

# Kimberly R. Avila PhD, TBVI, COMS

Division of Special Education and Disability Research  
George Mason University  
Associate Professor

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## Academic History

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**2011-2015:** George Mason University: Fairfax, Virginia

- Doctor of Philosophy:
  - Major: Special Education and Disability Research
  - Minor: Severe Disabilities
  - Research population focus: Blindness and visual impairment
  - Dissertation: *Adult-onset visual impairment: Factors that affect willingness to travel and safety*
    - Dissertation committee: Dr. Michael Behrman (chair and advisor), Dr. Frederick Brigham (methodologist), and Dr. Marci Kinas-Jerome (member)
  - Doctoral Fellowship: National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities (NLCSD), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

**1999-2000** University of Northern Colorado: Greeley, Colorado

- Master of Arts: Dual graduate degrees in:
  - Severe Needs Blindness and Visual Impairment
  - Orientation and Mobility certification

**1994-1998** Colorado State University: Pueblo, Colorado

- Bachelor of Science: Double majors in:
  - Social Sciences
  - Teacher Certification
- Phi Alpha Theta Academic Honor Society for History

## Professional Certification

- Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist (COMS®) Academy for Certification for Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) National board credential
- Virginia teacher licensure:
  - Education for students with blindness and visual impairments (Pre-K – 12)
  - History and Social Sciences

## Professional Appointments

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**January 2016-Present** Professor-in Charge/Coordinator of the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Blindness and Vision Impairment George Mason University: Fairfax, VA

- Principal investigator on over 3 million dollars in grants
- Instructional faculty: instructional, scholarship, and service responsibilities
- Professor-in-charge of the masters, graduate certificate, and undergraduate major/minor, in education for teachers of students who are blind and visually impaired
- Course lead for all classes in blindness and visual impairment program of studies across undergraduate and graduate levels
- Director of all VI Consortium activities across all participating universities (George Mason University, Old Dominion University and Radford State University)
- Principal Investigator: VI Consortium grant funded by the Virginia Department of Education
- Principal Investigator: Unified English Braille Training Institute, funded by the Virginia Department of Education

- Virginia liaison for the University of Massachusetts Boston orientation and mobility and vocational rehabilitation teaching programs, funded by the Office of Special Education Programs and Rehabilitation Services Administration. Accreditation and program evaluation
- Research, policy, and instructional advisor for blindness and visual impairment matters for the Virginia Department of Education
- Faculty representative for the National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities (NLCS) at the Office of Special Education Programs
- Teacher candidate recruitment, advising, retention, and evaluation
- Duties associated with academic program coordination
  - Program evaluation
  - Accreditation across multiple sources and standards compliance
- Recruitment, hiring, and supervisor for adjunct faculty and assistant/support positions
- Instruction of twelve credits of coursework during each academic year with additional summer teaching and coordinator duties.
- Doctoral committee member for doctoral scholars at George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University
- Doctoral dissertation committee member for three candidates focusing studies on blindness and visual impairment at George Mason University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and The George Washington University

**August 2014-December 2015:** Acting Coordinator of the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Vision Impairment, George Mason University: Fairfax, VA

- Coordinator for Virginia Department of Education grant funding the VI Consortium
- ETS Braille PRAXIS Exam test coordinator for George Mason University
- Virginia grant liaison for the collaborative orientation and mobility program in association with the University of Massachusetts, Boston, funded by OSEP and RSA
- Advisor for the Virginia Department of Education on policies affecting education of students with blindness and visual impairments
  - Revision of Virginia guidelines for serving students with visual impairments in public schools
  - Transition plan and implementation of the Unified English Braille code for literary and STEM content

**August 2013-June 2014** Graduate research assistant for the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Vision Impairment. George Mason University: Fairfax, VA

**May 2009-December 2015** Adjunct faculty member and University Supervisor; Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Vision Impairment: George Mason University, James Madison University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University and Radford State University VI Consortium

