

2015 Northeast AER Conference



NE/AER

NOVEMBER 2015

North Falmouth, Massachusetts

November 4-6

Welcome to Cape Cod!

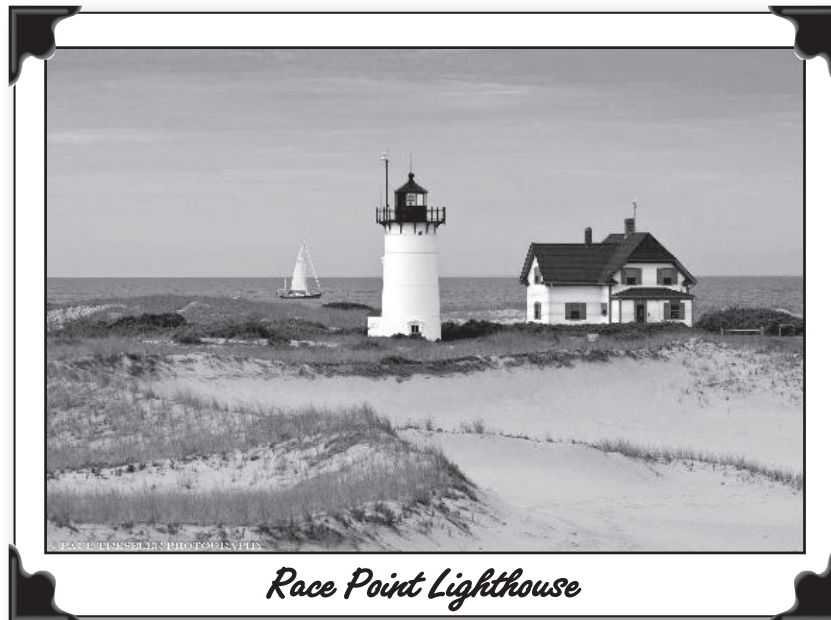
Welcome NE/AER Members and Vision Professionals to Cape Cod and our long-awaited annual conference. I am so pleased to be here with all of you and I'm looking forward to an amazing conference!

A special thank you to our conference chairs Mimi Flanary and Karina Thompson; program committee chairs Kathy Downes and Susan Sherry, and the many individuals who have volunteered their time, resources, and brain power to create and host this conference. It truly takes a team to put together this conference!

The theme "A Beacon to the Future" is a relevant and meaningful theme. NE/AER has weathered a few storms over the past few years and the Beacon that guided us through the storm is the knowledge that this annual conference is a primary membership benefit. This annual conference is where we come together to network, brainstorm, and fuel up among innovative, creative, and often like-minded professionals. This conference is where we develop ourselves professionally earning our necessary points or credits. And this conference is where we create the foundation for NE/AER; your professional organization. YOU are NE/AER and it is your interest, ideas, and participation that allow us

to hold this conference. The Board of Directors values your participation, membership, expertise, and perspective so much. Without you we cannot have a board, and without NE/AER there is no conference. So thank you!

"A Beacon to the Future" is also relevant because the three programs at UMass Boston; VRT, TVI, and O&M are thriving and a record number of students are participating. Our field is indeed expanding, and this is good news! Upcoming Vision Professionals are important to NE/AER because we want to provide



Race Point Lighthouse

information, support, and opportunities to them while also being an organization with whom they want to participate. My hope for this annual conference is that we connect with our fellow professionals, board members, our vendors, and that we welcome in as many new and "in training" visual professionals as possible. They are truly our "Beacon to the Future" and someday will be hosting this conference in their states. Our support and interest can make an important difference.

I love our conference! Have an amazing conference and ENJOY the Sea Crest and the Cape!

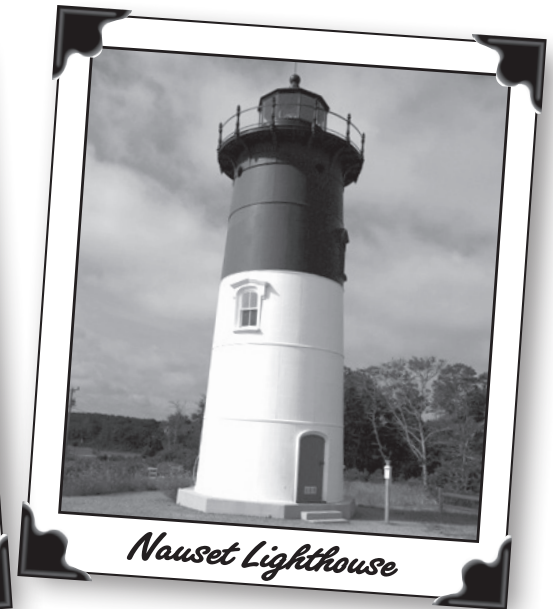
Rishi Connelly, NE/AER President Elect

Helpful Hotel Information...

- Conference Registration is located on the carpeted area just past Hotel Registration and Gift Shop, and is open every day during the conference hours.
- Orientation, large print, and braille are available for the hotel amenities.
- For information regarding dog guide relief areas, please inquire at the Conference Registration table.
- Hotel check-in time is 4 PM. Some rooms may be available earlier. Hotel check-out time is 11 AM.
- Red's Restaurant and Lounge, located at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel, serves meals from 11:30 AM – 9 PM. Red's bar is open until midnight. Thursday evening, dinner is on your own. Please keep in mind that Red's will not be able to accommodate all conference attendees at one time. Red's accepts reservations and there are numerous options in nearby Falmouth.



Truro Beach



Nauset Lighthouse



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2015 NE/AER Conference Committee...

Mimi Flanary and her Conference co-chair Karina Thompson thank the following individuals for the hard work and dedication that went into the 2015 NE/AER Conference.

