

Kimberly R. Avila PhD, TBVI, COMS

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

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Academic History

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

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 (NLCSD) 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

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

Scholarship

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

Date	Title	Location
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
March 2022	A journey through visual impairment: Steps toward independence and change, Williamsburg Visually Impaired Persons Group	Williamsburg, Virginia
January 2022	Functional vision and learning media evaluations: Benefits and limitations that impact eligibility and IEP decisions	National Webinar
November 2021	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

Date	Title	Location
January 2021	Five tips to better digital classroom accessibility. Special topics in education, Webinar Series. George Mason University	Statewide Webinar
September 2020	Proactive advocacy for students who are blind and visually impaired during COVID 19. Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired	National Webinar
July 2020	IEP advocacy for students with albinism in remote learning. <i>National Organization for Albinism and Hypogimentation Biennial Conference</i>	National Conference Presentation
April 2020	Resources for educators working toward continuity of learning: Children with blindness or visual impairment. Virginia Department of Education	Statewide Webinar
April 2020	Navigating the virtual classroom: Advice for teachers of students with visual impairments, National Organization for Albinism and Hypogimentation	National Webinar
April 2020	Navigating the virtual classroom: Advice for parents webinar, National Organization for Albinism and Hypogimentation	National Webinar
March 2020	Current challenges in the field of blindness and vision impairment. Interview with <i>TVI Talks</i>	International podcast
September 2019	Part II: Crash course with the Consortium: UEB math/science for STEM Content. Virginia Department of Education.	Statewide webinar
August 2019	Part I: Crash course with the Consortium: UEB math/science for STEM Content. Virginia Department of Education.	Statewide webinar
July 2019	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
May 2019	Understanding vision changes during the senior years: Strategies for identification and support. Truro Seniors Group	Fairfax, VA
May 2019	American culture and disability access: Rights and reality. Truro International Programs and Services.	Fairfax, VA
April 2019	Methods to advocate and educate for equal access to your community. Fairfax County Public Libraries, Access Services, Visually Impaired Persons group.	Vienna, VA
February 2019	Invited panelist: Challenges and Opportunities for Personnel Preparation Program Funding. American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference	Arlington, VA
February 2019	Invited panelist: Mentoring Doctoral and Other Students to Contribute Critical Research to JVIB. American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference	Arlington, VA
January 2019	Panel moderator and session organizer: Exploring doctoral degree options in the blindness field. Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities	National Webinar
July 2018	SMART IEP goals: Individualized Education Program Workshop, Part I. <i>2018 Conference of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation</i>	Kansas City, MO
July 2018	Panelist: Is mobility for me? A panel discussion. <i>2018 Conference of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation</i>	Kansas City, MO

Date	Title	Location
July 2018	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
July 2018	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
May 2018	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
October 2017	Navigating functional vision changes during the senior years. City of Fairfax Senior Center.	Fairfax, VA
June 2017	Quick tips for web conference classes. George Mason University, Office of Digital Learning	Online Web Conference, Fairfax, VA
April 2017	Special education services and plans for students with blindness and visual impairment. American Council of the Blind Educational Taskforce	National Radio Broadcast
March 2017	Orientation and mobility through the lifespan: Integrating research into practice. District of Columbia/Maryland chapter of AER.	Linthicum Heights, MD
February 2017	Tips to promote access to text for students who are blind and visually impaired. AIM Virginia.	Online Webinar
December 2016	Navigating the path to safer and more independent travel options for adults with vision loss. VIP Reston	Reston, VA
October 2016	Promoting collaborative and interactive courses with Blackboard Collaborate Ultra. George Mason University, Office of Digital Learning	Online Web Conference, Fairfax, VA
August 2016	IEP basics: Transitioning from an IFSP to an IEP for children with visual impairments. Parent Connections.	National Web Conference
July 2016	Individualizing the IEP process: Advocating for appropriate program development. <i>National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation Biennial Conference.</i>	Pittsburgh, PA
July 2016	Panel moderator: Developing SMART IEPs: Goals, objectives and benchmarks. National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation <i>Biennial Conference.</i>	Pittsburgh, PA
July 2016	Invited panelist: Orientation and mobility and the expanded core curriculum. <i>National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation Biennial Conference.</i>	Pittsburgh, PA
July 2016	Invited panelist: Skin cancer and albinism: Awareness and advocacy. <i>National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation Biennial Conference.</i>	Pittsburgh, PA
May 2016	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