- Courses taught:
  - Braille Code (3 semesters)
  - Braille Reading and Writing (Nemeth, computer, chemical, foreign language and music codes) (2 semester)
  - Characteristics of Students with Visual Impairments (3 semesters)
  - Teaching Methods for Students with Visual Impairments (2 semesters)
  - Internship and teacher practicum (2 semesters)
- Delivered instruction through distance education, video-conferencing, online and face-to-face learning environments to students at five participating universities
- Designed, implemented, instructed and evaluated courses in accordance with standards provided by the Council for Exceptional Children and NCATE
- Supervised student teachers in their internship placements

**August 2000-November 2004** Teacher of students with blindness and visual impairments, multiple disabilities; Fairfax County Public Schools Fairfax, VA

- Developed, implemented, and evaluated Individualized Education Programs
- Basic Skills teacher: Assessed student abilities, original curriculum development, instructed academics and Expanded Core Curriculum
- Braille instruction and transcription: basic to advanced and specialized codes
- Collaborated with general education teachers, specialists, and administrators
- Created, led, and supervised extracurricular and supplemental enrichment activities
- Developed, coordinated and guest presenter for various faculty in-services

- Recipient of Washington Post grant for independent living skills curriculum for students with visual impairments
- Selected by FCPS School Board of Directors as teacher providing exceptional services and featured in “Special Stories” school board presentation

### January 2000-February 2014 Contract Work Experience: Abbreviated Sample. National

- Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA): Contracting evaluator
- Alexandria City Public Schools: Contracting Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments
- Special education advocacy consultant (various firms)
- SSB Bart Group sub-contractor (2004-2009):
  - America Online: accessibility evaluator
  - Educational Testing Service: PRAXIS I Preparation materials accessibility evaluator
  - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Section 508 contractor
  - Virginia Board for Persons with Disabilities: Braille instruction and transcription seminar
  - Web and technology accessibility presenter and consultant
  - Orientation and mobility specialist: route planning and navigation for new employees
  - Technology training specialist: adaptive technology instruction to various clients in a multitude of settings
- Dr. Sulieman Alibhai, low vision optometrist: Accessible web programmer and webmaster (2008-2010)
- University of Maryland “Untangling the Web” accessible online education informational video (contracted through the Screen Actors Guild)
- National Park Service: World War II Memorial accessibility consultant (2004)
- National Institute of Health/National Cancer Institute: Website accessibility consultant (2004)
- Accessible voting consultant (2004)
- U.S. Department of Education: Adaptive technology for students with visual impairments study
- Private contractor for various counties and individuals:
  - Early intervention services: Parent/service provider educator and infant/toddler service provider (2006-2012)
  - Orientation and mobility: young children to senior citizens and every age in between (2005-2011)
  - Braille instructor: individuals of all ages and parents of children with visual impairments (2005-2011)
  - Independent Educational Evaluator (IEE) for multiple contracts

### Pre-Professional Related Work Experience

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<b>January 1999- May 2000</b>	Visual Impairment Resource Assessment Center Specialist and brailist, University of Northern Colorado	Greeley, CO
<b>1998</b>	Intern Legislative Correspondent and staffer for United States Senator Wayne Allard, Hart Senate Office Building	Washington DC
<b>July-August 1998</b>	Visions Services for the Blind: Vacation Camp for the Blind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of music and theatre</li> <li>• Counselor</li> </ul>	Spring Valley, NY
<b>June-August 1995</b>	Activities Directors, Colorado Lions Camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created, implemented, supervised, and led all camp activities, activity staff and counselors</li> </ul>	Woodland Park, CO

### Scholarship

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#### Publications:

Avila, K., Haegele, J., Horn, A., & Macovec, K. (January, 2025). The Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Blindness and Vision Impairment: Program structure and overview. *DVIDB Quarterly*, Council for Exceptional Children.

Avila, K. (Spring 2024). The intersection of albinism and orientation and mobility: Navigating across the lifespan. *Albinism Insight*. NOAH, pp. 23-25.

Avila, K. (2023). Teaching students with blindness and visual impairment. In C. O'Brien & D. Sacco

(Eds). [\*Exceptionality in schools and society: A guide for future educators\*](#) (4th Ed., pp.317-343). Kendall Hunt.