Program Committee

Kathy Downes, Co-Chair

Susan Sherry, Co-Chair

Kathy Blake

Kim Callan

Nancy Druke

Cheryl Gannon

Jennifer Goodwin

Kathleen Turner

Vendor/Exhibits Committee

Donna LeBlanc, Chair

Host/Technology Committee

Laura Bozeman, Co-Chair

Robert McCulley, Co-Chair

Registration Committee

Kim Charlson, Chair

Debby King

Theresa Pagliuca

Publicity/Logo Design

Dina Rosenbaum, Chair

Accessibility Committee

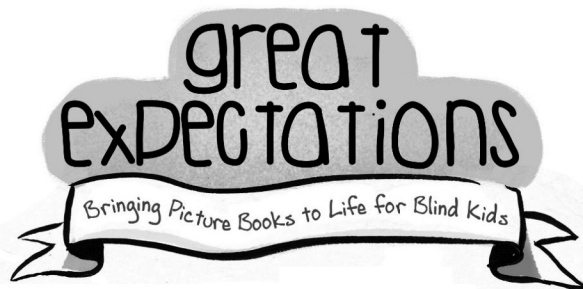
Meg Robertson, Chair

Program Design

Patricia Tilton

CEU Coordinator

Kim Stumph



Picture books for blind kids? YES!

✿ Tips for reading aloud & describing images in picture books!

✿ Promote active reading experiences with songs, multi-sensory play, body movement activities & more!

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BEACON TO THE FUTURE



2015 NE/AER REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Sea Crest Beach Hotel

N. Falmouth, Massachusetts

Nov. 4-6, 2015

AVAILABLE CREDITS FOR THIS CONFERENCE INCLUDE:

• Social Work CEUs • Connecticut Teacher CEUs • CRCC • ACVREP • PDP's

Program of Events

Tuesday, November 3

5 PM
Shutters

NE/AER BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 4

8:45-11:45

PRE-CONFERENCES

Ballroom 3

**PRE-CONFERENCE 1 – THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN: MOVING FROM
SIGHTED TO A WORLD OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENT**

Sponsored by: VRT, Aging & Psychosocial Divisions

Jennifer Ottowitz, CVRT

Losing vision as an adult has functional and social implications. It requires a myriad of adjustments including those, which are physical and emotional. The many people in the middle of the vision spectrum can also have an even more difficult time, as they do not seem to fit into either a fully sighted or fully blind world. How does a person successfully transition from being sighted to living a successful and fulfilling life in a world of visual impairment? This presentation will discuss the impact vision loss has on a person's life and the stages of adjustment to vision loss as well as strategies and resources available to promote positive growth and self-acceptance.

Ballroom 1

**PRE-CONFERENCE 2 – O&M FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED WHEELCHAIR USERS
SPONSORED BY: ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY DIVISION**

James Scott Crawford, COMS, CLVT

In this workshop, the presenter will share proven strategies for teaching visually impaired students how to utilize manual, powered wheelchairs and scooters in conjunction with the long white cane. Strategies will include navigating tight spaces, doorways, sidewalks and more.

Ballroom 2	<p>PRE-CONFERENCE 3 – CONSULTATION SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR TEACHERS OF THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED</p> <p><i>Sponsored by: Education Curriculum/Itinerant Personnel Division</i></p> <p><i>Laurel Hudson, PhD, TVI, COMS</i></p> <p>In this workshop, the presenter will talk about consultation for Teachers of Visually Impaired/Blind Students as they work within inclusive settings. After a discussion of general collaborative principles Dr. Hudson will cover “The Set-Up” consultation, the “Wrinkles” consultation and the “Maintenance” consultation. The presenter will draw upon her book, “Classroom Collaboration” and her blog “Paths to Literacy” as well as move into a more advanced level of discussion. Throughout the session, the presenter will address practical issues specific to consultations in the inclusion model.</p>
7:30-5:00 Ballroom Lobby	REGISTRATION
12:30-2:00 Ballroom 1 & 2	<p>WELCOME</p> <p><i>Paul Saner, Commissioner of Massachusetts Commission for the Blind</i></p> <p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER: “LOOKING UNDER THE HOOD: USING BRAIN IMAGING TO CHARACTERIZE NEUROPLASTICITY CHANGES IN CVI”</p> <p><i>Lotfi Merabet, OD, PhD, MPH, Optometrist-Scientist</i></p> <p>This presentation will discuss how advanced brain imaging techniques can reveal fundamental differences in how the brain of individuals with ocular blindness and CVI are “wired”. In turn, these differences may have an impact on education and rehabilitation related strategies.</p>
2:00-2:30 Registration Area	BREAK & HOTEL CHECK-IN
2:30-4:00	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
W1 Ballroom 2	<p>O&M AND WINTER PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL SKILLS</p> <p><i>Meg Robertson, COMS</i></p> <p>The Northeast has been impacted by the worst weather, cold and snow ever recorded during the 2014-2015 winter season. What are the ways we can get our consumers to prepare for this weather and discuss O&M travel skills.</p>
W2 Racepoint	<p>DUAL MEDIA LEARNERS</p> <p><i>Cheryl Brown, TVI, Education Consultant</i></p> <p>Making the decision for a student to be a dual media learner requires a variety of evaluations and considerations. This presentation will review what goes into making the decision and how to develop a balanced program.</p>
W3 Ballroom 1	<p>CONTINUING THE KEYNOTE CONVERSATION</p> <p><i>Lotfi Merabet, OD, PhD, MPH, Optometrist-Scientist</i></p> <p>Join Dr. Lotfi Merabet as the conversation on Brain Imaging and CVI continues.</p>
W4 Highland	<p>TRANSITION TO WORK: THE PROJECT SEARCH MODEL</p> <p><i>Marianne Gilmore, CRC, Workforce Development Specialist; Theresa Kane, PhD, Chief Operating Officer</i></p> <p>In the spring of 2015, The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind funded The Carroll Center for the Blind and the Polus Center to implement a transition to work program called Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH combines business partners with onsite supports for a full immersion in the workplace for individuals to gain marketable skills and gain competitive employment.</p>