Date	Title	Location
March 2016	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
March 2016	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
January 2016	Safer travel options for individuals with visual impairment: Improving environmental designs and driver yielding practices. Environmental Access Committee	Washington DC
September 2015	Navigating the path to safer travel options for adults who experience vision loss. VIP Vienna/Fairfax County Access Library	Vienna, VA
August 2015	Strategies to start the school year for students with visual impairments. Parent Connections.	National Teleconference
April 2015	Adult-onset visual impairment and mobility: Preliminary study results. National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities, Office of Special Education Programs.	San Diego, CA
March 2015	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
March 2015	Advocacy and the IEP: Tips for parents. American Council of the Blind Educational Taskforce.	National Webinar
March 2015	Distinguishing the functional vision assessment from a learning media assessment. American Council of the Blind Educational Taskforce.	National Webinar
November 2014	Accessibility and compliance: Five Section 508 quick tips. Office of Special Education Programs.	Washington DC
November 2014	Perspective of the NLCSF Fellowship. Office of Special Education Programs.	Washington DC
October 2014	Digital inclusion. Office of Special Education Programs and the National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities.	Washington DC
July 2014	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
July 2014	Braille basics for parents and service provider. Virginia Department of Education.	Richmond, VA
July 2014	Individuating the IEP process: Advocating for appropriate program development. The National Organization of Albinism and Hypopigmentation biennial convention.	San Diego, CA
July 2014	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
July 2014	Where the sidewalk ends: Pedestrian access for persons with albinism. The National Organization of Albinism and Hypopigmentation <i>Biennial Conference.</i>	San Diego, CA

Date	Title	Location
May 2014	Early intervention and transition considerations for children with albinism. Parent Connections.	National Webinar
April 2014	Braille Babies: Strategies to promote early literacy skills for children with visual impairments. Council for Exceptional Children annual convention and expo.	Philadelphia, PA
February 2014	Services and strategies for young children with visual impairments. George Mason University, ECED 506.	Fairfax, VA
July 2013	Enhancing doctoral preparation: The National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Project Directors Meeting.	Washington DC
June 2013	Serving students with visual impairments and blindness: The role of the special education teacher. George Mason University, EDSE 501.	Fairfax, VA
April 2013	Students with sensory impairments in the university setting: A panel discussion. George Mason University, Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society.	Fairfax, VA
December 2012	Mastering the IEP Process. Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind.	Washington DC
November 2012	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
2011-2014	Orientation & mobility: Strategies for working with children and students who are blind or visually impaired. George Mason University, EDSE 669.	Fairfax, VA
November 2012	Screen reader technology for students who are blind or visually impaired. George Mason University, EDIT 526.	Fairfax, VA
August 2011	Effective IEP advocacy for students with albinism. National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation.	Online webinar
March 2011	Considerations for providing early intervention services and promoting developmental growth for infants and young children with visual impairments. AER of Virginia Convention.	Fredericksburg, VA
November 2010	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
November 2010	Teaching orientation and mobility to young children. Mid-Atlantic Convention for the Blind and Visually Impaired.	Baltimore, MD
September 2010	Educational essentials for students with visual impairments. Parent seminar with the Northern Virginia Council of the Blind.	Arlington, VA
March 2010	Dealing with your child's diagnosis of a disability. Truro Church.	Fairfax VA
January 2010	Redefining Normal. Parent seminar, By Design Conference.	Fairfax, VA
November 2010	Braille Babies: Strategies to promote pre-reading skills for young children with visual impairments. Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind.	Rockville, MD
May 2009	Braille Babies: Strategies to promote pre-reading skills for young children with visual impairments. Preemies Today.	Fairfax, VA

