Guide Dogs for the Blind (GDB) is more than an industry-leading guide dog school; we are a passionate community that serves the visually impaired from throughout the U.S. and Canada. All of our services are provided free of charge, including veterinary assistance as needed.

GDB is a resource for people to get the proper referrals to O&M training prior to acceptance into our program so that when they arrive, they are prepared for success. Our goal is to help understand their mobility options and prepare for a partnership with a guide dog.

- 97% of GDB graduates surveyed are satisfied with the overall program
- 93% agree they will return for a successor guide
- 96% would recommend our program to others

CTEBVI PRESENTATION

“Assisting Clients To Become Ready for Guide Dog Mobility and the Guide Dog Lifestyle”
By Marc Gillard, GDB’s Orientation & Mobility Services Specialist
Saturday, April 9 | 2:45-4:15pm

Guide Dogs for the Blind
To learn more, visit guidedogs.com, or call 800.295.4050.
Welcome to the 2016 57th Annual Conference of CALIFORNIA TRANSCRIBERS AND EDUCATORS FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

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OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Our conference has again extended a special welcome to parents and families with children who are blind or visually impaired by offering a No-Charge Registration to current members. We hope you enjoy all the activities and workshops provided especially for you.

Workshops We are offering a large number of workshops geared toward parents, students, and families on a variety of subjects. These workshops will be presented by professionals in their fields of expertise.

Exhibit Hall Here you will find a myriad of exhibitors offering the latest in assistive technology, as well as educational toys and books. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn all about the most up-to-date equipment available.
Welcome to our 57th Annual Conference where we will Focus on the Future. From start to finish, this conference is designed to focus your attention on the changes currently taking place in the field of visual impairment. Looking ahead, we recognize the hurdles you (the transcriber, educator, parent, student, consumer and advocate) will encounter. We also recognize that if we face these challenges with a clear vision and determination, the path to success becomes less ambiguous for persons living with vision loss.

The main focus for this conference is on the classroom. The paths to learning come from different media: traditional hard copy print, digital text (using electronic devices) and braille. The symposium and workshops are designed to help the participants gain a better understanding of where, when and how each of these learning tools can be used. The symposium will be followed up by a Twitter lunch the same day and forums on the last day to make sure that if you still have any questions, we will endeavor to answer even after the conference ends. The goal is to provide you with the knowledge to help students along their journey from pre-school to productive adulthood.

CTEBVI is proud to present its inaugural workshop collaboration with the prison braille programs. Please see the descriptions for workshops 201, 303 and 501.

Finally, while you’re gathering information and processing the knowledge you’ve gained from the various workshops, don’t forget to take some time to walk through the Exhibits Hall where you’ll find products for educational and social growth.

We also hope you will take some time to network with others in the field of blindness and visual impairment at our Welcome Reception on Thursday, Exhibitors’ Reception on Friday, our President’s Reception on Saturday and join us at the Saturday evening banquet to hear our keynote speaker John Romeo. Also, please don’t forget to attend the CTEBVI General Sessions where we conduct the business of the organization. Again, we welcome you all and may you have a wonderful conference.

Tracy Gaines
President
**ON-SITE REGISTRATION**

You may register at the Registration Desk. Please note that on-site registration is nonrefundable.

(check-in for pre-conference workshops only)
Thursday, April 7  8:00 am - 9:30 am

(regular conference registration)
Thursday, April 7  5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Friday, April 8    7:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday, April 9  7:00 am - 4:00 pm

**CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS**

CEUs are again being offered with an ACVREP fee of $35, payable in advance with registration fee. This fee will allow CEUs for an unlimited number of workshops. You will get instructions for receiving certificates after conference. Please provide an email address where you wish the instructions sent.

**SILENT AUCTION**

All proceeds of the silent auction go to the Donna Coffee Youth Scholarship Fund. This event also provides you with the opportunity to take home some beautiful gifts.

Silent Auction items must be claimed and paid for by the end of the banquet unless other arrangements have been made. Items not claimed will be offered to the next highest bidder. GOOD LUCK!!!

**ANNOUNCEMENT BOARD AT REGISTRATION**

Have an announcement or job opening? Please feel free to post it on the board that will be located near the Registration Desk.

**EXHIBIT HALL**

Attendance is free to everyone. CTEBVI’s Exhibit Hall offers a large number of vendors presenting the latest in assistive technology, braille jewelry, and really neat toys.

The Exhibit Hall will be open on:

*Friday*  9:30 am - 6:30 pm
*Saturday*  9:30 am - 5:00 pm

**HOSPITALITY SUITE ROOM 110**

If you need a place to relax and rejuvenate, visit our Hospitality Suite for light snacks and beverages.

The Hospitality Suite will be open:

*Friday*  10:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
*Saturday*  9:00 am - 11:30 am, and 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

I long to accomplish a great and noble task; but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.

- Helen Keller

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*General Conference Information*

57th Annual CTEBVI Conference 2016
Dear Friends:

I am pleased to welcome you to the 57th annual conference of the California Transcribers and Educators for the Blind and Visually Impaired. This year’s conference, “Focus on the Future,” will provide professional development opportunities for those working in the field of vision impairment, from directors of special education and teachers of the visually impaired to the paraprofessionals who work to enhance the lives of our blind and visually impaired students. As implementer of the new Unified English Braille code and computer-adaptive assessments, you demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to educating those who use assistive technology to support life-long learning.

California’s students live in a technological world made smaller through the Internet and real-time mass communication. It is critical that students are exposed to the technology that will lead to academic success, preparing them to pursue their careers, participate in the rich cultural life of our state, engage in civic responsibilities, and compete in our global economy. By offering a wealth of information and learning opportunities to professionals and parents, they will be able to provide a wider range of options to better serve visually impaired students.

Please accept my appreciation and thanks for your professional contributions in serving our blind and visually impaired students. To parents and students in attendance, thank you for participating and sharing your experiences to improve and increase opportunities for other families. This team approach leads to success, from which we all will benefit. You have my sincere gratitude for all your efforts and commitment to the success of our students.