W5 Ballroom 3	<p>PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER: THE EFFECTS OF THE AGING PROCESS ON VISION, COGNITIVE PROCESSES, PHYSICAL ABILITIES AND QUALITY OF LIFE (Organized by the Aging, Psychosocial and VRT divisions) <i>Cammy Holway-Moraros, CVRT, LSW; Ira Chomsky, CVRT, CLVT; Adele Geringer, LICSW, COMS; Jennifer Ottowitz, CVRT; John Pimentel, RN, BSN, CDOE, VRT</i></p> <p>Many of us working with Elders see the challenges they are facing with age related changes. These changes, which can occur simultaneously, can impact their ability not only to function on a daily basis but also to accomplish their goals. This diverse panel, which will include a diabetic nurse, two VRT's, a clinical social worker/COMS and a BROS, will provide us with information and insight, address your questions and help us pull it all together.</p>
W6 Chatham	<p>SUPPORT CANES, WALKERS, AND CRUTCHES... OH MY! <i>James Scott Crawford, COMS, CLVT</i></p> <p>Proven strategies of teaching visually impaired students how to utilize support canes, walkers, and crutches. Not just for the elderly! Session covers strategies utilized with students of all ages.</p>
4:00-4:15	BREAK
4:15-5:15	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
W7 Ballroom 2	<p>"SOUND" PRACTICES IN TEACHING VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS <i>Cheryl Gannon, TVI, COMS</i></p> <p>Visual images are a critical element of teaching, engaging, and motivating sighted children but a mode that is often inaccessible to visually impaired students. We often compensate by creating enlarged or tactile representations. This presentation will explore some ideas for using sounds to model, engage, motivate, and enrich how we present lessons. These will include low tech as well as computer-generated and iPad App ideas. Participants are encouraged to share their ideas as well.</p>
W8 Chatham	<p>UEB? NEMETH? TWO CODES FOR MATH – WHAT SHALL WE DO? <i>Sandy Smith, TVI, Braille Instructor, UMass Boston; Wendy Buckley, M.Ed., Ed.S, Assistive Technology Specialist, Braille Instructor, UMass Boston</i></p> <p>With the transition to the Unified English Braille Code (UEB) in January, the United States will have two official braille codes for Mathematics. Which one will you be using with your students?</p>
W9 Racepoint	<p>JOB READY—HOW TO EVALUATE A VR PROGRAM IN CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS <i>Elizabeth H. Schmidt, M.S.; Kyle S. Beverlin, Recruitment and Placement Specialist</i></p> <p>The Admissions team from the National Statler Center /Elizabeth Pierce Olmsted MD, Center For Sight will discuss an analytical process used in evaluating a strong program option for blind and visually impaired VR training programs from baseline pre-requisite skills, admissions evaluations, program curriculum, reporting /feedback and job placement and job development assistance.</p>
W10 Ballroom 3	<p>THE APPLE SOCIAL <i>Bonnie Gouzie, Director of ATEs Program, The Iris Network; Susan Anderson, Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, Employment Coordinator; John Allen, Employment Specialist; Steve Kelley, CVRT</i></p> <p>Apple Social is an introduction to the Apple iPad; a tablet technology for school, work and home. The Apple Social is fun, informative and the language is geared to explorers rather than technology experts.</p>

**W11
Ballroom 1**

PERCEPT: INDOOR NAVIGATION FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED
Charlene Sanderson, COMS; James Schafer, Research Fellow

PERCEPT is an indoor navigation system developed by UMass Amherst to assist the blind and visually impaired to navigate unfamiliar indoor environments. By using the PERCEPT smartphone app, the user can interact with PERCEPT tags in the environment to receive real-time step-by-step navigation instructions from where they are to where they want to go within the environment. The placement of the PERCEPT tags and the language of the instructions are developed through cooperation with Mass. Commission for the Blind. The focus of the program will be on the currently deployed pilot of the PERCEPT in the Arlington MBTA subway station in Boston and has undergone 11 human subject trials with blind and visually impaired students.

**W12
Highland**

OCEAN INSIGHT: A COLLABORATION SUPPORTING THE EXPANDED CORE CURRICULUM

Kate Fraser, TVI, Science Teacher, Perkins School for the Blind; Dr. Amy Bower, Physical Oceanographer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

The presentation will explain the benefits of students with a visual impairment collaborating with scientists who are blind, based on the ongoing collaboration between the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Perkins School for the Blind. Skills gained by students during this kind of collaboration include career education, use of assistive technology, recreation/leisure skills and many more.

**6:00-8:30
Ocean View Room
& Ballroom 3**

DINNER and AWARDS BANQUET

Thursday, November 5

**7:00-8:30
Ocean View Room**

BREAKFAST

8:00-8:45

DIVISION MEETINGS

**Nauset 4
Racepoint
Nauset 5
Highland
Chatham**

**VRT
EDUCATION & ITINERANT
INFO/TECHNOLOGY
PSYCHOSOCIAL
PERSONNEL PREP**

**9:00-5:00
Nauset 1 & 2**

VENDOR EXHIBITS OPEN ALL DAY

**9:00-10:15
Ballroom 1 & 2**

THURSDAY GENERAL SESSION – “RECRUITMENT IN JEOPARDY”

Audrey Dannenberg, COMS, CVRT, TVI

There is a national shortage of vision professionals. The AER Professional Personnel Recruitment Committee published four recruitment flyers in 2013. What is the Committee's next goal? Who needs to do the recruitment? Where should these activities occur? How does one recruit? Let's talk solutions and continue to take action!

