:45 pm | Closing Session: Karen BlankenshipThe Effective Instructional Continuum for theExpanded Core Curriculum and Why It Matters This short session will provide the audience with a research-based instructional continuum and the applicability to the ECC and positive adult outcomes. | |
| 3:45 - 4:00 pm | Wrap Up/Door Prizes - Patti Schonlau ***Patti Schonlau*** is currently the Chair of the Missouri Blind Task Force and President of the Missouri Council of the Blind. She teaches Activities of Daily Living and vocal music at Missouri School for the Blind. | |

**List of Vendors**

**2013 Summit for Parents &**

**Educators of Children with**

**Visual Impairments/Blindness**

**Alphapointe**

7501 Prospect

Kansas City, MO 64132

Phone: 816-421-5848

Fax: 816-237-2065

Email: [sbaker@alphapointe.org](mailto:sbaker@alphapointe.org)

[cberry@alphapointe.org](mailto:cberry@alphapointe.org)

Contact Person: Shelly Baker or Clay Berry

Alphapointe provides services to people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired. Located in Kansas City MO, we are the largest employer of visually impaired persons in MO. We are the only comprehensive rehabilitation and education agency in the state. Services for youth include Adventure and Technology Camp, Summer Transitional Employment Program (STEP), College Prep Program, comprehensive vision rehabilitation, and low vision clinic.

**Children’s Center for the Visually Impaired**

3101 Main Street

Kansas City MO 64111

Phone: 816-841-2284

Fax: 816-753-7836

Email: [nwood@ccvi.org](mailto:nwood@ccvi.org)

Contact: Nicole Wood

CCVI offers a comprehensive program, including individualized therapy, consulting services and supportive family education. Services are provided beginning in infancy through our home-based Infant Program, and continue on with our Preschool & Kindergarten classes, preparing children for entry into the public or private school system. Specialized services include Braille instruction, orientation & mobility, deaf/blind services, assistive technology, low vision training, speech, occupational, physical and aquatic therapies and family support. CCVI also provides itinerant and consulting services to area school districts.

**Delta Gamma Center for Children**

With Visual Impairments

1750 South Big Bend Blvd.

Richmond Heights, MO 63117

Phone: 314-776-1300

Fax: 314-776-7808

Email: [dchapuis@dgckids.org](mailto:dchapuis@dgckids.org)

Contact: Debbie Chapuis

A professional staff of certified educators; therapists and specialists provide a wide range of highly specialized services to children with diagnosed visual impairments; including those with additional disabilities. Family support services are offered.

**Governor’s Council on Disability**

P. O. Box 1668

Jefferson City MO 65102

Phone: 573-751-2600

Fax” 573-526-4109

Email: [dawn.evans@oa.mo.gov](mailto:dawn.evans@oa.mo.gov)

Contact Person: Dawn Evans

GCD is a state agency that provides resources, referrals and education to people with disabilities.

**Lighthouse for the Blind**

10440 Trenton Avenue

St. Louis MO 63132

Phone: 314-423-4333

Fax: 314-423-6918

Contact Person: Angie York

The Lighthouse for the Blind’s See the Future programs provide assistance to students in areas of technology adaptations, activities of daily living skill development, professional career development for professionals in the field of vision, scholarships to educational and recreational camps, older adult assistance with low vision aids and a mobile low vision clinic.. These programs are available for those that are blind, legally blind or visually impaired. Our programs serve the state of Missouri and Illinois counties of Calhoune, St. Claire, Monroe, Madison or Jersey. Exceptions may apply.

**Missouri Council of the Blind**

5453 Chippewa

St. Louis MO 63109

Phone: 314-832-7172

Fax: 314-832-7796

Contact: Linda Gerkin

The Missouri Council is eager to reach legally blind youth in our state.  Our Youth Services Committee works with children who are in need of talking watches, white canes, low vision aids, and providing transportation for mainstreamed children to participate in activities with other legally blind youth nationally. Occasionally, we have provided assistance with the purchase of braille note takers for mainstreamed children. MCB also offers a scholarship program available to any legally blind Missourian pursuing a full time course of study at the college or graduate level.

**Missouri Deaf-Blind Association**

353 East Caddo Street

Fair Grove MO 65648-7931

Phone: TTY 417-759-1334

Fax: 417-759-7501

Email: [modba@att.net](mailto:modba@att.net)

Contact Person: Carolyn Sue Alffen

MDBA is a state organization to empower people who are deaf-blind (DB), visually disabled and hearing impaired to encourage and provide the DB with resources to live a more independent life, share their feelings and experiences with others, learn to use tactile sign language, tracking and other communication methods and educate and provide awareness of Deaf-Blind disability. Activities include socials, business meetings, picnic, anniversary event, field trips, workshops for SSP’s (Support Service Providers) and interpreters, speakers on Deaf-Blind topics.