- Avila, K. (2022). Screen readers: Are they an option for people with albinism? *Albinism Insight*. Fall 2022.
- Avila, K. (2021). Paths to literacy: Digital classroom accessibility. [Perkins School for the Blind](#).
- Avila, K. (2020). Proactive advocacy: Planning for digital instruction. [Texas School for the Blind](#).
- Avila, K. (2020). Albinism advocacy: College accommodation considerations. *Albinism Insight*. 38, pp. 16-18.
- Avila, K. (2018). Albinism research and policy: A letter from the guest editor. *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*. 112, pp. 653-654. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0145482X1811200601>
- Avila, K (2018). The impact of functional vision changes on independent travel for individuals with adult-onset visual impairment. *International Journal of Orientation and Mobility*.
- Avila, K. (2017). Preparing the next generation of teachers of students who are blind and visually impaired. *Virginia AERBVI News*. AERBVI.
- Avila, K. (2015). Voices from the classroom. In M. E, King-Sears, R. Janney, & M. E. Snell (Eds), *Collaborative Teaming*. (pp. 113-114). Paul H. Brookes.
- Avila, K (2014). IEP essentials. In J. Gorman (Ed), *Raising a child with albinism: A guide to the school years*. (pp. 139-158). NOAH.
- Avila, K. (2014). Transition to adulthood. In J. Gorman (Ed), *Raising a child with albinism: A guide to the school years*. (pp. 277-294). NOAH.
- Avila, K. (2014). Preliminary college selection and campus compass, appendix D. In J. Gorman (Ed), *Raising a child with albinism: A guide to the school years*. (pp. 318-327) NH: NOAH.
- Avila, K. (2012). Braille babies: strategies to promote pre-reading skills in young children with visual impairments. *IPVI INSIGHTS*, Illinois Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments: IPVI.
- Avila, K. (2012). Braille babies: strategies to promote pre-reading skills in young children with visual impairments. *Awareness* (Winter) NAPVI.
- Avila, K. (2010). Meeting Mariamu. *Albinism Insight* (Spring), 23-24.
- Dubois, S. (Ed.) (2008). *Raising a child with albinism: A guide to the early years*. NH: NOAH.  
Contributing author of approximately 60 pages:
- Early intervention and education for students with albinism
  - Orientation and mobility: overview and strategies
  - Developmental considerations and strategies
  - Sensory stimulation and visual efficiency
  - Accommodations, modifications, and adaptive devices/technologies.
- Avila, K. (2008). Resources for children with visual impairments. *Preemies Today*, (June), 5.
- Avila, K. (2007). Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act – IDEIA 101. *Preemies Today*: 3-5.
- Avila, K. (2003). Six steps to college success. National Federation of the Blind of Virginia.
- Avila, K (2003). EXPLORE the possibilities: An approach to transition. *The Braille Forum*, XLI (7).
- Avila, K. (2002). EXPLORE the possibilities: An approach to transition. *FCPS Teacher Research*. Fairfax County Public Schools. Fairfax, VA.
- Waegle, K. (1999). Rights and responsibilities in higher education. *The Student Advocate*. XVII(II).