10:30-11:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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T1 Nauset 4	FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING <i>Jane R. Rosen, COMS; Natacha LeBron Rodriguez, Student</i> Meet Natacha, an inner city teenager who was convinced she would never use a cane, but able to travel using buses and paratransit. See her “cheat sheets” and how she overcame not being able to tell time, read a bus schedule, ride the fixed route bus, communicate with paratransit staff and become a YMCA member.
T2 Racepoint	STUDENTS WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT AND CHRONIC ILLNESS <i>Amy Mason, M.Ed., COMS</i> This presentation will provide a framework for understanding the unique needs and challenges facing public school students who have both vision impairment and a chronic illness. Strategies for creating flexible instructional programming that supports academic, social, and daily living needs will be discussed.
T3 Nauset 5	EVOLUTION IN THE GUIDE DOG FIELD – UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGES <i>Kathy Rooney, Field Representative, Senior Instructor</i> The guide dog field has changed tremendously over the years. Come and learn the newest techniques, breeding practices, etc. to gain a better understanding and how to prepare and work with both applicants and graduates.
T4 Highland	ENGAGING COLLEGES TO ACHIEVE ACCESSIBLE ONLINE LEARNING FOR BLIND AND VI STUDENTS <i>Brian Charlson, Director of Technology, The Carroll Center for the Blind; Bruce Howell, Accessibility Service Coordinator, The Carroll Center for the Blind</i> We will describe how the Carroll Center originally created its own accessible online learning content, and why we modified our mission to support public colleges working to achieve better accessibility in their online course offerings. We believe this will ultimately make a much larger array of online learning opportunities available to blind and visually impaired students, which will in turn open up greater education and employment opportunities for them.
T5 Nauset 3	ALL EYES ON EYE GAZE! <i>Wendy Buckley, M.Ed., Ed.S, Assistive Technology Specialist, Braille Instructor, UMass Boston</i> The presentation will look at how eye-gaze technology can be used with children who have a visual impairment and complex needs to gain an insight into their visual skills – can they track and fixate on images? What colors, shapes, and sizes of images do they attend to? Can they discriminate between images? We’ll look at how children in the Deafblind Program at Perkins are using eye-gaze with a computer and see how its analytics provides powerful information to help answer these questions.
T6 Chatham	UTILIZING A PARENT STUDY TO GUIDE TRANSITION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES <i>Betsy Bixler, Educational Programs Project Manager</i> The presentation will present the results of a transition services study conducted by Perkins School for the Blind through an interview process of parents of students and graduates from Perkins and public schools and ‘industry’ professionals. In addition, this presentation will discuss management strategies to utilize the results to improve transition services for students with visual impairment including students who are blind, have multiple disabilities, and deaf-blindness.
11:30-1:00 Nauset 1 & 2	LUNCH, VENDOR EXHIBITS, POSTER SESSIONS

1:00-2:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

T7
Racepoint

OFF TO COLLEGE? WHAT'S O&M GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Meg Robertson, COMS, Director O&M Department, Mass. Commission for the Blind

In getting our students ready for college, academics cannot be the only focus. A student can be book smart but not ready for prime time in knowing how to travel independently or even do laundry. Is the student ready for this next transition?

T8
Nauset 3

TEACHING MULTIPLY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS? YOUR BAG OF TRICKS IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK!

Judith E. Bischoff, M.Ed., Educational Vision Consultant; Dr. Richard Ely, TVI

Education has always thrived on "new innovations, ideas, and directions." Just when one idea comes to light and begins to gather momentum, another newer, better, more measurable or more relevant direction eclipses it. Yes, tried and true strategies successful in the past often become lost in this shuffle. In recent years the move away from some of these time proven strategies has been particularly evident with our multiply handicapped blind population. This workshop hopes to join Vision Professionals of all levels of experience in a discussion of what we have learned about how to teach students with multiple disabilities over the years. Our intent is to put in to perspective not only what to include and how to incorporate those teachings of the past within today's rigid structure of IEP and CC standards but also WHY we should.

T9
Highland

PERSPECTIVES IN VI EDUCATION: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PUERTO RICO?

Panel discussion. Dr. Luz Robles, Director TVI Program at the Puerto Rico DOE; Professor José Alvarez, Instructor; Dr. Edwin Vega, Assistive Technology Professor

Presenters will share educational issues and innovative projects related to the population of students with visual needs in Puerto Rico. Demonstrations will be provided on how assistive technologies converge with other digital technologies and programming procedures to create participatory activities for individuals with visual and other physical or sensory needs.

T10
Nauset 5

READING BETWEEN THE LINES – EVALUATING AND DETERMINING PRINT SIZE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT, A CASE BASED DISCUSSION

Nicole C. Ross, OD, MSC, FAAO

During a low vision evaluation it is important to establish a patient's critical print size – the smallest print the patient can read at their maximum reading rate. Critical print size is then used to determine: levels of magnification required, print size recommendations, and recommendations for visual assistive equipment. However, there are numerous factors (both visual and non-visual) that can influence a patient's critical print size. In this talk we will review many methods of determining critical print size, and the factors that contribute to this exam finding.

T11
Chatham

INTRODUCING BRAILLE

Laurel Hudson, PhD, TVI, COM

During this session, Laurie will present "Introducing Braille," an eBook published by Perkins and purchased through iTunes. She will show all 14 linked videos demonstrating guidelines for making braille literacy instruction fun, developmental, and meaningful for "tweeners" (generally 4-7 year olds or older children with multiple impairments) who have been exposed to pre-braille programming but are not yet ready for formal braille literacy instruction.

1:00-2:00
T12
Nauset 4

VENDOR SESSION: NEW ENGLAND LOW VISION

Scott V. Krug, President, New England Low Vision

Low Vision Technology has changed dramatically in the last 6 to 9 months. This presentation will show you how it has changed and why understanding these changes is extremely important for both the instructor and the end user.

