



Pennsylvania - Delaware Chapter
Association for Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired

2-27-25 Copy

At-a-Glance

2025 Penn-Del AER Conference
Sharing Our Stories and Continuing Our Legacy
April 30 – May 2, 2025



Wednesday, April 30, 2025

11:00 am, **Registration**, Central Hallway

Session 1: Opening Session — Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Welcome — Central A & B

Maria Lepore-Stevens, Penn-Del AER Chapter President

Holly Russell, Penn-Del AER Chapter Conference Committee Chair

Keynote Address

Kevin O'Connor, MA, MS, CSP, O'Connor & Associates Ltd.

Beverage Break — Wednesday 2:30 – 2:50 pm

Central Hallway

Session 2: Concurrent Sessions — Wednesday 2:50 – 4:05 pm

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) for Neurological Visual Impairment (NVI) and Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI), Alstrin, Central A

Apple Intelligence in Action: Revolutionizing Teaching Children with Vision Loss, Lazur and Williams, Central B

Tales, Tips, and Tricks for Engaging Adults in the Blind Rehabilitation Process, Hofmeister and McCormick, Central C

Escape! Puzzles as O&M Lessons, Thomas Strasz, Central D & E

The Story of Building a Community to Bridge the Gap between Inclusion and Isolation for Elementary General Education Students Who Are Visually Impaired, Miller and McCloskey, Harris

Session 3: Concurrent Sessions — Wednesday 4:15 – 5:30 pm

Non-Visual Yoga, Amber Strasz, Central A

Finding My Way: Options for Indoor Navigation by Blind Travelers, Lieberman, Central B

TVI Roundtable, Whitehead, Central C

Visionary Leadership, Laffer, Central D & E

Roundtable on Services for Individuals with Vision Loss, Walsh-Emma and Pressmann, Harris

Wednesday Evening, April 30, 2025

Dinner on your own

4:30 – 7:00 pm, **Silent Auction**, Cameron

Explore the tempting wares that are up for grabs! Bidding starts at 4:30 pm on Wednesday and ends at 5:30 pm on Thursday.

Thursday Morning, May 1, 2025

7:00 am, **Registration**, Central Hallway

7:00 – 8:10 am, **Continental Buffet**, Central Hallway

9:00 am – 5:30 pm, **Silent Auction**, Cameron. Bid on the tempting wares that are up for grabs! Bidding ends promptly at 5:30 pm.

9:00 am – 5:00 pm, **Exhibitor Hall**, Heritage (Exhibitor Hall closed during lunch)

Session 4: Concurrent Sessions — Thursday 8:15 – 9:30 am

Sugar and Canes: Diabetes Impact and Advocacy, Thomas Strasz, Central A

Unlocking Literature through Experience Stories: A Multisensory Journey for Deaf-Blind Students, Part 1 of 2, Whelan, Vargas, and Molinari, Central B

SETTING the Stage for Success for Blind-Low Vision Students in Regular Education Settings, Cook Walker, Central C

Attract-Prepare-Retain (APR): Insights and Opportunities for Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Orientation & Mobility Specialists, Good and Moon, Central D & E

Supporting Transition: The Readiness of Adolescents and Young Adults to Manage Their Low Vision Eye Care, Vasile and Lueders, Harris

Beverage Break — Thursday 9:30 – 10:00 am

Central Hallway

Session 5: General Session — Thursday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

General Session — Central A & B

Mid-Note Address

Dr. Rebecca Renshaw, International AER President; Executive Director, Lavelle School for the Blind

Thursday Afternoon, May 1, 2025

Lunch and Dessert — Thursday 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch Buffet, Central C, D, & E (Exhibitor Hall closed during lunch)

Coffee and Dessert will be served in the Exhibitor Hall in Heritage and in the Poster Session in Central A

Session 6: Exhibitors and Posters Session — Thursday 1:00 – 2:15 pm

Poster Session — Central A

Exhibitors — Heritage

Session 7: Concurrent Sessions — Thursday 2:25 – 3:40 pm

Unlocking Literature through Experience Stories: A Multisensory Journey for Deaf-Blind Students- Part 2 of 2, Whelan, Vargas, and Molinari, Central B

SETTING the Stage for Success for Blind-Low Vision Students with Complex Needs, Cook Walker, Central C

Medication Use and Educational Barriers: An Easier Way Around, Hanuschock, Hanuschock, and Hanuschock, Central D & E

Kayaks Are Simply the Tools, Eaton, Harris

Roundtable for Preservice Professionals, Love, Keystone

Beverage Break — Thursday 3:40 – 4:00 pm

Central Hallway

Session 8: Concurrent Sessions — Thursday 4:00 – 5:15 pm

Orientation & Mobility Roundtable, Williams, Central A

Reimagining the Learning Media Assessment, Alstrin and Vasile, Central B

Cerebral/Cortical Visual Impairment 2025, Lehman, Central C

Designing for Everyone: The Future of Accessibility, Knaub and Gerhart, Central D & E

Protactile: Communicating through Touch, Snellman and Perez, Harris

Thursday Evening, May 1, 2025

Penn-Del AER Awards Banquet and Ceremony, Central C, D, & E

Doors open at 6:15 pm; Banquet at 6:30 pm; and Ceremony follows dinner.

Awards Reception, following the Awards Banquet until 10:00 pm, Cash Bar in Lobby Bar.

Join us as we toast our 2025 award recipients!

Friday, May 2, 2025

7:00 am, **Registration**, Central Hallway

7:00 – 8:15 am, **Breakfast Buffet**, Central Hallway

Session 9: Concurrent Sessions — Friday 8:15 – 9:30 am

Employment-Related Skills for Adults: What “Works”, Lueders, Smith, Perla, and Vasile, Central A

There Must Be Another Solution: Exploring Alternative Access Methods for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ACC), McLendon and Lieberman, Central B

Meet the Monarch, Martin and Weaver, Central C

Enhancing Independence for Children Ages 11-17 with Visual Impairments through Guide Dog Partnerships: The Mira Foundation USA Model, Archibald, Central D & E

Adaptive Equipment for Physical Activity, Love, Galante, and Musgrove, Heritage

Break — Friday 9:30 – 9:45 am

Central Hallway

Session 10: Concurrent Sessions — Friday 9:45 – 11:00 am

Supporting BVI Students: How Community and Mentorship Help BVI Students Thrive, Johnson and Yasar, Central A

Harnessing Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Educational Experiences for Students with Visual Impairments, Cacchio Henry and Pedrick, Central B

Self Defense and Personal Safety as O&M Lessons, Amber Strasz, Central C

Did You Know... Physical Education and Recreation and Leisure Can Incorporate ALL Areas of the ECC?, Shawn Musgrove, Central D & E

Fresh Approaches to Neurological Visual Impairment (NVI) & Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) Assessments, Alstrin, Heritage

Break — Friday 11:00 – 11:15 am

Central Hallway

Session 11: Closing Session — Friday 11:15 am – 12:30 pm

General Session — Heritage

Footnote Address

Lee Sonnenberg, MA, Executive Director, AER

Conference Wrap-Up

Maria Lepore-Stevens, Penn-Del AER Chapter President

Holly Russell, Penn-Del AER Chapter Conference Committee Chair

2026 Conference

We'll see you at next year's conference in Harrisburg, PA scheduled for **April 15 – 17, 2026** at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center

The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) supports professionals who provide education & rehabilitation services to people with visual impairments.

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February 22, 2025