Sincerely,

Tom Torlakson
THURSDAY, APRIL 7

CTEBVI Board Meeting
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Pre-Conference Workshops
(registration in advance required, check-in is 8-9:00 am)

Making Google Applications Accessible with JAWS: Drive, Docs, Gmail, & Classroom Time

Presenters
Lead Presenter: Veronica Gunn with Stephanie Herlich, Yurika Vu, and Joe Vona
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(includes one hour break for lunch on your own)
Location: Atlanta
Cost: Free
Join the CSB Assistive Technology Team for a day of all things Google. This workshop will be a hands-on training where all participants will learn to use Drive, Docs, Gmail, and Classroom with JAWS. Many schools throughout California, including CSB, are using Google Education. Come learn how your students with visual impairments can participate in this exciting technology. CTEBVI will provide Wi-Fi for all participants during this workshop. This workshop is limited to 50 participants.

CSB “Training Day”

Presenters
Lead Presenter: Sharon Sacks with Adrian Amandi and Angela Martyn
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
(includes one hour break for lunch on your own)
Location: Boston
Cost: Free
In a time when school districts seem to be eliminating or cutting services for students with visual impairments, this pre-conference workshop will provide participants with valuable tools for enhancing skills to promote quality service delivery to students. The workshop leaders will review the California Guidelines for Serving Students with Visual Impairments, and provide an in-depth review of caseload analysis strategies. These useful tools will provide a framework for professionals and families to determine the frequency and duration of services. This workshop is interactive. We encourage questions and solution-driven problem solving. This workshop is limited to 50 participants.

Pre-Conference Activity
(registration in advance required)
Grammy® Museum Tour
Time: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm
Cost: $20
Location: Hotel Lobby meet at 9:45 am
The GRAMMY® Museum explores and celebrates the enduring legacies of all forms of music; the creative process; the art and technology of the recording process; and the history of the GRAMMY® Awards, the premier recognition of recorded music accomplishment. Price includes round-trip transportation and admission.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE
Welcome Reception
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Chicago/Dallas
Enjoy complimentary hors d’oeuvres and a no-host bar while you get to know your fellow conference attendees.
Groove to the future vibe with Wayne Siligo and the Cheeseballs

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Sue Sweetman
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Visually impaired students have been using HIMS assistive technology products to achieve educational goals and work toward rewarding careers for more than 15 years! **Accommodate your students and clients with low vision and Braille devices they can take wherever they need them** — from the classroom to the library, home to the office and anywhere else they need them!

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President’s Reception
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  Imperial Ballroom Foyer
Entertainment provided by:
Wayne Siligo and the Cheeseballs featuring Ilan Ota
Meet your CTEBVI President, Tracy Gaines. Socialize and relax with your fellow conference attendees after an intense day of fun and informative workshops. Unwind, relax and enjoy! No-host bar.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE
Banquet  Suites E-F
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Keynote Speaker: Mr. John Romeo
“Inspiration from Beyond the Walls”
Get ready for a wonderful evening of good food, good company, and a captivating speaker. Everyone is invited to attend whether or not you are registered for the meal. Separate seating will be provided for non-dining attendees.

Need Braille or Large Print?
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Do you need braille or large print books for your school or district and don’t know where to start? Contact our expert staff and we’ll help you determine your best options.
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SUNDAY, APRIL 10

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE SUNDAY FORUMS
Come to Learn, Stay to Discuss
8:00 am - 9:30 am
Choose from two fabulous forums to share ideas, challenges, and solutions. Make the most of your last day at conference!

Forum 1001
Focus on the Future Transcribers’ Forum
Moderator: Sue Reilly
Let’s focus on sharing transcriber topics related to transcription, training, certification, formatting, contracting, remuneration, supporting teachers/students/clients, and legislation. Come prepared to learn from and support each other!

Forum 1002
Focus on the Future Educators’ Forum
Moderator: Jonn Paris-Salb
Bring your coffee, questions, and ideas as we recap the symposium and focus on the implementation of the UEB adoption and its effect on the ordering and distribution of textbooks.

Complimentary Sunday Brunch and iPad Drawing!!!
10:00 am - 12 Noon
Suites E-F
Our Conference concludes with a Complimentary Buffet Brunch (must be pre-registered to eat) and will include General Business Session, Part 2.
Pre-register for the brunch and not only do you get to enjoy a FREE meal, but you will receive a ticket for a FREE chance to win our drawing. Transcribing Mariners, of Auburn, CA, has generously donated an iPad Mini that will go home with the lucky winner. You must be present to win.

Sergio Oliva from Braille Institute and his students will give a hands-on demonstration of the skills involved in the Cane Quest competition.

Everyone is invited to attend the meeting whether or not you are registered for the meal. Separate seating will be provided for non-dining attendees.

HOW CANE QUEST WORKS!

Cane Quest is a challenging orientation and mobility contest for students in grades 3-12. Contestants are divided in three categories: Scouts (grades 3-6), Explorers (grades 7-9), and Trailblazers (grades 10-12). Older contestants are given auditory instructions (utilizing a Book Port) and challenged to safely complete secret routes in their communities using proper travel techniques and appropriate cane skills. Scout contestants team up with a sighted teammate (usually a family member) and earn coins as they navigate a route that demonstrates mastery of basic orientation and mobility skills and proper sighted guide techniques, within the boundaries of a school or agency. Contestants are monitored at all times at the event by certified volunteers. Orientation and Mobility Specialists can earn up to five CEUs by volunteering. For more information on how to start a regional event or volunteer please contact Marie Saldivar at MJSaldivar@brailleinstitute.org or 323-210-2593.

CANE QUEST SHOW CASE AT CTEBVI

To learn how Cane Quest works visit the Braille Institute booth or come to the Sunday morning brunch for a hands-on demonstration of this exciting national program.
A very special thank you to all those who supported this year’s conference by volunteering their time, talent, and treasure.