Date	Title	Location
March 2009	Prematurity: March of Dimes guest speaker for Alpha Phi Omega fundraiser at George Mason University.	Fairfax, VA
2008	Effective IEP advocacy for parents and guardians, Special Forces.	Fairfax, VA
2003-2004	Current trends in the field of blindness and visual impairment. Faculty in-service trainings; Fairfax County Public Schools.	Fairfax, VA
2002	Keynote speaker: Web Curator Conference: Web accessibility and adaptive technology for the blind and visually impaired; Fairfax County Public Schools.	Fairfax, VA
July, 2002	AER International Conference: EXPLORE the Possibilities. Poster presentation.	Toronto, Canada
March 2002	National Agenda and Expanded Core Curriculum, in-service presenter; Fairfax County Public Schools.	Fairfax, VA
October 2001	Preparing for college: A guide for students with visual impairments. National Federation of the Blind.	Oakton, VA
2000-2002	Guest lecturer: Etiology, symptomatology, and approaches to intervention for students with blindness and visual impairment. The George Washington University.	Washington DC
1999-2000	Guest lecturer: Strategies for serving students with visual impairments. University of Northern Colorado.	Greeley, CO
July 1999	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
April 1999	Accommodations for college students with visual impairments and blindness: Staff in-service, Office of Disability Support Services. University of Northern Colorado.	Greeley, CO
April 1999	The transition to college: Considerations for students with blindness and visual impairment. Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind.	Colorado Springs, CO
April 1999	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	Washington DC, National, International

Date	Event	Location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant in the preliminary report by the United Nations at the Georgetown University O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law Consultant serving on the United Nations working group for the United State and Europe Consultant and expert testimony on the United States' policies, laws, and practices pertaining to children and adults with albinism to the UN Independent Expert 	
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
2016-2018	Standards setting committee for blindness and visual impairment initial teacher licensure, Council for Exceptional Children	National
2016-2018	2017 Convention Planning Committee and Peer-Reviewer: Virginia Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Virginia
2016-2018	Legislative committee research member: Virginia Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired	Virginia

Date	Event	Location
2014-2017	Environmental Access Committee member for the American Council of the Blind: Research advisor	Washington DC
2012-2014	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
2012-2014	Brailist for the Council for Exceptional Children's <i>Yes I Can!</i> Award certificates	Arlington, VA
2011	White Cane Awareness Day, COMS consultant and walk leader; Outasight Foundation.	Fairfax, VA
2009-2010:	National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation 2010 National Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted with planning and arranging childcare for nearly 300 children • Created training handout and led workshop educating childcare helpers on albinism • Crew and event leader for kindergarteners with albinism 	Arlington, VA
2006-2012	Braille Babies: therapeutic playgroup for young children with visual impairments. Focuses on sensory development and pre-literacy skill enhancement	Fairfax, VA
2005-2009	March of Dimes Walk for Prematurity: participant and fundraiser	Washington DC
2005-2009	Preemies Today: Support and educational/developmental consultant for parents of premature children, therapeutic playgroup host	Fairfax, VA
2001-2005	American Printing House for the Blind large print atlas consultant and advisory committee	Louisville, KY
2004	The George Washington University, Institute on Rehabilitation Issues: orientation and mobility consultant	Washington DC
2002-2004	Convention Coordinator, Old Dominion Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired Coordinated hotel, convention meeting space and catering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned sessions, coordinated guest speakers and volunteers • Trained hotel staff and volunteers on methods for working with blind and visually impaired convention attendees • Created convention program, handled all administrative matters • Supervised all convention activities before, during and after event 	Fairfax, VA; McLean, VA
2002	Library of Congress: "That All May Read" Public Spokesperson for audio books literacy campaign	Washington DC
2001-2002	Board of Directors, National Federation of the Blind of Fairfax	Fairfax, VA
1999-2000	Secretary, American Council of the Blind of Colorado	Denver, CO
1996-2000	Colorado Role Model Team for the Blind; Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind	Colorado Springs, CO

Awards

Date	Award	Location
2011-2015	Doctoral fellow and scholar with the National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities.	Washington DC
2012	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
2004	Board nominated: Outstanding member of the year award. Old Dominion Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired	Virginia
2003	Board nominated: Outstanding member of the year award. Old Dominion Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired	Virginia
1998	Student teacher of the year award: Delta Kappa Gamma, Delta Gamma chapter of Pueblo Colorado	Pueblo, CO
1997	Induction to Phi Alpha Theta-International: Historian Honor Society	Pueblo, CO
1997	Leone Lindsey Scholarship	Pueblo, CO
1996	Townsend Press: essay contest-third place winner	West Berlin, NJ
1996	Leone Lindsey Scholarship	Pueblo, CO
1996-1999	Numerous ACB/NFB academic scholarships	National