**Missouri School for the Blind**

3815 Magnolia Avenue

St. Louis MO 63110

Phone: 314-776-4320 ext. 1250

Fax: 314-773-3762

Email: [jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov](mailto:jennie.mascheck@msb.dese.mo.gov)

Contact Person: Jennie Mascheck

Missouri School for the Blind’s (MSB) services are concentrated in two areas – its center base kindergarten-grade 12 school in St. Louis, Missouri, and its Outreach Services offered statewide.  MSB’s educational program serves students, ages five through 21, who are visually impaired/blind. Referral to MSB is a decision made jointly by the student’s parents and the local school district. MSB is fully accredited by the North Central Association. Through its membership in the North Central Association of Schools for the Blind (NCASB), MSB offers competitive varsity sports programs in wrestling, track and field, swimming, goalball, cheerleading and forensics and a variety of extracurricular offerings. MSB’s Outreach Services serve as a statewide resource for families and educators of children and youth, ages birth through 21 years, providing information on visual impairment, blindness or deaf blindness, program planning, implementation of evidence-based practices and transition planning. Among the available Outreach Services: The Missouri Instructional Resource Center coordinates statewide registration with the American Printing House for the Blind and the lending of educational materials to students who are legally blind; The Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project conducts the federal deafblind census and supports families and those serving infants, children and youth with combined vision and hearing loss; The Missouri Statewide Parent Involvement Network (MoSPIN) provides family-centered in-home training to parents of children, birth through age five, who have visual impairment and blindness, including those with multiple disabilities and deafblindness; and The Library Media Center Statewide Services provides a variety of statewide services including the lending of professional materials and braille library books to student braille readers. For more information, visit MSB's website at <http://msb.dese.mo.gov/>.

**MO Guide Dog Users**

P. O. Box 1113

712 Belmont Drive

Jefferson City MO 65102

Phone: 573-893-8888

Fax: 573-659-6666

Contact Person: Nick Whitney

Provide information on the use of a guide dog for the blind as well as provide information on laws relating to a guide dog.

MO SILC Statewide Independent Living Council

3024 DuPont Circle

Jefferson City MO 65109

Phone: 573-526-7039

Fax: 573-751-1441

Email: [mosilc@vr.dese.mo.gov](mailto:mosilc@vr.dese.mo.gov)

Contact Person: Tammy McSorley

Oversee and provide guidance and training for Missouri’s 22 Centers for Independent Living.

**MPACT**

3603 Keith Ln.

Owensville MO 65066

Phone: 877-837-3536

Fax: 573-437-3536

Email: [sbiere@ptimpact.org](mailto:sbiere@ptimpact.org)

Contact Person: Shelley Biere

Information on special education.

**NanoPac Inc.**

4823 South Sheridan Road # 302

Tulsa OK 74145

Phone: 800-580-6086

Fax: 918-665-0361

Email: [dave@nanopac.com](mailto:dave@nanopac.com)

Contact Person: Dave Wilkinson

NanoPac will have the latest in blindness and low vision equipment for people to experience.

**National Federation of the Blind of Missouri**

2258 S. El Centro Ct

Columbia MO 65201

Phone: 573-289-2912

Email: [dacia.luck@gmail.com](mailto:dacia.luck@gmail.com)

Contact Person: Dacia Luck

We provide access to resources for blind people, advocacy for kids and adults including attending IEP meetings and hold monthly meetings throughout the state.

**Rehabilitation Services for the Blind**

3418 Knipp Drive, Suite A-2

Jefferson City MO 65109

Phone: 573-751-3434

Fax: 573-526-4526

Email: [james.d.brinkmann@dss.mo.gov](mailto:james.d.brinkmann@dss.mo.gov)

Contact Person: Jim Brinkmann

Our mission is to create opportunities for eligible blind and visually impaired persons in order that they may attain personal and vocational success. Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB) provides services to people with varying degrees of visual impairment, ranging from those who cannot read regular print to those who are totally blind. These services are provided on the premise that with adequate preparation and reasonable accommodation, each blind or visually impaired person will be able to achieve his or her maximum potential in the home and community, in educational settings, and in employment. Programs and services include Children’s Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living, Prevention of Blindness, Older Blind Services, Business Enterprise Program, and transition services.

**Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library**

300 West Main

Jefferson City MO 65101

Phone: 800-392-2614

Fax: 573-526-2985

Email: [bonnie.odonnell@sos.mo.gov](mailto:bonnie.odonnell@sos.mo.gov)

Contact Person: Bonnie O’Donnell

Wolfner library provides recorded books, playback equipment and Braille books for Missouri residents unable to read standard print due to a visual or physical disability.

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**April 29, 2013**

-Program Partners-

Task Force on Blind Student Academic and Vocational Performance

[www.dese.mo.gov/se/btf](http://www.dese.mo.gov/se/btf)

Missouri School for the Blind

[www.msb.dese.mo.gov](http://www.msb.dese.mo.gov)

Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

[www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/rsb](http://www.dss.mo.gov/fsd/rsb)

Missouri Council of the Blind

[www.missouricounciloftheblind.org](http://www.missouricounciloftheblind.org)

Missouri Guide Dog Users

[www.missouricounciloftheblind.org/membership/affiliates/missouri\_guide\_dog\_users](http://www.missouricounciloftheblind.org/membership/affiliates/missouri_guide_dog_users)

St. Louis Society for the Blind & Visually Impaired

[www.slsbvi.org](http://www.slsbvi.org)

Lighthouse for the Blind Saint Louis

[www.lhbindustries.com](http://www.lhbindustries.com)

