

The First-Ever Online National DeafBlind Conference



“The DeafBlind Community:
Communication, Trends &
Techniques”

January 24-25, 2015

“The DeafBlind Community: Communication, Trends & Techniques”



PRESENTERS

DeafBlind Community Leaders

Chris Woodfill
Jelica Nuccio
aj granda
Bryen Yunashko
Maricar Marquez

Internationally Recognized Experts

Eugene Bourquin
Christopher Tester
Krista Vasi
Sheri Stanger

Entertainment: Rene Pellerin

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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

World Federation of the DeafBlind
American Association of the Deaf-Blind
Helen Keller National Center
National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers
National Task Force on Deaf-Blind Interpreting

“The DeafBlind Community: Communication, Trends & Techniques”



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TIME	January 24, 2015	January 25, 2015
9:30-10:00	Conference Opens <i>- Log-On to online platform</i>	Conference Opens <i>- Log-On to online platform</i>
10:00-10:30	Welcome & Opening Statements <i>- World Federation of the DeafBlind (tentative)</i>	Welcome & Opening Statements <i>- American Association of the Deaf-Blind (tentative)</i>
10:30-12:00	“State of the Deaf-Blind Community” <i>- Chris Woodfill, Keynote Presenter</i>	“Pro-Tactile: DeafBlind Way” <i>-Jelica Nuccio & aj granda</i>
12:15-12:45	<i>Break: Special Community Guest</i>	<i>Break: Organization Representatives</i>
1:00-2:30	“Common Eye Diseases and Interpreting Strategies to Describing the Eye” <i>- Gene Bourquin and Chris Tester</i>	“Understanding Our Community: Usher Syndrome & CHARGE Syndrome” <i>- Krista Vasi, Usher Syndrome Coalition</i> <i>- Sheri Stanger, CHARGE Syndrome Foundation</i>
2:45-3:15	<i>Break: Organization Representatives</i>	<i>Break: Special Community Guest</i>
3:30-5:00	“Tactile Maps as Communication Tools” <i>-Bryen Yunashko</i>	“Role Comparison between an SSP, Interpreter & Intervener” <i>- Maricar Marquez & Yvette Brown</i>
5:00-5:15	Closing Remarks & Evaluations	Closing Remarks & Evaluations

CEUs: .45 per day or .90 for two days (Professional Studies)
CMP sponsor: Northeastern University Regional Interpreter Education Center

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TO REGISTER

COST: \$90/day or \$150 for both days*

Day 1 only – January 24, 2015

bit.ly/Conf1-24-15 (\$90)

Day 2 only – January 25, 2015

bit.ly/Conf1-25-15 (\$90)

2-Day Conference – January 24 & 25, 2015

bit.ly/Conf2-Days (\$150)

Annual Membership*

bit.ly/DBTIPAnnual (\$250)

Email: deafblindtip@gmail.com

*Purchase DB-TIP Annual Membership (\$250) and receive \$50 off 2-day Conference registration!

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SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

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☞ Program Affiliation ☞

Donation: \$25+

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All payments made via PayPal to:
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PRESENTER BIOS

- Eugene Bourquin** Dr. Eugene Bourquin has worked with DeafBlind people for more than 30 years. He has held various positions at Helen Keller National Center regarding travel and DeafBlind people, which has led him to lecture audiences nationally and internationally. His undergraduate degree is from the City University of New York (CUNY). He holds two master's degrees, one in deafness rehabilitation from New York University and another from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in orientation and mobility and low vision. He has spent several years at Columbia University/Teachers College as a doctoral aspirant in special education. He completed his research doctorate in health administration (DHA) from the School of Advanced Studies at the University of Phoenix and most recently he has earned a degree in theology. Gene is a certified interpreter, O & M specialist and certified Low Vision Therapist.
- aj granda** Granda hails from Carlsbad, CA and currently resides in Seattle, WA. She is a teacher, social justice activist, textile artist, and a mom. She is one of the contributing authors of the curriculum on Support Service Providers and DeafBlind people. Granda has been active in bringing changes and new ideas to Seattle's DeafBlind community for the past 11 years. She has worked for DeafBlind Service Center and at the Lighthouse for the Blind both as an advocate and teacher. Along with Jelica Nuccio, she has been working to develop the first-ever curriculum to teach Pro-Tactile to DeafBlind and sighted people.
- Maricar Marquez** Maricar is currently the Coordinator of the Support Service Provider program at Helen Keller National Center. Prior to this work she acted as a Senior Instructor in the Independent Living Department and Communication Learning Center at HKNC. She has presented on a variety of topics related to interpreting and DeafBlind people locally and nationally. Maricar has also led online coursework in a graduate level certificate program in Deaf-Blindness Rehabilitation through Northern Illinois University. Her specialty in training Support Service Providers has brought her local and national acclaim. Maricar is an active member of the NYC DeafBlind community and coordinate local activities for DeafBlind community members. She also served on the board of directors for the American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB) from 2007-2011.
- Jelica Nuccio** Nuccio originally from Croatia, lives in Seattle and has been very active in the DeafBlind community since she moved from Atlanta, Georgia in 1997. Jelica was the first DeafBlind Director of the Seattle

