



## 2021 Annual Conference

**Motivation. Access. Excellence. Resilience.**

April 22nd and 23rd, 2021

**All sessions available pre-recorded/recorded live from 4/25/21 to 5/14/21 except opening Keynote with Gerry Brooks. There will be opportunities to earn SCECH and ACVREP credits (if applicable). Check back often for updates.**

### Thursday April 22, 2021

Time	Zoom Room 1	Zoom Room 2
8:30-10:00	KEYNOTE <b>Gerry Brooks LIVE ONLY!</b> Gerry is a 27 year veteran educator with 14 years in administration. His current take on humorous situations in education has gained him a following of over 2 million educators on social media. His focus will always be on personal common culture and being the best you can be in whatever position you serve.	Watch the Keynote speaker in Zoom room 1.
10:00-10:15	Break	Break

10:15-11:30	<p><b>Gwyn McCormack</b> Gwyn founded Positive Eye in 2008, her mission being to provide practical courses, consultancy and a bespoke product range of resources for practitioners working with children and young people with vision impairment (VI). Positive Eye has developed to work nationally in the UK and internationally. Gwyn uses her many years of experience as a Qualified Teacher of VI (QTVI) and Head of Service to deliver imaginative and creative approaches, within easy to use frameworks, equipping the front line practitioner with the practical skills they require to support children and schools.</p>	<p><b>Stephanie Steffer</b> What happens after you've completed the necessary assessments? We will utilize the baseline data gathered to analyze pre-made CVI activities. Next, we will review student profiles, identify which of those activities would be best fit, and their purpose. Finally, we will modify activities when a pre-made activity is not available.</p>
11:30-11:45		Break
11:45-12:00	Break	
12:00-1:00	Lunch / Business Meeting / MAER 2020 and 2021 awards	Lunch / Business Meeting / MAER 2020 and 2021 awards
1:00-2:15	<p><b>Amanda English/Mark Nelson</b> <b>Training Ware</b> Teaching students and clients to use programs such as Windows, MS-Office, Google Docs, and the internet with JAWS and ZoomText can seem overwhelming. Join us to learn how the TrainingWare® Tools can help you achieve these goals and make remote and in-person instruction simple and comprehensive, while easily collecting data.</p>	<p><b>Laura Millar</b> <b>Sex Ed</b> This workshop introduces the important topic of consent education, addressing various challenges faced by the blind community. This workshop will define consent and identify the benefits of creating a culture of consent, where talking about and obtaining consent is not only the norm but expected in the blind community.</p>
2:15-2:30	Break	Break

2:30-3:30	<p>Abby Koroma  <b>Mapmaking Made Easy: Using Online Tools</b>          How can you produce accessible maps for your O&amp;M students faster and more accurately? In this workshop, you will learn to use a free online tool to transform a Google Map into a to-scale, high-contrast and/or tactile map in less time than it takes to say "Sharpie and ruler!"</p>	<p>Gretchen Good / Jane Lee  <b>Parenting During a Pandemic</b>          New Zealand parents of disabled children had serious challenges during our Covid-19 lockdowns. This research presentation is to provide professional service providers, our allies, with a parent perspective. Ideas are presented that could be useful in future practice with disabled children and families during lockdowns.</p>
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3:30-3:45	Vendor highlights.	Vendor highlights.
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**Friday, April 23, 2021**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Zoom room 1</b>	<b>Zoom room 2</b>
8:15-9:45	<p>Stephanie Grant            Stephanie is trained as a Developmental Psychologist and is licensed as a Professional Counselor. She currently works as the Director of Community Education and Advocacy at Developmental Enhancement in Holland, MI. She has separate masters degrees in Marriage and Family Therapy and Psychology and a PhD in Lifespan Developmental Psychology. Her clinical and research interests focus on working with infants and children with attachment concerns and trauma histories, specifically those who have adoption or foster care backgrounds..</p>	<p>Watch the keynote speaker in Zoom room 1.</p>
9:45-10:00	Break	Break
10:00-11:15	<p>Shannon McVoy / Jaclyn Tollas  <b>Transition/Pre-ETS</b>            This presentation will focus on Pre-ETS services and delivery through Transition Programs. An overview of Program development will be provided along with an example of a creative program on 21st Century Transportation (Autonomous Vehicles). Shannon and Jaclyn will highlight how the Michigan Bureau of Services for</p>	<p>Linda Billings / Charlene Gordon / Pauline Smith  <b>Braille</b>            This discussion is designed to look at the current practices for teaching braille, transcribing braille and the availability of braille material in Michigan. The seminar will give braille instructors, transcribers and users an opportunity to express their practices. We will look at both UEB and English Braille.</p>