## Presentations: Peer Reviewed and Invited Guest Speaker

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Date	Title	Location
March 2026	Living in light with blindness and low vision. Chasing the Light Podcast.	Apple Podcasts
March 2026	From visuals to voice and braille: Embedding accessibility in teacher created slides. Annual conference of the Washington DC/Maryland chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.	Washington DC/Maryland
February 2026	Empowering educators: Braille literacy instruction for teachers. Hosted by the <i>I Love Braille</i> program sponsored by the East Bay Center for the Blind.	International Podcast
September 2025	BVI/Psych panel webinar series: Giftedness and talents among students who are blind and visually impaired. California School for the Blind.	National Webinar
April 2025	Navigating cancer with blindness and low vision, part II: Advocating for access during your cancer journey. Health Hub, American Council of the Blind Community Event	National Webinar
April 2025	Training teachers in braille and beyond! American Council of the Blind Community Event	National Webinar
March 2025	Navigating cancer with blindness and low vision, part I: Research and practice that impact access. Health Hub, American Council of the Blind Community Event	National Webinar
March 2025	Curb cuts to nowhere: Updates on pedestrian access research for individuals with blindness and visual impairment. American Council of the Blind Community Event	National Webinar
February 2025	Families as faculty in the blindness field: panelist for Salus at Drexel University's Principals of Visual Impairment and Literacy for Visual Impairments courses	Drexel University, PA
February 2025	Blind Best Buddies: Working with friends who are blind and visually impaired. Friendship Circle of Northern Virginia/Best Buddies Program	Chabad Lubavitch, Fairfax, VA
February 2025	Educational adventures: Accessibility in content area instruction. American Council of the Blind Community Event	National Webinar
November 2024	Breaking barriers: Assessing accessibility in digital education content for students with albinism. George Mason University	Virginia and Regional Webinar
April 2023	Parent and professional perspectives on accessibility in education. Co-presented with Rebecca Bridge; American Council of the Blind of Virginia.	Virginia Webinar
February 2023	The 1, 2, 3's of accessibility: Evaluating material accessibility in secondary social sciences content. Accessibility Stakeholders Group	Virginia Webinar
April 2022	Blindness and visual impairment across the lifespan. Delta Gamma, Northern Virginia Alumni Chapter	Northern Virginia
March 2022	Sharing the difference you make: Why EYE teach. Co-presented with Dr. Stacy Kelly and Northern Illinois University (NIU) at the annual conference of the Virginia Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Online Synchronous Conference

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>March 2022</b>	A journey through visual impairment: Steps toward independence and change, Williamsburg Visually Impaired Persons Group	Williamsburg, Virginia
<b>January 2022</b>	Functional vision and learning media evaluations: Benefits and limitations that impact eligibility and IEP decisions	National Webinar
<b>November 2021</b>	Safety and Advocacy for Everyone (SAFE): Tips for individuals with low vision and blindness. Fairfax County Public Library, Reston Visually Impaired Persons Group	Reston, Virginia
<b>January 2021</b>	Five tips to better digital classroom accessibility. Special topics in education, Webinar Series. George Mason University	Statewide Webinar
<b>September 2020</b>	Proactive advocacy for students who are blind and visually impaired during COVID 19. Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired	National Webinar
<b>July 2020</b>	IEP advocacy for students with albinism in remote learning. <i>National Organization for Albinism and Hypogimentation Biennial Conference</i>	National Conference Presentation
<b>April 2020</b>	Resources for educators working toward continuity of learning: Children with blindness or visual impairment. Virginia Department of Education	Statewide Webinar
<b>April 2020</b>	Navigating the virtual classroom: Advice for teachers of students with visual impairments, National Organization for Albinism and Hypogimentation	National Webinar
<b>April 2020</b>	Navigating the virtual classroom: Advice for parents webinar, National Organization for Albinism and Hypogimentation	National Webinar
<b>March 2020</b>	Current challenges in the field of blindness and vision impairment. Interview with <i>TVI Talks</i>	International podcast
<b>September 2019</b>	Part II: Crash course with the Consortium: UEB math/science for STEM Content. Virginia Department of Education.	Statewide webinar
<b>August 2019</b>	Part I: Crash course with the Consortium: UEB math/science for STEM Content. Virginia Department of Education.	Statewide webinar
<b>July 2019</b>	STEM braille access for university students who are blind and visually impaired: Nemeth code changer and UEB math/science. George Mason University, Assistive Technology Initiative.	Fairfax, VA
<b>May 2019</b>	Understanding vision changes during the senior years: Strategies for identification and support. Truro Seniors Group	Fairfax, VA
<b>May 2019</b>	American culture and disability access: Rights and reality. Truro International Programs and Services.	Fairfax, VA
<b>April 2019</b>	Methods to advocate and educate for equal access to your community. Fairfax County Public Libraries, Access Services, Visually Impaired Persons group.	Vienna, VA
<b>February 2019</b>	Invited panelist: Challenges and Opportunities for Personnel Preparation Program Funding. American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference	Arlington, VA
<b>February 2019</b>	Invited panelist: Mentoring Doctoral and Other Students to Contribute Critical Research to JVIB. American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference	Arlington, VA