This conference resulted from countless hours of work freely donated by a great many people. The 2016 CTEBVI Executive Board and Board of Directors would like to specifically thank the following:

**Volunteered/Donated Time/Services**

Sharon Anderson for being our Treasurer and keeping track!
The Gang at the California School for the Blind for producing our pre-conference workshops
American Thermoform for donating braille paper
Patty Biasca and Sheila Bonito for their help coordinating the workshop monitors
Judi Biller and Sue Reilly (the Dynamic Duo) with Karen Tomlinson and Anne Ward for their hard work making sure this conference is packed with interesting and relevant workshops
Boys & Girls Club of Fontana Leaders in Training Program for their volunteer time in the exhibits hall
David Forrest for making sure our Audio/Visual works smoothly
Tracy Gaines for transcribing the conference program
Dawn Gross for running our Silent Auction
Vicki Garrett our Conference Registrar, Guidebook Program and Website Administrator
Bonnie Grimm and Jenny Tsimogiannis for coordinating the Exhibits Hall and all things vendor
Olivia Hogue for her endless volunteer work with the Exhibits Hall and Silent Auction
Sarah Holmes for taking time off from school to come be our Girl Friday
Grant Horrocks for being “The Conference Guy”
Alfredo Lima for his invaluable assistance in the exhibit hall and everywhere else we need him
Linda McGovem and Vanessa Stenz coordinating the Registration Desk and volunteers, and thanks to all the volunteers!
Lisa Okikawa for Tweeting and Facebooking her heart out to advance our name and this conference
Omi Ota for creating our gorgeous centerpieces
Jonn Paris-Salb for creating all the signage for the workshops, monitor packets, and CEU credits
Liz Perea and her team of volunteers for hosting the hospitality suite
Cath Tendler-Valencia for proofreading the program and registration packet – all in record time!
Transcribing Mariners for donating the iPad mini for the Sunday drawing, sponsoring the Welcome Reception, and embossing our braille materials
Joanie Treptow for making large print copies of the program
Alex Tsimogiannis for volunteering his time to put together the Exhibits Hall layout
And a big THANKS to all of our amazing workshop presenters for creating the heart of our conference and to all this year’s Exhibitors for bringing us the latest in technology and other cool stuff and for supporting CTEBVI through their program advertising.

**Speakers and Musical Entertainment**

John Romeo, Keynote Speaker
Ilan Ota, *Wayne Siligo and the Cheeseballs*,
Sergio Oliva and his Cane Quest demonstration students
Jonn Paris-Salb, Symposium moderator, and all of our Symposium speakers
And a special thanks to Tracy Gaines, our CTEBVI President

*Program preparation and layout* by Cristin Lockwood
Academy of Music for the Blind
911 Norumbega Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
Phone: 626-358-5379
Website: www.ouramb.org
Contact: David and Gayle Pinto
info@ouramb.org

Access Ingenuity
4751 Hoen Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95405
Phone: 707-579-4380
Website: www.accessingenuity.com

Alternate Text Production Center
1175 Calle Suerte, Camarillo, CA 93012
Phone: 805-383-0187
Website: www.atpc.net
Contact: braille@atpc.net

American Printing House for the Blind
1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206
Phone: 800-223-1839
Website: www.aph.org
Contact: info@aph.org

American Thermoform Corporation
1758 Brackett Street, La Verne, CA 91750
Phone: 909-593-6711
Website: www.americanthermoform.com
Contact: Patrick Nunnely
pnunnely@americanthermoform.com

A.T. Kratter & Co., Inc.
12062 Valley View Street,
Garden Grove, CA 92845
Phone: 714-799-3000
Website: www.atkratter.com
Contact: Andy Kratter info@atkratter.com

Audiojack
11101 Aqua Vista #110, Studio City, CA 91602
Phone: 323-333-0347
Website: www.audiojack.com
Contact: David Tobin david@audiojack.com

Berryessa Designs
795 Mary Caroline Drive, San Jose, CA 95133
Phone: 408-966-2438
Contact: Mike Ju mikeju@berryessadesigns.com

Blind Babies Foundation
A Program of Junior Blind of America
2381 Mariner Square Drive Suite 275,
Alameda, CA 94501
Phone: 510-446-2229
Website: www.blindbabies.org

Braille Institute National Programs
741 N. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90029
Phone: 323-906-3137
Website: www.brailleinstitute.org
Contact: Sergio Oliva soliva@brailleinstitute.org

California School for the Blind
500 Walnut Avenue, Fremont, CA 94536
Phone: 510-794-3800
Website: www.csb-cde.ca.gov
Contact: James Rudder and Annie Turner
aturner@csb-cde.ca.gov

CAPVI California Association for Parents of
Children with Visual Impairment
414 West Mill Street, Ukiah, CA 95482
Phone: 707-463-2296
Contact: Anne Ward inland2wards@gmail.com

CTEBVI Silent Auction
Contact: Dawn Gross
Department of Rehabilitation
Blind Field Services
721 Capital Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-558-5480
Website: www.dor.ca.gov
Contact: blindinfo@dor.ca.gov

Duxbury Systems, Inc.
270 Littleton Road, Unit #6, Westford, MA 01886
Phone: 978-692-3000
Website: www.duxsys.com
Contact: Neal Kuniansky info@duxsys.com

Enhanced Vision
5882 Machine Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92649
Phone: 800-440-9476
Contact: amontague@enhancedvision.com

Exceptional Teaching Inc.
PO Box 2330, Livermore, CA 94550
Phone: 925-961-9200
Contact: Helene Holman
info@exceptionalteaching.com

EyeTech Low Vision
2193 Aspenpark Ct., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
Phone: 310-704-5314
Website: www.eyetechlowvision.com
Contact: John Wolfe eyetechcanhelp@gmail.com

Guide Dogs for the Blind Outreach Services
350 Los Ranchitos Road, San Rafael, CA 94903
Phone: 415-492-4176
Website: www.guidedogs.com
Contact: Jane Flower jflower@guidedogs.com

Guide Dogs of America
Admissions/ Graduate Services
13445 Glenoaks Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342
Phone: 800-459-4843
Website: www.guidedogsofamerica.org
Contact: Patty Elizondo
paelizondo@guidedogsofamerica.org

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- Includes carrying case

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- Refreshable braille cells that feel crisp, and almost paper like
- Whisper quiet, ergonomic braille keyboard
- Supports simultaneous connection with up to 5 devices: 4 Bluetooth, 1 USB
- Pairs beautifully with iOS, Android, PC, Mac devices
- Includes high quality carry case and strap
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info@seedlings.org
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4616 W. Howard Lane, Suite 960, Austin, TX
78728 Phone: 512-837-2000
Website: www.hims-inc.com
Contact: James McCarthy sales@hims-inc.com

HumanWare
1 UPS Way, P.O. Box 800, Champlain, NY 12919
Phone: 800-722-3393
Website: www.humanware.com
Contact: Kevin Hughes
kevin.hughes@humanware.com