	Blind Persons (BSBP) partnered with the University of Michigan, education, local community agencies and state advocacy groups. This innovative program required coordination at a variety of levels, leading to the development of BSBP's Program Development Guide and other staff resources.	
11:15-11:30	Break	Break

11:30-12:30	<p>Roxanne Balfour MDE-LIO Updates</p> <p>There are so many changes every year and keeping up with it all can be challenging. Updates will be provided from LIO with an opportunity for discussion on VI rules, new library system for books and equipment, the census, and the challenges that evolved into new opportunities this past year.</p>	<p>Hannah Fairbairn Self-Advocacy</p> <p>This presentation will discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The social consequences of loss of non-verbal communication especially for older adults.</li> <li>2. The need for clients to grieve before being able to value themselves and speak up.</li> <li>3. The importance of consumers learning how to speak in a firm, positive, and specific way (assertive) to get needed assistance and uphold their rights.</li> <li>4. The tricky work of changing how consumers communicate, and topics for group meetings.</li> <li>5. The value of support groups for discussion, practice, and role-playing.</li> </ol> <p>Questions and discussion are welcome after the presentation.</p>
12:30-1:30	Lunch/Awards(Lifetime Achievement)	Lunch/Awards(Lifetime Achievement)
1:30-2:30	<p>Gwynn McCormack</p> <p>Gwyn founded Positive Eye in 2008, her mission being to provide practical courses, consultancy and a bespoke product range of resources for practitioners working with children and young people with vision impairment (VI). Children are at the heart Gwyn's work and creativity is one of her key strengths. She is currently collaborating with the South East States and Midwest States Deafblind Projects (USA) to bring Sparkly Story Shows to children and their families. This session is the follow up to the first session.</p>	<p>Roberta Hurley</p> <p>Switching back and forth from F2F and remote has been a challenge. Making a concept Google slide lesson, change how I engaged students with low vision and their families for O&amp;M lessons, all while keeping the continuity of lesson.</p>
2:30-2:45	Break	Break
2:45-3:45	<p>Paige Lloyd / Roberta McCall VRT Updates</p> <p>This session will provide different information and updates in the VRT field.</p>	<p>Meri McGregor/ Beth Brabbs Sharing Remote O&amp;M Ideas</p> <p>Since last March we have all been discovering a new way to deliver O&amp;M services to students in school, ages 0-26. Gather with us to hear ideas and share your own successes. Shared ideas and resources will be compiled for participants during the session.</p>

3:45	Conference Wrap-Up
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**3:45 END OF CONFERENCE.**

- Please be sure to look for your evaluations and SCECH/ACVREP forms in email.

**Additional Pre-Recorded Sessions Available 4/22/21 to 5/14/21**

Roxanne Balfour and Collette Bauman	Recruit Re-brand Re-focus Re-energize Filling the gap in the teacher shortage in Michigan	1.0 hours
Johanna Brutvan, Amy Shepherd and Sara Cruchelow	Conducting a Functional Vision Assessment Using the CVI Range	1.25 hours
Dr. Joe Todd CVRT	What Screen Reader is Best for Me	1.25 hours
Anne Riddering, PhD, OTR/L, CLVT, COMS	O&M Considerations, Techniques and Assistive Devices for Individuals with VI and Chronic Conditions	1.0 hours
Sarah Stargardt	Taking Your Workshop Virtual	1.0 hours
Kristy Plesscher and Erica Ihrke	Virtual Summer Camp	1.0 hours
Sean C Ziadeh	Blind to Blindness: Adjusting to an Invisible Disability Part I and II	2.0 hours
Patricia L Obrzut	Simple Ideas for Hands On Constructive Learning	1.25 hours
Elyse Connors and Rachel Pavone	VRTs teaching technology: Association between the age of the VRT and the frequency that that technology teaching tasks are performed	1.0 hours
Gretchen Good	Sensory Barriers to access to National Parks: development of an audit tool	0.5 hours

Jared A. Embree, Dr. Josephine Wilson, and Valerie Kapp	Lessons learned in a Virtual Office Space (VOS): Improving Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Low Vision  1.0 hours
Amanda English and Abby Koroma	Independent Living Skills: Manual, Modules, Make-its, and More!  1.5 hours
Lee Staub, Jessica Lehman, and Laura Millar	Let's Talk About Ableism: Examining Disability-Based Oppression on the Students and Clients We Serve  1.5 hours