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>January 2019</b>	Panel moderator and session organizer: Exploring doctoral degree options in the blindness field. Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities	National Webinar
<b>July 2018</b>	SMART IEP goals: Individualized Education Program Workshop, Part I. <i>2018 Conference of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation</i>	Kansas City, MO
<b>July 2018</b>	Panelist: Is mobility for me? A panel discussion. <i>2018 Conference of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation</i>	Kansas City, MO
<b>July 2018</b>	Panelist: The Expanded Core Curriculum and Orientation and Mobility services for students with albinism. <i>2018 Conference of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation</i>	Kansas City, MO
<b>July 2018</b>	Panelist: Individualized Education Program workshop part II: A mock IEP. <i>2018 Conference of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation, Kansas City, MO.</i>	Kansas City, MO
<b>May 2018</b>	Panel moderator and session organizer: Teaching students with visual impairments in various settings: Itinerant, resource room, and school for the blind. Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities.	National Webinar
<b>October 2017</b>	Navigating functional vision changes during the senior years. City of Fairfax Senior Center.	Fairfax, VA
<b>June 2017</b>	Quick tips for web conference classes. George Mason University, Office of Digital Learning	Online Web Conference, Fairfax, VA
<b>April 2017</b>	Special education services and plans for students with blindness and visual impairment. American Council of the Blind Educational Taskforce	National Radio Broadcast
<b>March 2017</b>	Orientation and mobility through the lifespan: Integrating research into practice. District of Columbia/Maryland chapter of AER.	Linthicum Heights, MD
<b>February 2017</b>	Tips to promote access to text for students who are blind and visually impaired. AIM Virginia.	Online Webinar
<b>December 2016</b>	Navigating the path to safer and more independent travel options for adults with vision loss. VIP Reston	Reston, VA
<b>October 2016</b>	Promoting collaborative and interactive courses with Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. George Mason University, Office of Digital Learning	Online Web Conference, Fairfax, VA
<b>August 2016</b>	IEP basics: Transitioning from an IFSP to an IEP for children with visual impairments. Parent Connections.	National Web Conference
<b>July 2016</b>	Individualizing the IEP process: Advocating for appropriate program development. <i>National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation Biennial Conference.</i>	Pittsburgh, PA
<b>July 2016</b>	Panel moderator: Developing SMART IEPs: Goals, objectives and benchmarks. National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation <i>Biennial Conference.</i>	Pittsburgh, PA
<b>July 2016</b>	Invited panelist: Orientation and mobility and the expanded core curriculum. <i>National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation Biennial Conference.</i>	Pittsburgh, PA

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>July 2016</b>	Invited panelist: Skin cancer and albinism: Awareness and advocacy. <i>National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation Biennial Conference.</i>	Pittsburgh, PA
<b>May 2016</b>	Invited panelist: College success for students who are blind and visually impaired. A collaborative workshop with TCS Associates, Learning Ally, and George Mason University.	Fairfax, VA
<b>March 2016</b>	Pedestrian perspectives from persons who are blind and visually impaired in the Mid-Atlantic region. Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired Virginia 2016 conference.	Virginia Beach, VA
<b>March 2016</b>	General session invited panelist: Recalculating our route: Updating our GPS to navigate the future of services and opportunities for people with vision loss. American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference	Arlington, VA
<b>January 2016</b>	Safer travel options for individuals with visual impairment: Improving environmental designs and driver yielding practices. Environmental Access Committee	Washington DC
<b>September 2015</b>	Navigating the path to safer travel options for adults who experience vision loss. VIP Vienna/Fairfax County Access Library	Vienna, VA
<b>August 2015</b>	Strategies to start the school year for students with visual impairments. Parent Connections.	National Teleconference
<b>April 2015</b>	Adult-onset visual impairment and mobility: Preliminary study results. National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities, Office of Special Education Programs.	San Diego, CA
<b>March 2015</b>	George Mason University and UMass Boston: Achieving more through collaboration. Virginia Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired annual convention.	Fairfax, VA
<b>March 2015</b>	Advocacy and the IEP: Tips for parents. American Council of the Blind Educational Taskforce.	National Webinar
<b>March 2015</b>	Distinguishing the functional vision assessment from a learning media assessment. American Council of the Blind Educational Taskforce.	National Webinar
<b>November 2014</b>	Accessibility and compliance: Five Section 508 quick tips. Office of Special Education Programs.	Washington DC
<b>November 2014</b>	Perspective of the NLCSD Fellowship. Office of Special Education Programs.	Washington DC
<b>October 2014</b>	Digital inclusion. Office of Special Education Programs and the National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities.	Washington DC
<b>July 2014</b>	The experiences of pedestrians with visual impairments: An ethnographic inquiry. Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired biennial convention.	San Antonio, TX
<b>July 2014</b>	Braille basics for parents and service provider. Virginia Department of Education.	Richmond, VA
<b>July 2014</b>	Individuating the IEP process: Advocating for appropriate program development. The National Organization of Albinism and Hypopigmentation biennial convention.	San Diego, CA

