



In collaboration with...

Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education; Educational Service Unit #4; Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Registration for the Nebraska Deaf-Blind Summer Institute

Focusing on Children with Significant Disabilities, including those with or without Sensory Disabilities

July 20-23, 2015

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (East Campus)

Communication Systems, Interaction, and Routines for Students with Deafblindness and Additional Disabilities

July 20-21 (Monday-Tuesday)

Communication systems using calendars and tangible symbols provide a meaningful framework for use by emerging communicators who are deafblind with additional disabilities. Students with deafblindness who don't read print or braille need some way to use recorded information just like everyone else. For these students object symbols, picture symbols, or tactile communication symbols can fill that role both expressively and receptively in a variety of ways. Using instructional routines helps students attach meaning to language and symbols, as well as opportunities to increase interaction. This workshop will focus on these issues of building richer communication for students with deafblindness and additional disabilities.

Presenter: David Wiley

David Wiley has worked with the Texas Deafblind Project, providing statewide technical assistance to families, schools, and community service agencies around issues of deafblindness and transition planning. Before joining the Project, he worked with students in the Deafblind Program at the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

He serves as co-chair of the Texas Interagency Task Force on Deafblindness, and was formerly on the Steering Committee of the Texas Transition Task Force. His work includes providing consultation on person-centered planning for individual students, writing training materials, serving as editor of the Project publication, *TX SenseAbilities*, and organizing workshops and conferences.

For over 20 years David has made numerous workshop presentations to families and professionals throughout Texas, as well as around the U.S. and in Canada. He is a longtime member of DBMAT, a non-profit organization for families and professionals concerned with issues surrounding deafblindness in Texas.

The Toolbox of Today: Multi-Modal Methods for Accessing Multi-Media Materials to Support Learning and Literacy for Students with Multiple Disabilities Including Deafblindness

July 22-23 (Wednesday-Thursday)

This linked set of workshops covers classic and modern tools, techniques, and technologies for meeting a wide variety of educational needs of students with mixed sensory disabilities including deafblindness. Sessions will include innovative techniques for teaching and producing Unified English Braille (UEB), tactile graphics, accessible multi-media materials, and online resources to support continued creative exploration by students, teachers, and parents. Dr. Josh Miele and Ting Siu will lead a two-day chain of deeply engaging presentations and discussions drawing on their combined knowledge and experience as innovators, educators, and expert users of the every-day tools of accessible information for people with sensory disabilities.

(see next page for presenter and registration information)

Presenters: Joshua A. Miele, Ph.D. and Yue-Ting Siu

Dr. Miele is a scientist with over 25 years of experience in developing innovative, information-accessibility solutions for blind people. He has a bachelors degree in physics and a Ph.D. in psychoacoustics from the University of California at Berkeley. As Director of the Description Research and Innovation Lab (DRIL), and Associate Director of the Smith-Kettlewell Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Blindness and Low Vision, he leads a team of engineers and scientists dedicated to addressing a wide variety of accessible information challenges in education, employment, and entertainment. His leadership of the DRIL (Formerly the Video Description Research and Development Center) energetically integrates accessibility engineering, education research, psychophysics, disability studies, and other disciplines, applying description technologies and techniques to a universe of information accessibility challenges.

Outside of his professional work at Smith-Kettlewell, Dr. Miele is an active member of the Bay Area’s vibrant disability community. He is a former board member of both the Bay area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP), and the Ed Roberts Campus (ERC). He is currently the President of the board of the San Francisco LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and is the Creative Director of LightHouse Labs — a Bay Area think tank which promotes tightening ties between technology innovators and the blind community.

Dr. Miele is the inventor of the Descriptive Video Exchange (DVX), YouDescribe, WearaBraille, Tactile Maps Automated Production (TMAP), the Talking Tactile Pen (TTP), Sonification tools for MATLAB, Virtual Talking Signs, Simulated Sighted Stranger (SSS), and a number of other tools and diversions for blind consumers. He has also made contributions to screen reader technology, computer-vision applications for the blind, haptic exploration research, and disability humor. Dr. Miele lives in Berkeley with his wonderful wife and two children.

Yue-Ting (Ting) Siu is a TVI with 13 years of experience working with students aged birth to 65 with visual impairments, multiple disabilities, and deafblindness. She started in the field as a program aide in the Deafblind Program at the Perkins School for the Blind, followed by a preschool for the deaf. After receiving her master’s degree and dual credentials in deafblindness and visual impairments at the University of Arizona, Ting taught in NYC as a center and home-based early intervention provider, and itinerant TVI and assistive technology trainer. Currently, she maintains a part-time itinerant TVI caseload in Bay area public school districts while completing her PhD in special education at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University. Ting's research focuses on improving training and professional development to support TVIs' implementation of technology in the classroom. She is also an adjunct lecturer in the TVI and O&M programs at SFSU, and provides research and consulting support to bridge technology development and teachers' adoption of tools for the classroom. (www.tplus.education)

Follow Josh and Ting on Twitter:

@BerkeleyBlink

@TVI_ting

UNL Credit: Funding is available for some Nebraska participants to attend the Institute and earn college credit and we encourage all Nebraskans to apply. Those who wish to apply for UNL credit must complete a separate form, which will be emailed to you if you indicate you are interested in taking the course for credit on the registration form. Those who apply for UNL credit will be notified in early June if they will receive funding. If you do not receive funding, you may still take the course for credit although you would be responsible for paying your own costs.

Register online: www.nebraskadeafblindproject.org under ‘Upcoming Events’ or www.ncebvi.org under ‘Professional Development’ **OR** click here to go to the live registration form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Hn_eUZQZ4-7bSAYyhOx1z5PATvdubdOoZSybZJe51mU/viewform?usp=send_form

Registration is DUE by: May 29, 2015
Additional details will be emailed to participants.

THERE IS NO COST FOR REGISTRATION.

Questions?

Teresa Coonts, Project Director
402-595-1810
teresa.coonts@nebraska.gov

Tanya Hilligoss, Project Coordinator
402-873-5513
thilligoss@esu4.net