2:30-3:00	BREAK – VISIT EXHIBITS, POSTER SESSIONS & RAFFLE
3:00-4:00	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
T13 Nauset 5	<p>SUCCESSFUL O&M LESSONS WITH STUDENTS WHO ARE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM <i>Nancy Wittmershaus, TVI, COMS</i> Autism adds another dimension to O&M lessons. Learn how to understand your students' needs and set up your lessons for success. Appropriate for both TVI and O&M attendees.</p>
T14 Highland	<p>LEARN, EARN AND PROSPER (LEAP): SUMMER EMPLOYMENT SKILLS <i>Kaelyn Modrak, LEAP Program Coordinator; Stephanie Bissonette, TVI, COMS</i> LEAP offers individuals, ages 16-24, the opportunity to gain the skills needed to become independent, confident, and productive young adults. The goal of this program is to increase the employable skills of youth in transition which will help lead to meaningful employment.</p>
T15 Nauset 4	<p>ALTERNATE ROUTES: ADAPTING ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY TECHNIQUES <i>Robin Sitten, Educational Resource Specialist</i> This presentation will provide an overview of various adaptations that have been adapted at Perkins for students who are having trouble learning standard O&M techniques. The adaptations described are appropriate for children and adults who have physical and/or intellectual disabilities in addition to their visual impairments.</p>
T16 Nauset 3	<p>NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT (Organized by the Aging, Psychosocial and VRT divisions) <i>Beth Beenken, PhD, Neuropsychologist; Armin Azar, PhD</i> Aspects of neuropsychological evaluation and resulting recommendations will be discussed as they pertain to people with visual impairment. The presentation will also include brief review of cognitive problems (e.g. stemming from memory and other neurological disorders) that may accompany ocular conditions often seen in blind rehabilitation.</p>
T17 Racepoint	<p>THE IEP AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE <i>Tom Miller, Program Director, Kevin O'Grady School, Northshore Education Consortium</i> This presentation will overview ways to use the IEP to assure access to appropriate services for students with visual impairments including students with multiple disabilities or deafblindness. Participants will explore resources and techniques, which can support their advocacy for services including the expanded core curriculum.</p>
T18 Chatham	<p>TRACKING THE MAC: GETTING THE MOST OUT OF VOICEOVER WITH TRACKPAD GESTURES <i>Elizabeth Bottner, MS. Ed., CVRT, Computer Access Training Specialist</i> Session participants will learn how to incorporate the use of a trackpad and gestures along with keyboard commands (when appropriate) to interact with VoiceOver to navigate the Mac operating system.</p>
4:00 – 4:15 Exhibit Hall	BREAK
4:15 – 5:45	CONCURRENT SESSIONS
T19 Nauset 5	<p>BUCKET 101: THE BOUNTIFUL BONUSES OF POSITIVE FEEDBACK <i>Cammy Holway-Moraros, CVRT, LSW; Samantha Green, CVRT</i> We've got an exciting "new social skill" to introduce to you. You probably won't read about it in any textbook or learn about it in any classroom, but we know you will not want to miss this! Please join us for this thought provoking, re-energizing, interactive and fun session.</p>

T20 Nauset 3	WHAT'S THE COMPLEXITY? A TOOL FOR EVALUATING AND ADDRESSING THE COMPLEXITY OF VISUAL DEMANDS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL DAY FOR STUDENTS WITH CORTICAL VISUAL IMPAIRMENT <i>Matt Tietjen, TVI</i> What's the Complexity? A tool designed to help TVI's and teams identify what constitutes a complex environment and task for a student with CVI and determine where the most complexity is occurring throughout the student's school schedule. What's the Complexity? provides teams with a systematic framework for understanding, discussing, and managing the visual and sensory complexity that students with CVI face in an educational setting.
T21 Chatham	INTRODUCTION TO VOICEOVER ON THE MACINTOSH <i>John Panarese, Director, Mac for the Blind</i> This session will begin with an introduction to VoiceOver screen reader on the Mac as well as Mac OSX basics. Participants will leave with a much better understanding of the accessibility features on the Mac and how the Mac is a viable solution for blind/low vision users in both education and/or the workplace.
T22 Racepoint	WHY APPEARANCE MATTERS <i>Tina de Araujo, M.Ed., CVRT</i> Our overall appearance and how we wish to be perceived by others is a personal decision we should make each day. Helping young adults who are blind understand that there are a variety of choices available to promote their individual style and how to make those choices will foster confidence when engaged socially. Reality is, that a person's physical appearance influences their community integration.
4:15-4:45 T23 Highland	VENDOR SESSION: LOGAN TECH <i>Roger Cicchese, Assistive Technology Consultant</i> This program will focus on the use of 6dot Braille Support and teaching technology and HIMS Blind/Low Vision devices. The uses of the Prox Talker and Prox PAD will be displayed. We will discuss how these devices can be used for individuals who are non-verbal and visually impaired through tangible object cards.
6:00-6:45 Ocean View	NE/AER BUSINESS MEETING followed by BOARD RECEPTION and STATE BASKET RAFFLES
6:45	DINNER ON YOUR OWN
8:30-10:30 Ocean View	Live music with Jim Badger

Friday, November 6

7:00-8:30 Ocean View	BREAKFAST
8:00-8:45	DIVISION MEETINGS
Nauset 3	AGING
Nauset 5	O&M
Nauset 4	DB/MI/IT
Nauset 1	VR COUNSELING/EMPLOY/BEP
Nauset 2	LOW VISION

9:15-10:45

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

F1
Nauset 5

THE O&M PROFESSION: A CONVERSATION ABOUT OUR STRENGTHS, NEEDS AND FUTURE!