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>July 2014</b>	Stop, look and listen: Methods to promote pedestrian safety for students with albinism. <i>The National Organization of Albinism and Hypopigmentation Biennial Conference.</i>	San Diego, CA
<b>July 2014</b>	Where the sidewalk ends: Pedestrian access for persons with albinism. The National Organization of Albinism and Hypopigmentation <i>Biennial Conference.</i>	San Diego, CA
<b>May 2014</b>	Early intervention and transition considerations for children with albinism. Parent Connections.	National Webinar
<b>April 2014</b>	Braille Babies: Strategies to promote early literacy skills for children with visual impairments. Council for Exceptional Children annual convention and expo.	Philadelphia, PA
<b>February 2014</b>	Services and strategies for young children with visual impairments. George Mason University, ECED 506.	Fairfax, VA
<b>July 2013</b>	Enhancing doctoral preparation: The National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Project Directors Meeting.	Washington DC
<b>June 2013</b>	Serving students with visual impairments and blindness: The role of the special education teacher. George Mason University, EDSE 501.	Fairfax, VA
<b>April 2013</b>	Students with sensory impairments in the university setting: A panel discussion. George Mason University, Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society.	Fairfax, VA
<b>December 2012</b>	Mastering the IEP Process. Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind.	Washington DC
<b>November 2012</b>	Affecting change: Today's emphasis on formal research and your rights and responsibilities as a research participant: Old Dominion Council of the Blind.	Alexandria, VA
<b>2011-2014</b>	Orientation & mobility: Strategies for working with children and students who are blind or visually impaired. George Mason University, EDSE 669.	Fairfax, VA
<b>November 2012</b>	Screen reader technology for students who are blind or visually impaired. George Mason University, EDIT 526.	Fairfax, VA
<b>August 2011</b>	Effective IEP advocacy for students with albinism. National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation.	Online webinar
<b>March 2011</b>	Considerations for providing early intervention services and promoting developmental growth for infants and young children with visual impairments. AER of Virginia Convention.	Fredericksburg, VA
<b>November 2010</b>	Promoting developmental growth and play skills in infants and young children with visual impairments. Mid-Atlantic Convention for the Blind and Visually Impaired.	Baltimore, MD
<b>November 2010</b>	Teaching orientation and mobility to young children. Mid-Atlantic Convention for the Blind and Visually Impaired.	Baltimore, MD
<b>September 2010</b>	Educational essentials for students with visual impairments. Parent seminar with the Northern Virginia Council of the Blind.	Arlington, VA
<b>March 2010</b>	Dealing with your child's diagnosis of a disability. Truro Church.	Fairfax VA

