

Annual Conference 2023  
Agenda at a Glance  
Wednesday November 1, 2023

8:00 – 10:00am – Registration

Link to Registration - [https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2hkpwwRcsS98UUS](https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2hkpwwRcsS98UUS)

10:00 – 11:00am – Keynote - Evan Schwerbrock

11:00 – 11:15 – Break

11:15 – 12:15pm – Concurrent Session (60 minutes)

W1 – Cane and Able Fitness

Evan Schwerbrock

W2 – VRT Expert Witness:

Lachelle Smith

Exploring Professional

Opportunities beyond

Traditional Service Delivery

W3 – Parenting While Blind

Allie Fuddy

W4 – Walk Your Own Path: A

Shelby Glass

Mobility Mural

W5 – LEAP Program

Sarah Kirby & Hannah Peach

W6 – How to Create an Accessible

Eriks Teal

Board Game

12:15 – 1:00pm - Lunch

1:00 – 2:00pm – Concurrent Session (60 minutes)

W7 – CVI Ally: An Academic  
Access Companion for Students  
with Brain-based Visual Impairments  
and Their Teams.

Rachel Bennett, Nai Damato & Matt Tietjen.

W8 – Empowering Deafblind

Jeri Cooper

W9 – Music Education for All

Laura Zierer

W10 – Diversity among  
our clientele

Tina Laffer

W11 – Reevaluating Career

Dr. Ian Shadrick

Advancement in Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services

W12 – The Adapted Low Vision

Kelly White & Dr. Alexandra Fraser

Clinic at LLMCR – An

Interdisciplinary Approach

to Assessment for Children & Youth.

2:00 – 2:15pm - Break

2:15 – 3:15pm – Concurrent Session (60 minutes)

W13 – Embracing Multiple Truths:  
An Honest Conversation About CVI

Matt Tietjen, Alicia Tucker, Rachel Bennett,  
& Nai Damato

W14 – Rehabilitation Teaching From The Lived Experience Perspective.	Mirranda Williams & Goddest Thrailkill
W15 – Book Creator App 101: Using iPad technology to create learning tools for students with CVI and low vision.	Kim Carnegie & Anita Boothroyd
W16 – Build Your Own Virtual Classroom	Molly Bryant
W17 – Successful Outcome from Separate vs. Combined VR Services	Steve Kelley
W18 - Big Data and Its Impact on Vision Rehabilitation	Dr. Pris Rogers

3:15 – 3:30pm - Break

3:30 – 4:30pm – Concurrent Session (60 minutes)

W19 - Starting Off Strong: Vision Development/Impairment and Early Supports and Services.	Lauren Baron
W20 – Following the Best Route for providing Assistive Devices.	Jennifer Ottowitz
W21 – A Guide to Updated Recommendations For Remote Assistive Technology Services.	Dr. Rachel Sessler Trinkowsky
W22 – Envision Optical Magnification Training Program	Erin Weaver
W23 – VIBE: Visually Impaired and Blindness Empowerment	Cheryl Snow & Deitra Woody
W24 – Meaningful Social Engagements: Social Skills and Implications For Young Individuals With Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment.	Burju Sari

5:00 – 6:00pm – President’s Reception

6:00 – 8:00pm – Awards Banquet

Thursday November 2, 2023

7:30 – 9:00am – Breakfast and NE/AER Division Meetings

8:00 – 8:45am – AVRT Business Meeting

8:45 – 9:00am – Break

9:00 – 10:00am – Concurrent Session (60 minutes)

T1 – The ECC in Early Childhood	Dr. Callie Brusegaard
T2 – Getting on TOP of Countertop Cooking: Training Considerations, Options for Consumers/Students and Planning Lessons.	Susan Dalton & Jennifer Ottowitz
T3 – CVI and Assistive Technology, a Starting Place.	Allie Fuddy
T4 – Physical Skills for Assessment and training	Andy Egan
T5 – Applied Ethics: Traps, Decision Making and Dilemmas.	Dr. John McMahon
T6 – SBVI Partnership for Progress	Scott Vitner, et al.