Kathy Clarrage, COMS; Michelle Antinarelli, COMS

After a year of surveying O&Mers and Guide Dog Trainers, the O&M division of AERBVI has begun formulating short and long-term strategic initiatives for the profession. This session is a way to engage as many O&M and Guide Dog Instructors in order to gain more information as well as integrate ideals into the strategic planning for the O&M Division of AERBVI.

F2
Nauset 4

UNIVERSAL INSTRUCTION: SELF-DETERMINATION AND LISTENING SKILLS

Faith Horter, TVI

This session provides strategies for self-determination and listening skills. It also addresses the need for school districts to include these strategies into a "Universal Design for Instruction".

F3
Nauset 1

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH AND HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH

William Hersh, CLVT; Dr. Rick Ely, TVI

Every month, there is a new development in assistive technology for students who are visually impaired or blind and each device presents itself as the ultimate solution. This workshop will provide a forum for examining the question of how much technology is too much and what technology is essential for students and those about to enter adult services.

F4
Nauset 3

1 TOUCH SELF-DEFENSE PROJECT FOR THE BLIND

Stephen Nicholls, 1Touch Project Executive Director; Miranda Brown, Executive Administrative Assistant

The confidence to travel, work, and socialize is frequently poorly addressed and few programs have been developed specifically to address this gap. 1Touch is based in its integration of physical activity, which is inextricably entwined, with the concept of self-defense and self-development. Instructors use 1Touch as a means to enhance the underlying principles of independence and the confidence to engage the world in everyday activity.

F5
Nauset 2

TRANSITION: THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

Karen Ross, PhD, Director of Community Outreach, Carroll Center for the Blind

During their teen years, students with visual impairments face unique challenges as they complete their educational requirements and begin making important decisions about their futures, often with the eventual goals of living independently, advancing education, becoming gainfully employed, experiencing good health and safety, and enjoying positive family and social relationships. This presentation will explore the potential impact of the Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) required by the recently enacted Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, and will propose the use of a Personal Profile to assist students in identifying their strengths, needs and goals.

10:45 – 11:00

BREAK

11:00-12:00

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

F6 **HOMEMADE TEACHING TOOLS AND OTHER SILLY STUFF FOR O&M/TVI**

Georgia Wattendorf, UMass/Boston

Using **CANCELLED** and creative ideas, to use as tools and activities in order to engage students in teaching/instructing students in O&M. The presentation will be a combination of power point, presentation of products, discussion and sharing of ideas, resources and inspirations.

- F7**
Nauset 2
- TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO ADULT LIFE: SHARING RESOURCES!**
Mary Zatta, PhD
This session will present a range of resources available on the Perkins eLearning website related to transition from school to adult life. We will demonstrate how transition teams involved in the transition planning process can use these resources.
- F8**
Nauset 5
- THE APPLE WATCH**
Drew Metzger, CVRT; Chris Jarosz, Blind Rehab Specialist
This presentation will demonstrate how to use the Apple Watch, its built-in applications and basic gestures.
- F9**
Nauset 1
- THE SCHOOL FOR GLOBAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: HOW THE NEW HOME FOR VISION STUDIES INCREASES OPPORTUNITIES LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, AND GLOBALLY**
Laura Bozeman, PhD, Associate Professor, Director of UMass/Boston Vision Studies; Bob McCulley, Director of NERCVE, COMS
The School for Global Inclusion and Social Development (SGISD) is the new home for Vision Studies. The School offers a doctorate and masters for students who want to impact quality of life globally, impact human rights, and/or develop public policy as related to individuals who are excluded for any reason.
- F10**
Nauset 3
- BALANCING ACT: IMPACT ON FALLS FOR OLDER ADULTS WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT**
Fran Kelley, Southern Team Leader for Iris Network, O&M Student at UMass/Boston; Anne Cowles, MPH, Fitness Director Univ. of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine
Falls are a significant issue for older adults and especially for those who have vision impairment. A practical yet innovative falls prevention program has been developed that is designed to enhance balance and proprioception among older adults. This program, U-ExCEL Balancing Act, designed by the Department of Geriatric Medicine at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine and funded by National Institute of Health (NIH) looked at three areas to improving balance in older adults with vision impairment.
- F11**
Nauset 4
- SBAC: IT'S A BRAVE NEW WORLD IN ONLINE TESTING**
Trish Klein, TVI
This program will discuss the SBAC accessibility features for students with visual impairments. It will also discuss the needs for instruction with the technology for these students in preparation for taking the SBAC.
- 12:00-12:30**
Ballroom 1 & 2
- CLOSING REMARKS & GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE**
- 1:30**
Shutters
- PASSING OF THE TORCH**
Lunch for present conference committee chairs and 2016 conference committee chairs.

Have a Safe Trip Home!

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Prof. José Alvarez
College of Ed. of the Univ.
of Puerto Rico