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>January 2010</b>	Redefining Normal. Parent seminar, By Design Conference.	Fairfax, VA
<b>November 2010</b>	Braille Babies: Strategies to promote pre-reading skills for young children with visual impairments. Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind.	Rockville, MD
<b>May 2009</b>	Braille Babies: Strategies to promote pre-reading skills for young children with visual impairments. Preemies Today.	Fairfax, VA
<b>March 2009</b>	Prematurity: March of Dimes guest speaker for Alpha Phi Omega fundraiser at George Mason University.	Fairfax, VA
<b>2008</b>	Effective IEP advocacy for parents and guardians, Special Forces.	Fairfax, VA
<b>2003-2004</b>	Current trends in the field of blindness and visual impairment. Faculty in-service trainings; Fairfax County Public Schools.	Fairfax, VA
<b>2002</b>	Keynote speaker: Web Curator Conference: Web accessibility and adaptive technology for the blind and visually impaired; Fairfax County Public Schools.	Fairfax, VA
<b>July, 2002</b>	AER International Conference: EXPLORE the Possibilities. Poster presentation.	Toronto, Canada
<b>March 2002</b>	National Agenda and Expanded Core Curriculum, in-service presenter; Fairfax County Public Schools.	Fairfax, VA
<b>October 2001</b>	Preparing for college: A guide for students with visual impairments. National Federation of the Blind.	Oakton, VA
<b>2000-2002</b>	Guest lecturer: Etiology, symptomatology, and approaches to intervention for students with blindness and visual impairment. The George Washington University.	Washington DC
<b>1999-2000</b>	Guest lecturer: Strategies for serving students with visual impairments. University of Northern Colorado.	Greeley, CO
<b>July 1999</b>	Rights and responsibilities in higher education: A guide for college students with blindness and visual impairment. American Council of the Blind annual convention.	Los Angeles, CA
<b>April 1999</b>	Accommodations for college students with visual impairments and blindness: Staff in-service, Office of Disability Support Services. University of Northern Colorado.	Greeley, CO
<b>April 1999</b>	The transition to college: Considerations for students with blindness and visual impairment. Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind.	Colorado Springs, CO
<b>April 1999</b>	Advocating for legislation in the blindness field: A Capitol experience. American Council of the Blind of Colorado annual conference	Wheat Ridge, CO

#### **Original Curriculum Development and Materials:**

- Braille Babies – A sensory curriculum encouraging pre-braille literacy for infants and young children
- Computer Connections – Adaptive technology and screen reader curriculum education
- EXPLORE the Possibilities – Transition planning
- TOMMY: Teaching Orientation and Mobility to My Young – interactive O&M service designed to facilitate motor skill development in babies and toddlers, while teaching parents how to foster independent, safe, and effective travel skills

#### **Volunteerism and Community Engagement**

Date	Event	Location
2025-Present	Peer Reviewer for <i>Journal of Science Education for Students with Disabilities</i>	National
2025-Present	Peer Reviewer for <i>Teaching Exceptional Children</i> , Council for Exceptional Children	National
Fall 2024	Participant, advocate, and consultant for the United Nations' independent expert on the Rights of Persons with Albinism country visit for the United States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participant in the preliminary report by the United Nations at the Georgetown University O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law</li> <li>Consultant serving on the United Nations working group for the United State and Europe</li> <li>Consultant and expert testimony on the United States' policies, laws, and practices pertaining to children and adults with albinism to the UN Independent Expert</li> </ul>	Washington DC, National, International
2024	Gerald Wallace Dissertation Scholarship Review Committee	George Mason University
2023-Present	Founder and creator of HEBVI: Higher Education Blindness and Visual Impairment Faculty and Professors. An online professional community of university faculty who train blindness professionals	International
2023-2024	Mason ADA and Dismount Zone Policy Committee	George Mason University
2023	City of Fairfax: Fair Housing Accessibility Advisor	Fairfax. VA
2022-2024	Prevention of Blindness Society Board of Advisors	Maryland, USA
2021-Present	Virginia Deaf-Blind Project, Virginia Commonwealth University: Advisory council member	Virginia
2021-Present	Digital Accessibility and Inclusion Community for the Assistive Technology Initiative: Advisory committee member	George Mason University
1997-2016	Congressional advocate for disability related issues	Washington DC
2020-2021	National Institute of Health, National Eye Institute: Strategic Research Planning Committee on Quality of Life for NEI/NIH: Nominated position	Bethesda, MD
2017-2020	Accessible pedestrian signal consultant for the Virginia Department of Transportation	Richmond, VA
2017-2019	Virginia AER: Mentorship committee for new Virginia teachers in the field of blindness and visual impairment.	Virginia, USA
2017-2018	Invited guest editor of the <i>Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness</i>	National
2021-Present	Peer reviewer for <i>School Community Journal</i>	National
2017-Present	Peer reviewer for the <i>Journal of Remedial and Special Education</i>	National
2016-Present	Peer reviewer for the <i>Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness</i>	National
2016-2021	Faculty advisor and enrichment program facilitator: National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities, Office of Special Education Programs.	National