Irie-AT
1750 SW 3rd Street, Suite C, Corvallis, OR 97333
Phone: 888-308-0059
Website: www.irie-at.com
Contact: sales@irie-at.com

Jewelry in Braille
2713 Avington Court, Murfreesboro, TN 37128
Phone: 631-875-3558
Contact: Kelly Fehr kelly@jewelryinbraille.com

Junior Blind of America
5300 Angeles Vista Boulevard,
Los Angeles, CA 90043
Phone: 800-352-2290
Website: www.juniorsblind.org
Contact: Allison Burdett aburdett@juniorblind.org

LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
214 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: 415-431-1481
Website: lighthouse-sf.org
Contact: Chad Metcalf chadmea@gmail.com

Lucky Touch Fortune Cookie
California School for the Blind
500 Walnut Avenue, Fremont, CA 94536
Phone: 510-794-3800
Contact: Judith Lesner mavenno1@aol.com

Lutheran Braille Workers
P.O. Box 5000, Yucaipa, CA 92399
Phone: 800-925-6092
Website: lbwinc.org
Contact: Rose Jaimes rose@lbwinc.org

National Braille Press
88 Saint Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115
Phone: 617-266-6160
Website: www.nbp.org
Contact: Tony Grima agrima@nbp.org

NorthState Assistive Technology
PO Box 2112, Paradise, CA 95967
Phone: 877-682-0452
Website: www.northstateat.com
Contact: Cory Hanosh cory@northstateat.com

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.  - Mark Twain
Got Pix?

Didn’t your mother teach you to share?

*Please* share your cool, funny, touching, amazing and wonderful conference pictures with the world!

(or at least the CTEBVI website)

Email now or later to
Webmaster Vicki Garrett
ctebvi@aol.com

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**Optelec**
3030 Enterprise Ct. Suite C, Vista, CA 92081
Phone: 800-826-4200
Website: www.optelec.com
Contact: Amanda Navarrete info@optelec.com

**Oxnard School District**
**Human Resources and Support Services**
1051 South “A” Street, Oxnard, CA 93036
Phone: 805-385-1501 Ext. 2056
Website: www.oxnardisd.org
Contact: amgutierrez@oxnardisd.org

**Playopolis Toys**
667 West California Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91105
Phone: 626-792-2380
Website: www.playopolistores.com
Contact: Christina Wallerstein
Christina@playopolistores.com

**Sweetman Systems**
14237 Gain Street, Arleta, CA 91331
Phone: 818-893-5887
Website: www.sweetmansystems.com
Contact: Sue Sweetman
sue@sweetmansystems.com

**The Hatlen Center for the Blind**
**A Program of Junior Blind of America**
2430 Road 20, #B112, San Pablo, CA 94806
Phone: 510-234-4984
Website: www.hcblind.org
Contact: Patti Maffei pmaffei@juniorblind.org

**The Seeing Eye, Inc.**
P.O. Box 375, Morristown, NJ 07963
Phone: 800-539-4425
Website: www.seeingeye.org
Contact: Chelsea White whitec@seeingeye.org

**ViewPlus Technologies, Inc.**
1965 SW Airport Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97333
Phone: 541-754-4002
Website: www.viewplus.com
Contact: liza.foster@viewplus.com

**Wolf Products, Inc.**
106 Purvis Road, Butler, PA 16001
Phone: 724-285-5428
Website: www.mathwindow.com
Contact: Roger and Paula Wolf
wolfproductsinc@gmail.com

**YesAccessible!**
911 Norumbega Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
Phone: 626-358-5750
Website: www.yesaccessible.com
Contact: David and Gayle Pinto
info@yesaccessible.com

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57th Annual CTEBVI Conference 2016
Justin Adams and Chester Goodale have a combined 40+ years in education, though both are new to the field of Visual Impairments. Both are “fix-it” kinds of guys who love a challenge and the “learn by doing” approach. When they recently discovered 12 “broken” braillers in a County Office closet and learned there was not money in the budget for repairing them, they asked themselves what could be done. They found an online Perkins Brailler Repair Video, which helped them successfully restore most of the dirty braillers to service!

Stacy Aguilera is an expert reviewer on the Open Hands Open Access initiative and is currently a lead Host for cohorts conducted by California Deafblind Services (CDBS). She has been affiliated with CDBS for two years as an Educational Specialist. Prior to joining CDBS, she was an educator of students with deafblindness while serving as a deaf/hard of hearing itinerant in numerous school districts.

Adrian Amandi is the Director of the California Education Resource Center for Blind/Visually Impaired. He has 10 years as Assistive Technology Specialist at the California School for the Blind.

Jim Carreon is a retired Adaptive Technology Teacher from the California School for the Blind. Jim has devoted more than twenty years to helping students learn to access information using various hardware and software products.

Michael Cheverie has been a TVI with the Los Angeles Unified School District for 12 years. He has been a STEM teacher for 35 years.

Keith Christian is a TVI for Anaheim City School District. He enjoys his job as a TVI, and is enthusiastic about teaching elementary aged students how to use technology to increase their participation in the general education classroom. He thinks it is awesome to see kids get excited about using cool tools to get the job done today and prepare them for the real world that lies ahead.

Joe Chung has thirteen years in the vision impairment industry, as well as teaching, training and knowledge of Daily Living Aids and Electronic Low Vision products.

Ralph Cioffi is currently dually credentialed as both an Orientation & Mobility Specialist and TVI. He serves as the O&M Specialist for CTEBVI. Previous to his retirement, he worked for the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) for 24 years where his experiences ranged from providing service to VI students in Early Start and pre-school programs, along with working with students at the elementary and high school level. Cioffi is a graduate of the O&M Masters program at Cal State Los Angeles and holds a Masters degree from Antioch College in Elementary Education.

Cathleen Coombs has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, both from San Diego State University. She is also a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). She has 26 years of experience in the field serving individuals with disabilities. She has worked with every disability population, particularly individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those with vision impairments.

Taylor Cox is a 7th grade braille student in Huntington Beach. She uses many pieces of technology throughout her school day. Her hobbies include learning new technology, music, jujitsu, and running. She also enjoys writing for the Donna Coffee Scholarship Blog.