10:00 – 10:15am – Break

10:15 – 11:45am – Concurrent Session (90 minutes)

T7 – Supporting Students with Combined Vision and Hearing Concerns (Deaf blindness): High Quality Practices for Education.	Dr. Tracy Evans Luiselli & Brenda Allair
T8 – ECC meets VRT Assessment Resource to Help TVIs Determine if their Students are Eligible for VRT Services.	Cathleen McGuire & Frankie Ann Marcille
T9 – Switching-On Learning: Establishing Switch skills for Students with Complex Vision and Bodies.	Jennifer Stylianos & Melissa Beachum
T10 – O&M and CVI: Just What is the Difference? (cont.)	Lori Spencer
T11 – Do The Right Thing: Using your Code of Ethics to solve professional dilemmas.	Nancy Parkin-Bashizi
T12 – Perkins CVI Protocol: A Comprehensive Assessment Tool for Students with Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment.	Ilse Willems

11:45 – 12:45pm – Lunch

12:45 – 2:15pm – Concurrent Session (90 minutes)

T13 – Independent Living Skills: Preparing Students for Life	Amanda English & Stephanie Bissonette
T14 – Teaming Up for Success: Best Practices in Collaborative Assessment Vision Rehabilitation Therapy and Rehabilitation Counseling	Dr. Ian Shadrick
T15 – Welcome to Android: The Dark Side of Technology.	Shannon Payne
T16 – O&M Considerations for Individuals with CVI	Matt Tietjen, Rachel Bennett, Nai Damato, & Evelyn Furey
T17 – Successful Employment Strategies for Individuals who are Deaf blind	Christine Telford
T18 – A Peek Into the Relationship Between Blind/VI and Suicide.	Dr. Henry J. Tyszka

2:15 – 3:45pm – Vendor/Poster Session

3:45 – 5:15pm – Concurrent Session (90 minutes)

T19 - Pathways for Students with Visual Impairments to STEM Careers through Assessment, Access, and Activities.	Erin Weaver
T20 – Let's Get Physical: Ways to Make Sports More Accessible for the Blind and Visually Impaired.	Meghan Fink
T21 – AAC App Rundown! iOS ACC Application Options for Visual Accessibility.	Heather Gray & Melissa Beachum
T22 – Cerebral/Cortical Vision Impairment (CVI) Visual Behaviors as Addressed within Perkins CVI Protocols	Burju Sari
T23 – From Roots to Shoots: Planting the Seeds of Employment and Beyond with the APH ConnectCenter	Katie Fredericks & Lori Schraff

Friday November 3, 2023

7:30 – 9:00am – Breakfast and NE/AER Division Meetings

9:00 – 10:00am – Concurrent Session (60 minutes)

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| F1 – Thinking Outside of the IEP:<br>Fostering Effective Socialization<br>through Extracurricular Skill-Building<br>Experiences. | Courtney Wescott & Allison Bull       |
| F2 – More Than Knowing the Code,<br>Techniques for Teaching Braille to Adults.   | Jennifer Ottowitz                     |
| F3 – Think Outside the Box for<br>Learning Media Assessments for<br>Students with Complex Needs.                                 | Dr. Callie Brusegaard & Tammy Reisman |
| F4 – Implicit Bias in Rehab  | Steve Kelley                          |
| F5 – Visionary Leadership  | Tina Laffer                           |
| F6 – What Now? Understanding<br>How to Implement<br>Recommendations from<br>a CVI Assessment.                                    | Lacey Smith                           |

10:00 – 10:30am – Check out Break

10:30 – 12:00 – Concurrent Session (90 minutes)

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| F7 – Looking from the Inside Out  | Elizabeth Myska & Michael Marciello      |
| F8 – The Future of VRT  | Daniel Norris                            |
| F9 – Improving Employment<br>Outcomes: Strategies for<br>integrating career exploration<br>and work skills training into<br>Vision Rehabilitation Programs. | Nancy Parkin-Bashizi                     |
| F10 – Beyond Mobility: Providing<br>Effective and Meaningful O&M<br>Services to Students with<br>Significant Multiple Disabilities                          | Bri Killoran                             |
| F11 - Causes, Prevention, and<br>Intervention of Cytomegalovirus<br>(CMV): Critical Information for<br>Vision Professionals                                 | Dr. Tracy Evans Luiselli & Brenda Allair |

12:00 – 1:00pm – Closing – Dr. Natalina Martiniello, CVRT