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2016-2018</b>	Standards setting committee for blindness and visual impairment initial teacher licensure, Council for Exceptional Children	National
<b>2016-2018</b>	2017 Convention Planning Committee and Peer-Reviewer: Virginia Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Virginia
<b>2016-2018</b>	Legislative committee research member: Virginia Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Virginia
<b>2014-2017</b>	Environmental Access Committee member for the American Council of the Blind: Research advisor	Washington DC
<b>2012-2014</b>	Scholarship development and selection committee member, The Virginia Chapter of the Association of Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VA-AER)	Virginia
<b>2012-2014</b>	Brailist for the Council for Exceptional Children's <i>Yes I Can!</i> Award certificates	Arlington, VA
<b>2011</b>	White Cane Awareness Day, COMS consultant and walk leader; Outasight Foundation.	Fairfax, VA
<b>2009-2010:</b>	National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation 2010 National Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted with planning and arranging childcare for nearly 300 children</li> <li>• Created training handout and led workshop educating childcare helpers on albinism</li> <li>• Crew and event leader for kindergarteners with albinism</li> </ul>	Arlington, VA
<b>2006-2012</b>	Braille Babies: therapeutic playgroup for young children with visual impairments. Focuses on sensory development and pre-literacy skill enhancement	Fairfax, VA
<b>2005-2009</b>	March of Dimes Walk for Prematurity: participant and fundraiser	Washington DC
<b>2005-2009</b>	Preemies Today: Support and educational/developmental consultant for parents of premature children, therapeutic playgroup host	Fairfax, VA
<b>2001-2005</b>	American Printing House for the Blind large print atlas consultant and advisory committee	Louisville, KY
<b>2004</b>	The George Washington University, Institute on Rehabilitation Issues: orientation and mobility consultant	Washington DC
<b>2002-2004</b>	Convention Coordinator, Old Dominion Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired Coordinated hotel, convention meeting space and catering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned sessions, coordinated guest speakers and volunteers</li> <li>• Trained hotel staff and volunteers on methods for working with blind and visually impaired convention attendees</li> <li>• Created convention program, handled all administrative matters</li> <li>• Supervised all convention activities before, during and after event</li> </ul>	Fairfax, VA; McLean, VA
<b>2002</b>	Library of Congress: "That All May Read" Public Spokesperson for audio books literacy campaign	Washington DC

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2001-2002</b>	Board of Directors, National Federation of the Blind of Fairfax	Fairfax, VA
<b>1999-2000</b>	Secretary, American Council of the Blind of Colorado	Denver, CO
<b>1996-2000</b>	Colorado Role Model Team for the Blind; Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind	Colorado Springs, CO

### **Awards**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2026</b>	Teaching Excellence Award, George Mason University's top award for university faculty.	Fairfax, VA
<b>2011-2015</b>	Doctoral fellow and scholar with the National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities.	Washington DC
<b>2012</b>	Peer nominated: Mason Award for outstanding service to the field. Virginia chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (VA-AER).	Richmond, VA
<b>2004</b>	Board nominated: Outstanding member of the year award. Old Dominion Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired	Virginia
<b>2003</b>	Board nominated: Outstanding member of the year award. Old Dominion Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired	Virginia
<b>1998</b>	Student teacher of the year award: Delta Kappa Gamma, Delta Gamma chapter of Pueblo Colorado	Pueblo, CO
<b>1997</b>	Induction to Phi Alpha Theta-International: Historian Honor Society	Pueblo, CO
<b>1997</b>	Leone Lindsey Scholarship	Pueblo, CO
<b>1996</b>	Townsend Press: essay contest-third place winner	West Berlin, NJ
<b>1996</b>	Leone Lindsey Scholarship	Pueblo, CO
<b>1996-1999</b>	Numerous ACB/NFB academic scholarships	National