Gaeir Dietrich is the director of the High Tech Center Training Unit (HTCTU) of the California community colleges, and the system-wide trainer for Section 508 compliance. Gaeir has served on the advisory boards for AHEAD, Bookshare, DIAGRAM Center, the Alternate Text Production Center (ATPC), and the Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (SVILC). In 2010-2011, she served as the chair for the national Advisory Commission on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) in Postsecondary Education. She is a contributing author to Beyond the Americans with Disabilities Act, published by NASPA.
New! Building on Patterns: Primary Braille Literacy Program

Student materials now updated for Unified English Braille (UEB).

Building on Patterns (BOP) is a complete primary literacy program designed to teach beginning braille users language arts — reading, writing, and spelling.

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Jennifer Dunnam has twenty-five years of experience with braille instruction and production. Blind herself, she is a certified braille transcriber and also uses braille every day. For nine years she has served as the Manager of Braille Programs for the National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute. Under a contract with NLS, she coordinates the administration of courses for persons seeking certification in braille transcribing and proofreading. She is the author of The Slate Book: A Guide to the Slate and Stylus. She serves on the board of the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) and currently serves as its chair.

Robert Eutz is the director of the Miami Accessible Media Project. He is certified in Nemeth and UEB (Canada). The men of MAMP have literary and Nemeth certifications and proficiency in MS Word, MS Word, Abbey Fine Reader, and Adobe Pro XI.

Jennifer Fiero manages the accounts in 27 western US states and is the national trainer for ViewPlus.

Jennifer Fisher is an early childhood/preschool special education program specialist with Southwest Special Education Local Plan Area (SW SELPA) and a master trainer with the Desired Results Access Project. She has taught extensively in early childhood/preschool special education programs for children with IFSPs and IEPs and holds a master’s degree in Early Childhood Special Education.

Tony Fletcher is a 25 year employee of the LightHouse for the Blind and holds a master’s Degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Orientation and Mobility Instruction. Tony has served in many roles for the LightHouse but is most recognized for his long tenure as the Director of Enchanted Hills Camp.

Laurie Garcia is the Staff Services Manager II, Division Support and CSMT administration unit, CDE.

Marc Gillard is a certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS). His experience includes licensed guide dog instructor and assessor of guide dog schools. He has worked at Guide Dogs for the Blind, (GDB) San Rafael, CA as well as at multiple Guide Dog facilities in Australia.

Nancy Goldstone is an early childhood special education coordinating teacher with the Los Angeles Unified School District and a master trainer with the Desired Results Access Project. She has taught extensively in early childhood special education programs for preschool age children with IEPs and holds a master’s degree in Educational Administration/Policy Studies.

Chester Goodale and Justin Adams have a combined 40+ years in education, though both are new to the field of Visual Impairments. Both are “fix-it” kinds of guys who love a challenge and the “learn by doing” approach. When they recently discovered 12 “broken” braille cells in a County Office closet and learned there was not money in the budget for repairing them, they asked themselves what could be done. They found an online Perkins Braille Repair Video, which helped them successfully restore most of the dirty braille to service!

Jake Gross is a sophomore at California School for the Blind in Fremont, though he and his family live in Camarillo. He is an avid user of NVDA and has even created add-ons for the open source screen reader. In his spare time he enjoys work with various forms of technology, especially older technology, playing with his dogs, eating fast food, and working on his personal website.

Veronica Gunn, Technology Teacher, California School for the Blind

Cyndi Hammonds is an Associate Information Systems Analyst providing technical assistance to CSMT, CDE.

Stephanie Herlich, M.A., has been a teacher of the visually impaired and orientation and mobility specialist for over 20 years; currently she is an Assistive Technology Specialist for the California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA. She is co-author of Getting to Know You: A Social Skills Curriculum for Students Who Are Visually Impaired and Their Sighted Peers, author of Learning Braille Contractions, and The Mangold Braille Program, Unit 3 UEB, contributing author of Learning to Listen/Listening to Learn; and contributing author of ECC Essentials; Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum to Students with Visual Impairments. Stephanie was a researcher on the Alphabetic and Contracted Braille funded by American Printing House for the Blind.

Dr. Sunggye Hong, associate professor of the department of disability and psychoeducational studies and the program coordinator of the visual impairments teacher training program, received both his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Arizona in Special Education/Education of Students with Visual Impairments. He has conducted research in the areas of braille reading, assistive technology, and expanded core curriculum of students with visual impairments. His research agenda is aimed at promoting equal access to educational opportunities including curriculum materials, classroom activities, and other school programs of students who are blind or visually impaired with or without additional disabilities.
Kevin Hughes is the West Region Manager for HumanWare. Kevin has led numerous hands-on workshops over the past 14 years with the emphasis on the education market and technology. These training sessions allow teachers to best utilize the Human Ware technologies to meet the curriculum access needs of their visually impaired students.

Mike Ju is the owner of Berryessa Designs, a lighting design house and manufacturer with primary business focused on reading lights for seniors with low vision. His core experience is in electronics designs, in particular high frequency semiconductors. Mike became interested in lighting as his eyes started to fade when he turned 43. He started Berryessa Designs in 2009. He was lucky to have the support of people in Low Vision such as MDSupport Group, Braille Institute, and Low Vision Clinics at UC Berkeley and UCLA. He was able to learn what his customers needed and use what he has in terms of engineering skills to create lights to meet their needs.

Cheryl Kamei-Hannan, Ph.D., is a co-author of Reading Connections: Strategies for Teaching Students with Visual Impairments. She is an associate professor at California State University Los Angeles and the Coordinator of the Education Specialist Credential in Visual Impairment and Blindness. She has authored many articles on literacy and technology for students with visual impairments. Her most recent project has been to lead a team of experts in collaboration with Braille Institute of America, to develop the iBraille Challenge mobile app, a mobile reading intervention and assessment program that supports literacy.

Jerry Kuns has been involved with information access issues since the mid 1970s. He has worked with some of the industry’s leading product developers to affect solutions for employment and education. He retired from the California School for the Blind as an Adaptive Technology Teacher in September of 2014. He continues to work tirelessly to promote braille literacy and the use of information access tools.

Cindi Laurent has been transcribing braille since 1997. She is currently the Coordinator for Volunteer Braille Services in Minnesota. She has served on the board of the National Braille Association for seven years and is the current chair of the NBA Formats Committee. She served on the BANA board as the NBA representative for several years and is now the chair of the BANA Formats Committee. She is certified in Literary, Nemeth and Formats and has received the Letter of Proficiency in UEB from the Library of Congress. She has also received certificates in UEB from CNIB and Australia.