Deaf-Blind Service Center (DBSC) and is most recently a co-author of a curriculum for Support Service Providers and DeafBlind people. Prior to this work, Jelica worked in various disciplines as a research coordinator, advocate and job developer. She has a B.A. in Biology from RIT in Rochester, and an M.A. in Public Health from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. For the past 25 years, she has been active in the local and national DeafBlind communities.

Rene Pellerin

René, a native Canadian, has resided in Vermont since a very young age where he attended Austine School for the Deaf and later Gallaudet University. He, his brother and three Aunts and Uncles all have Usher Syndrome. His professional work includes consultation with DEAF, Inc. in Allston, Massachusetts, as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf in Vermont and as the State Coordinator for the Deaf for Vermont for 15 years. René also acted as the Coordinator for Northern Vermont for Vermont Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. René was instrumental in the passage of laws supportive of the Deaf Community and Vermont interpreters. Long recognized by his Deaf peers as a sought after storyteller for Deaf Club meetings and ASL skit nights, Rene expanded his repertoire in recent Years to include hearing audiences at disability events and Community Theater.

Sheri Stanger

A resident of Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, Sheri Stanger is the Director of Outreach with the CHARGE Syndrome Foundation. Sheri is a parent of a young woman with CHARGE Syndrome and has evolved into a nationally and internationally known representative of issues concerning children and families who are affected by CHARGE Syndrome. Sheri has Master of Education and Master of Arts degrees in Psychological Counseling. She has also acted as a Rehabilitation Counselor and a Certified School Counselor. Sheri has spent the last 12 years as an active board member, special advisor and president with the National Family Association for Deaf-Blind. Her work is well known by the National Center on Deaf-Blindness, State Deaf-Blind Projects, Helen Keller National Center, National Coalition on Deafblindness, the Office of Special Education Programs and with many state deaf-blind family organizations.

Christopher Tester

Christopher Tester is a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) and provides interpretation in American and British Sign Language interpreter. He is also a consultant in the fields of disability inclusion and theater. He has eight years of professional experience as a former manager/trainer at Sorenson Communications and as a special projects coordinator and investigator at the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights. Christopher presents on various topics nationally & internationally. His Bachelor's degree is from the College of the Holy Cross and his Professional Certificate from the Interpreter Education Program at LaGuardia Community College.

Krista Vasi

Krista is currently the Executive Director of the Usher Syndrome Coalition. She has also served as the Director of Operations of the Decibels Foundation. Her educational experience in public administration and organization is from Syracuse University – Maxwell School. Her expertise in development, fundraising and management lends great support to her work at the Coalition.

Chris Woodfill

Christopher Woodfill is the Associate Director at Helen Keller National Center. He has Usher Syndrome, Type I and is an active member of the national and international DeafBlind communities. Prior to his affiliation with HKNC, he worked for thirteen years as a high school teacher at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf. He also served as an English as Second Language instructor at the English Language Institute at Gallaudet University. He holds a Bachelor degree in history and Spanish from Gallaudet University, a Master degree in Latin American Studies from George Washington University, and a Master degree in Bilingual-Bicultural Secondary Deaf Education from McDaniel College. He currently serves on the boards of the American Association of the Deaf-Blind and the World Federation of the DeafBlind.

Bryen Yunashko

Chicago-born Bryen Yunashko criss-crosses the country (over 140,000 miles worldwide!) as an advocate, presenter, conference organizer and technology trainer specializing in accessibility for DeafBlind individuals. Prior to becoming involved as an advocate, he specialized in technology as an IT consultant for major corporations and later as a member of the open-source software community serving as Accessibility Outreach Coordinator for the GNOME Desktop Foundation and as marketing team lead and first-ever DeafBlind board member of a major Linux distribution for the openSUSE Project. Bryen serves as member of the Chicago Transit Authority ADA Advisory Committee, chair of the Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission's SSP Task Force, member of the National Task Force on Deaf-Blind Interpreting and as chair of the National Task Force on DeafBlind Transportation Review and advisor of the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program, as well as serving as consultant for agencies and organizations that serve the DeafBlind community.

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