Michelle Antinorelli
Carroll Center
Newton, MA

Dr. Armin Azar
Fall River, MA

Dr. Beth Beenken
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Center,
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Kyle Beverlin
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Judith Bischoff
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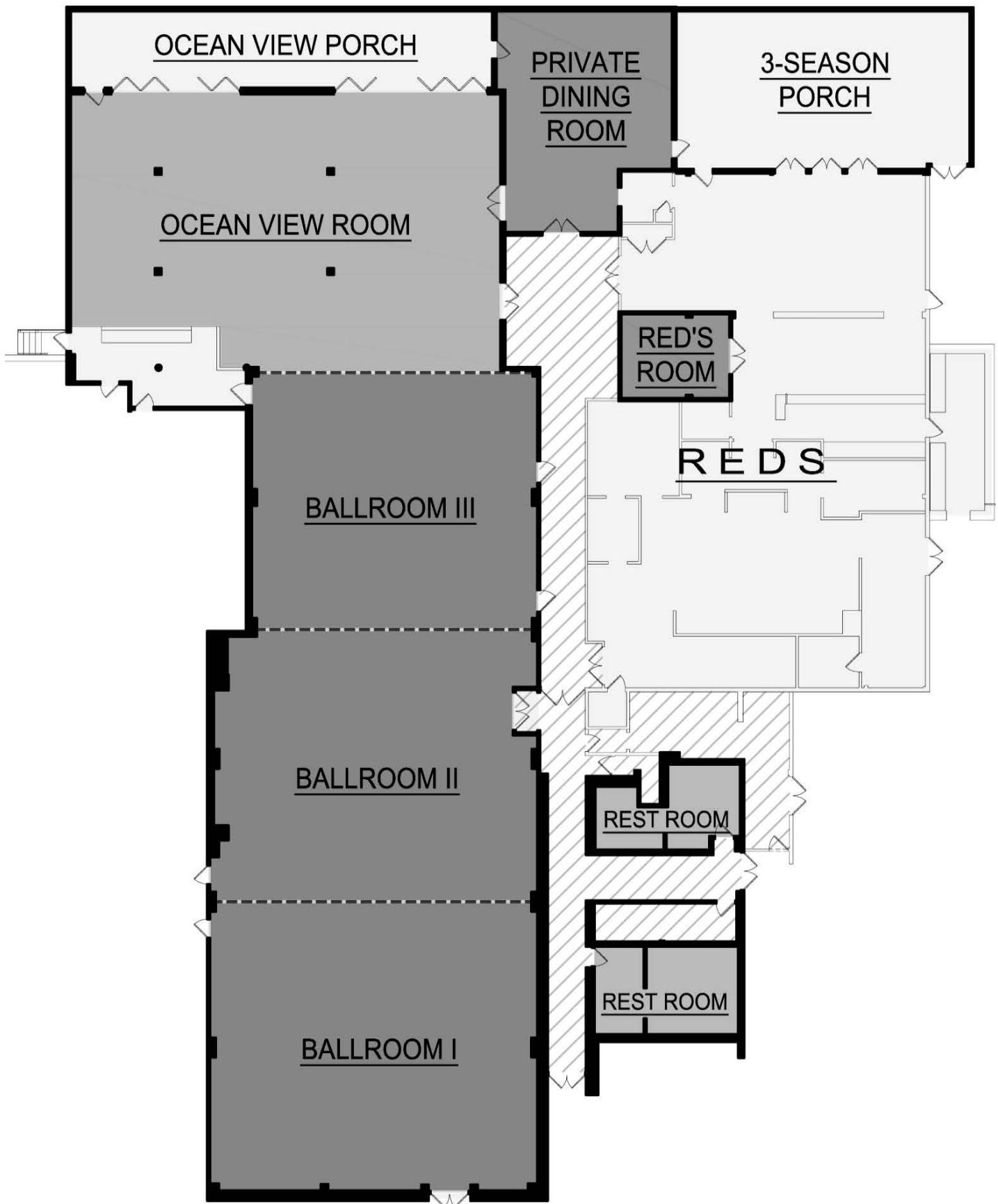
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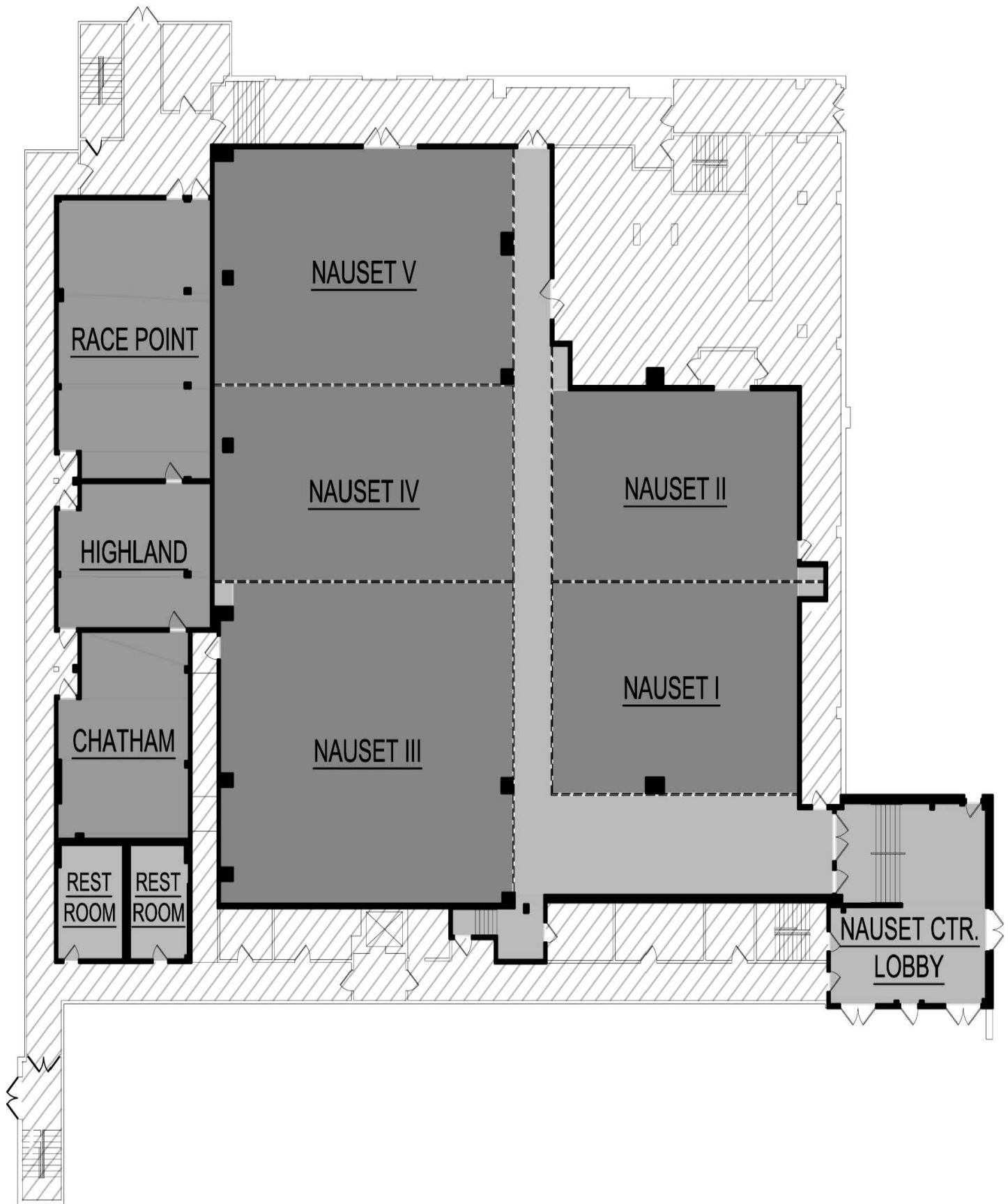
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At a Glance...