Judith Lesner is the proud parent of Jacob Lesner-Buxton. Judith worked in the residential department of the California School for the Blind for 30 years and helped to raise many students who were visually impaired or blind. She is presently retired and serves as the co-chair of Blind Babies Foundation Professional Advisory Committee, on the board of CAPVI, is treasurer of the CSB Parents and Friends Association and advisor to the Lucky Touch Braille Fortune Cookie Company.

Jacob Lesner-Buxton is an alumnus of CSB, OUSD, California State University, Monterey Bay and California State University, East Bay.

Patti Maffei is the Executive Director of Northern and Central California Services at Junior Blind, supervising and ensuring the success of Junior Blind’s two major programs in the region, Blind Babies Foundation and The Hatlen Center, as well as transition services state-wide. Prior to assuming this role in 2015, Patti had been the Program Director for The Hatlen Center since 2006, following 15 years of experience as an Orientation & Mobility Instructor. She is the author of Quick & Easy: Expanded Core Curriculum, published by (APH) in 2014, and has been an expert reviewer and consultant for APH projects. Patti holds a master’s degree in Special Education and a Rehabilitative Services Credential in Orientation and Mobility from San Francisco State University. She is ACVREP certified in Orientation & Mobility.

Debi Martin has been a TVI for 33 years, O&M for 17 years, and a Guide Dog puppy raiser for 10 years. The puppies that she has raised have become an integral part of her curriculum.

Mike May is co-founder and CEO of Sendero Group, developers of the first accessible GPS for the blind in 2000 and distributors of various adaptive technologies. He has been the principle investigator on several US federal grants as he works with numerous organizations to advance wayfinding technologies around the world.
Dr. Bennett McAllister graduated with Honors from California State University, San Bernardino with a degree in Social Science before attending graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley. There, in 1979, he received his B.S. degree in Physiological Optics and, in 1981, his doctorate in Optometry. His clinical background runs from general private practice, pediatrics and contact lenses to low vision care and surgical pre- and post-op for cataracts and LASER surgery. Currently, he is Chief of Primary Care Services at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry.

William McCann is the President of Dancing Dots, Braille Music Technology.

James McCarthy is President of HIMS, Inc. based in Austin, Texas. He has a B.A. from the University of Redlands and an M.B.A from the American Graduate School of International Management. He has worked in the field of Assistive Technology for 33 years and is a legally blind user of video magnifiers for over 40 years.

Debby and Larry McFatter are the parents of Gavin McFatter, an alumnus of CSB.

Gavin McFatter is an alumnus of CSB and is living independently.

Ramona McLaughlin worked for the Employment Development Department for 20 years managing crucial program eligibility interviews with applicants and employers. While she was there, she accepted the opportunity to participate in the Director’s Disability Advisory Committee where she navigated conversations focused on work place concerns of state employees with disabilities. Most recently, she has worked as a TVI at Corona Norco USD.

Beth Moore is a retired Teacher of the Visually Impaired from Saddleback Valley USD. She has a M.A. in Education and is a Family Resource Specialist at the Center for the Partially Sighted.

Yolanda G. Moreno is the Director of Multiple Disability Services, Inc.

Jamie Murdy is a Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Specialist in Huntington Beach. She has been teaching students with visual impairments for the past five years. Prior to that, she worked for Sendero Group where she worked with Accessible GPS and other technology for the blind and visually impaired.

Caryn Navy has worked on Duxbury Braille Translator (DBT) development involving math for quite some time. Before and after earning a Ph.D. in math, she taught math to sighted students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and at Bucknell University. She has been serving on the BANA task force for creating guidelines for producing Nemeth Code in UEB context.

Nancy Niebrugge is the Associate Vice President of National Programs for Braille Institute. She has been leading The Braille Challenge for more than ten years, helping grow the program from a regional Southern California event to a national contest that includes more than 1,000 contestants in more than 40 sites throughout North America.

Lisa Okikawa is currently a Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments for the West Orange County Consortium for Special Education in Huntington Beach, CA and serves on the board for CTEBVI. Okikawa is an advocate for theatre education for students who are blind & visually impaired and has been acknowledged for her work by the Broadway League and Los Angeles’ Center Theatre Group. Her past conference presentations include: CTEBVI, Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind & Visually Impaired, Getting In Touch With Literacy, and participation in a presentation at the American Printing House for the Blind. She is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre and minor in English and completed both the credential and masters programs in Special Education/Visual Impairments from California State University, Los Angeles.
Cindy Olmstead is the President/CEO of Michigan Braille Transcribing Fund. MBTF is a full braille transcription production facility and their main product is K-12 textbooks. They are located in the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility. Presenting are:

Dennis Littleton has been a Transcriber since 2007. He is certified in Literary and Nemeth and is a Nemeth instructor, lead worker in Nemeth, and liaison for MBTF graduates.

Carlos King - Transcribing since 2010, he is certified in Literary and is a Literary and Formats instructor, and lead worker in Literary and UEB transitioning.

Jason Armour has been a Transcriber since 2007. He is certified in Literary and Nemeth. He’s a tackle and CorelDraw instructor and was Lead Worker in the Graphics Department.

Mitchell Keil has been a Transcriber since 2009. He is certified in Literary, Formats and Nemeth.

Lorenzo Harrell has been a Transcriber since 2008. He is certified in Literary and Nemeth.

Dennis Pogarch has been a Transcriber since 2008. He is certified in Literary and Nemeth.

Katrina Ostby has been an independent braille transcriber since 2003. Katrina works from NIMAS or publisher PDF files, but scans and OCRs books when those resources are not available or have insurmountable flaws. Katrina is certified in Literary and Nemeth Code, as well as 2012 Braille Formats.

Ilan “The Featured Cheese” Ota has become a well-known fixture at CTEBVI conferences over the past few years. His life in music began as a four-year-old in a play and sing program which led to his first formal lessons on the violin. Three years later, Ilan was accepted into the prestigious Northwest Boys Choir in Seattle, WA, where he remained as an active member for many years. At the age of 15, his focus moved to drumming and percussion quickly became his passion. Following a full scholarship at the Los Angeles Music Academy in Pasadena, CA, Ilan and his mother relocated to Southern California where he began concurrent studies in braille music and piano at the Southern California Conservatory of Music. Ilan is currently continuing his studies with Grant Horrocks, while establishing his career as a keyboard/vocalist and composer throughout the Los Angeles area.