WEDNESDAY November 4, 2015									
8:45-11:45	Pre-Conference 1 - The Other Side of the Coin: Moving from Sighted to a World of VI - Ballroom 3								
8:45-11:45	Pre-Conference 2 - O&M for Visually Impaired Wheelchair Users -- Ballroom 1								
8:45-11:45	Pre-Conference 3 - Consultation Skills and Techniques for Teachers of the VI - Ballroom 2								
7:30-5:00	REGISTRATION in Ballroom Lobby								
12:30-2:00	WELCOME - Speaker Paul Saner, Commissioner of Mass. Commission f/t Blind, followed by KEYNOTE Speaker Ballroom 1 and 2								
2:00-2:30	BREAK & Hotel Check-in - Registration Area								
2:30-4:00	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6			
	Winter Pedestrian Travel Skills	Dual Media Learners	Continuing the Keynote Conversation	Transition to Work	Effects of Aging	Support Canes, Walkers and More			
	Ballroom 2	Racepoint	Ballroom 1	Highland	Ballroom 3	Chatham			
4:00-4:15	BREAK								
4:15-5:15	W7	W8	W9	W10	W11	W12			
	"Sound" Practices	UEB? Nemeth?	Job Ready	Apple Social	PERCEPT: Indoor Navigation	Ocean Insight & the ECC			
	Ballroom 2	Chatham	Racepoint	Ballroom 3	Ballroom 1	Highland			
6:00-8:30	DINNER & AWARDS BANQUET - Ocean View/Ballroom III								
THURSDAY November 5, 2015									
7:00-8:30	BREAKFAST - Ocean View Room								
8:00 - 8:45	DIVISION MEETING: VRT, Educ/Itinerant, Info/Tech, Psychosocial, Personnel Prep - See Program for rooms								
9:00-5:00	VENDOR EXHIBITS and POSTER SESSIONS open all day - Nauset 1 & 2								
9:00-10:15	GENERAL SESSION - "Recruitment in Jeopardy" - Ballroom 1 & 2								
10:30-11:30	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6			
	First Time for Everything	VI and Chronic Illness	Evolution - Guide Dog Profession	Colleges & Accessibility	All Eyes on Eye Gaze	Parent Study Guides Transition			
	Nauset 4	Racepoint	Nauset 5	Highland	Nauset 3	Chatham			
11:30-1:00	LUNCH - Exhibits - Poster Sessions - Nauset 1 & 2								

1:00-2:30	T7	T8	T9	T10	T11	T12
	Off to College	Teaching MH Students	Perspectives from Puerto Rico	Evaluating Print Size	Introducing Braille	1-2:00 Vendor Session: N Eng. Low Vision
	Racepoint	Nauset 3	Highland	Nauset 5	Chatham	Nauset 4
2:30-3:00	BREAK - Exhibits - Poster Sessions - Vendor Raffle					
3:00-4:00	T13	T14	T15	T16	T17	T18
	O&M & Students on Autism Spectrum	LEAP: Summer Employment	Adapting O&M	Neuropsych...Considerations	IEP a Catalyst for Change	Mac - TrackPad Gestures
	Nauset 5	Highland	Nauset 4	Nauset 3	Racepoint	Chatham
4:00-4:15	BREAK - Exhibit Hall					
4:15-5:45	T19	T20	T21	T22	T23	
	Bucket 101: Positive Feedback	What's the Complexity?	Introduction to Voice Over	Why Appearance Matters	4:15-4:45 Vendor Session: Logan Tech	
	Nauset 5	Nauset 3	Chatham	Racepoint	Highland	
6:00-6:45	NE/AER BUSINESS MEETING followed by BOARD RECEPTION & State Basket Raffles - Ocean View					
6:45-10:30	DINNER On Your Own, followed by ENTERTAINMENT (8:30-10:30) in Ocean View Room					
FRIDAY November 6, 2015						
7:00- 8:30	BREAKFAST - Ocean View Room					
8:00-8:45	DIVISION MEETINGS: Aging, O&M, DB/MH/IT, Rehab. Counseling/Employment, Low Vision - See Program for rooms					
9:15-10:45	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	
	O&M Profession	Self determination & Listening	How Much is Enough	Self Defense Project	Transition Journey	
	Nauset 5	Nauset 4	Nauset 1	Nauset 3	Nauset 2	
10:45-11:00	BREAK					
11:00-12:00	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	F11
	Home Made Teaching Tools CANCELLED	Resources for School to Adult	The Apple Watch	School for Global Inclusion	Balancing Act: for Older Adults	Smarter Balanced Accessibility
		Nauset 2	Nauset 5	Nauset 1	Nauset 3	Nauset 4
12:00-12:30 Closing Remarks, Grand Prize Raffle - Ballroom 1 & 2						



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