Allen Pan, graduate of USC is a self described “Freelance Engineer, Electrical Mercenary, and Imagination Man.” Allen has invented “Conductak,” his specially designed solderless conductor.

Dr. Linda Pang graduated from Southern California College of Optometry. After graduation, she pursued advanced training in low vision rehabilitation at the renowned Lighthouse International in New York City. She has published a book, The Light- house Clinician’s Guide to Low Vision Practice. Currently, Dr. Pang is the Chief of the Vision Rehabilitation Service and an assistant professor at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry. She spends most of her time in the Eye Care Center training optometry students about the humanistic approach to patient care and guest lectures in various didactic courses.

Jonn Paris-Salb was a classroom teacher for 20 years, principal for 12 years, and has been with the Department of Education for nine years. Currently Jonn is the Assistive Technology Consultant. Jonn serves on the CTEBVI board, Braille Challenge Advisory, and Assistive Technology Advisory for the Department of Rehabilitation.

Michael Parker currently owns and operates Access Ingenuity, an assistive technology resource in the bay area. To boot he has a master’s in mechanical engineering and is always up for a challenge in mathematics.

Saroj Pathak and her son are founders of the non-profit organization, Explorabox. They have developed engaging science kits designed to be used at school and at home. Saroj has more than 50 years experience in engineering, technology, robotics, and teaching.

Sue Parker-Strafaci, M.A., ECSE holds a master’s degree in Special Education/Early Childhood and has spent over 35 years in the field of Early Intervention as a Child Development Specialist. She has been the Director of Child Development Services for Braille Institute for the past eleven years.

Damian Pickering was mainstreamed as a blind student and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. Mary’s College of California. A veteran of the Blindness Tech industry, he has represented Freedom Scientific, Humanware and currently serves as Regional Sales Manager for HIMS, Inc. Damian is grateful for the doors technology has opened in his life. He believes there is always room for new and better products, but there is also room for all of us to improve our mastery of the products we have.
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Stephanie Pieck holds a degree in piano performance from Ithaca College. She was a semi-finalist in the Tenth International Competition for Blind Musicians in Prague and received the 2006 Vivian Nelson Prize from the National Federation of Music Clubs. A passionate advocate of braille and music literacy, she has worked to increase the number of blind students participating in the music exams program of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Ben Pomeroy is the Director of Digital Services, Braille Institute of America.

Leila Ricci, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor, California State University, Los Angeles.

John Romeo is the program coordinator for "Beyond the Walls" and is the owner/operator of Full Cell Braille, Inc. He has been transcribing print to braille for over 20 years. John is certified in literary, textbook, and Nemeth codes.

Dr. Sharon Z. Sacks is the Superintendent of the California School for the Blind. Prior to her appointment at CSB, Sharon was a full professor and the coordinator of the teacher preparation program in blindness and visual impairment at California State University, Los Angeles. Sharon has published widely and presented nationally and internationally in the areas of social skills instruction, psycho-social implications of visual impairments and transit, from school to adult life. She was the President of AERBVI, and has served on numerous boards.

Tori Schladen, M.A., Early Childhood Education, is Director, Family Resource Project, Center for the Partially Sighted.

Lore Schindler has been teaching for over 30 years, with the last eight years as the technology coordinator for the Visually Impaired Program in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Rob Schulenburg taught for nine years at the Arizona Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in the Elementary, Middle, and High School Departments. He left Arizona to join the Peace Corps where he worked on special education curricula and policy development for Ministries of Education in Central America and the Caribbean. Returning to the States he now works for Junior Blind, a non-profit dedicated to positively impacting the lives of youth with visual impairment. His role as Director of Transition Services has Rob assisting in designing curricula and workshops to serve transition age youth in California.

Diane Sheline: After completing graduate work at San Francisco State University, Diane began working with students with visual impairments in 1981. She is the author of Strategy To See: Strategies for Students with Cortical Visual Impairment, and developed her website of the same name, Strategy To See. At this time, Diane continues to work primarily with students with CVI and conducts many teacher and parent trainings every year on strategies to use with this population.

Wayne “The Big Cheese” Siligo A consummate “musician’s musician,” Wayne has performed extensively throughout his career, both as a soloist and a sideman, in a wide spectrum of venues. Wayne is no stranger to CTEBVI; he currently serves on our Executive Board, has presented workshops at conference for many years, and has published numerous articles concerning music education for the visually impaired. His award winning Jazz Ensemble at the California School for the Blind continues to perform regularly for various state functions and conferences.

Ting Siu, Ph.D., is a part-time itinerant TVI from the Bay Area, and is also an adjunct lecturer in the Vision Impairment program at San Francisco State University (SFSU). Ting earned a Ph.D. in special education from UC, Berkeley and indulges a social geeky side in researching social media as professional development and developing effective strategies for improving TVIs’ use of technology. She also provides education and consulting support in accessibility issues to a number of community organizations including universities, technology developers, and vision-related researchers.

Seanarae Smith, M.A., is a Curriculum Expert, California State University, Los Angeles.

Robert Stepp is a frequent presenter at CTEBVI. He is the designer of the Braille2000 system.
Theresa Stern is Vice President of Outreach, Admissions and Alumni Services for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and has worked in the field of blind rehabilitation for over 20 years. Theresa is visually impaired and travels with her Guide Dog, “Wills.”

Greg Stilson has been with HumanWare since 2006. During this time he has held positions on both the technical support and sales teams. He currently is the Product Manager for HumanWare’s blindness product lines, working out of Wisconsin. Being blind since birth, Greg was an avid user of assistive technology during his educational career and continues to use all different types of technology today.

Peter Sullivan is Vice President of Development (CTO) of Duxbury Systems, Inc. and product manager for the Duxbury Braille Translator (DBT).

Bob Sweetman honed his assistive technology skills during his 15 years as an attorney and as the technology instructor with Junior Blind of America. He earned a B.S. from Stanford University, a J.D. from UC Davis, and an M.S. in Assistive Technology from Cal State, Northridge. He founded his own company, Sweetman Systems, along with his wife Sue and has been providing assistive technology and training to people with visual impairments since 1989.

Sue Sweetman graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and spent six years as a high school agriculture teacher before transferring her passion for “learning by doing” to folks with visual impairments. She founded her own company, Sweetman Systems, along with her husband Bob and has been providing assistive technology and training to people with visual impairments since 1989.

Arif Syed has been working at The Hatlen Center in various capacities for over eleven years, from bookkeeping to IT to teaching. He has received training in multiple adaptive technologies and programs, has attended and participated in many conferences and workshops, and strives to stay on top of technology trends. He graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.S. in Environmental Science.

Richard Taesch has been the CTEBVI Music Specialist since circa 1993. He is the founder and retired chair of Braille Music Division at Southern California Conservatory of Music (SCCM est. 1971). He is also the founder of the Music Education Network for The Visually Impaired – MENVI (est. 1997). He has authored “An Introduction to Music for the Blind Student” series and A Blind Music Student’s College Survival Guide (free download – www.menvi.org). Richard is a NLS certified music transcriber and has been a music educator since 1961.

Dr. Bill Takeshita is an optometrist who specializes in pediatric low vision care. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry as well as the College of Optometrists in Vision Development. He is currently the chief of optometric services at the Center for the Partially Sighted and an adjunct professor of the Southern California College of Optometry.

John Taylor became involved with tactile graphics in 2010, when he joined the staff at ViewPlus, focusing on customer/technical support and marketing for their tactile graphics embossers. John was named Product Manager at Irie-AT Inc. in 2015 and since has become the nation’s main support agent for the TactileView Tactile Graphics Design Suite. The majority of John’s time is dedicated to traveling the United States to train schools and other agencies on use of tactile graphics for supporting STEM students who are visually impaired.

…we’re a profession that doesn’t use the word “impossible.” Instead, we have been a profession that, for years, has discovered how to solve impossible tasks, how to use the creativity that permeates our profession, how to think so far out of the box that we amaze our friends and colleagues!

- Phil Hatlen
David Tobin created Audiojack and has been working with educational programs all over the world to help student engagement and achievement. He has worked to create custom programming and content for over 10 years.

Guy Toles is the Braille Services Manager for AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center and works with the "Beyond the Walls" project. Presenting with him are:

- C. Stone - Literary, Nemeth, Textbook Formatting certified (UEB pending)
- C. Harris - Literary, Textbook Formatting certified (Nemeth & UEB pending)
- J. Turner - Literary, Nemeth certified
- C. Casas - Literary certified
- Y. Espinoza - Literary certified (UEB pending)

Joanie Treptow served 26 years as a school braille transcriber and five years as an independent contractor. She served CTEBVI as president from 1999-2000, is a past Tactile Graphics Specialist and current Large Print Specialist.

Caleb van Docto is the Director of Services at Lions Center for the Blind in Oakland, CA. He holds a Master's of Special Education with an emphasis in Visual Impairments from San Francisco State University, and is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist. His work focuses on research and teaching strategies addressing cyclic and endemic issues of poverty, educational access, and social equity within the blind and low vision communities of the San Francisco Bay Area.

Sharon von See is the Braille Coordinator for TechAdapt, Inc. She has been a certified braille transcriber for 25 years. As a partner with the American Foundation for the Blind Textbooks and Instructional Materials Solutions Forum and Member of the AFB Joint Technology Task Force: Braille Production; TechAdapt collaborated in development of the NIMAS file standard.

Joe Vona is an assistive technology specialist at the California School for the Blind in Fremont, CA and a Teacher of the Visually Impaired. He studied at San Francisco State University for a VI credential and a master’s degree in special education: visual impairments. This is his first presentation at CTEBVI and he is excited to be able to participate in such a wonderful event!

Yurika Vu, M.A., has served in the field of blindness as an orientation mobility specialist and vision rehab specialist for over eight years and currently works at the California School for the Blind as an Assistive Technology Specialist. Previously, she worked at the Western Blind Rehab Center in Palo Alto, CA as a Computer Access Technology Specialist working with veterans and active duty service members. She was published as a co-author in the Journal of Visual Impairment: Neurological Vision Rehabilitation: Description and Case Study.

Anne Ward is the mother of an adult son with rod/cone dystrophy and nystagmus, and the grandmother of a boy with cerebral palsy and cerebral visual impairment. She is the Northern California Co-chairperson of CAPVI. Panel members are to be announced.

Roberta Williams and Jennifer Hirsh are TVI/O&Ms in Monterey County. With over 50 years combined experience they are long time teachers and collaborators, and first time CTEBVI presenters. They have incorporated STEM activities as part of a unique ESY summer program.

I believe that the experience that I have had in my lifetime demonstrates how important are the early acquisitions of braille skills, facility in mobility, a knowledge of print practice, and good attitudes. Equipped with these skills, a blind person can progress as far as his motivation, his ingenuity, and his talent will permit.

- Dr. Abraham Nemeth
Students who are visually impaired are a very small part of the total population of 6,235,520. Mobility around the campus, use of assistive technology, reading of braille, interactions with peers is often quite isolating. It is hoped that by spending a day as a shadow one of these students you will better understand their unique educational and social needs.

Please consider becoming involved in this opportunity.

The Shadow a Student movement helps to inform those who participate surprises in the student world, informs social issues, academic challenges, and how a student navigates a day. To learn more, go to [http://shadowastudent.org/](http://shadowastudent.org/). The site contains videos, reflections from participants, and may be useful in planning on a school-wide basis.

**From Beyond the Walls**

*From Beyond the Walls* is an innovative idea from John Romeo, program coordinator of *From Beyond the Walls*, and owner/operator of Full Cell Braille, Inc., in Burlington, Iowa. John is also an Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) for Southeastern Community College in partnership with Southeast Iowa WORKS. John is extremely passionate about braille and the rehabilitative qualities the vocation provides offenders who participate in prison braille programs across the nation. He wanted to showcase the immense knowledge base inside the prison programs for the benefit of the entire braille community.

We proudly present workshops 201, 303 and 501 as our inaugural presentations in the *From Beyond the Walls* program. We hope and expect *From Beyond the Walls* programming to be a part of our conferences for many years to come.
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