



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

2025 Penn-Del AER Conference **Call for Presentation Proposals:** **Concurrent Sessions and Posters**



2025 Penn-Del AER Conference
Sharing Our Stories and Continuing Our Legacy
April 30 – May 2, 2025
Best Western Premier Central Hotel
Harrisburg, PA

The Penn-Del AER Chapter is pleased to announce the Call for Proposals for the 2025 Penn-Del AER Conference. We invite you to submit a proposal for a concurrent session or a poster presentation or both. The conference will be held in-person in Harrisburg, April 30 – May 2. The theme for the 2025 conference is **“Sharing Our Stories and Continuing Our Legacy.”**

As in previous years, the goal of the conference is to offer continuing education and networking opportunities for professionals in the field of visual impairment. We encourage all education and rehabilitation professionals to share their expertise by presenting their fresh ideas, innovative insights, successful programs, or research results at this well-respected annual event.

Please take this opportunity to help the 2025 Conference Planning Committee develop a well-balanced program that addresses a wide range of issues facing education and rehabilitation professionals serving children and adults who are blind and visually impaired. We hope you will consider becoming directly involved by sharing your expertise. Please share this information with others who may be interested in presenting.

Note: Penn-Del AER provides a Microsoft PowerPoint (PPTX) template that has been developed in an easy, accessible format for both presenters and participants to use. Information will be available on how to utilize the template when preparing PPTX slides.

Conference information will be updated regularly on the Penn-Del AER website.

Format Descriptions

Concurrent Session Presentations

Concurrent Session Presentations are usually 75 minutes in length. These may include lectures or demonstrations, reports of research design or results, hands-on workshops, or effective presentations of other relevant information. Panel presentations should be limited to four speakers. Concurrent presentations will take place during all three days of the conference.

- Each accepted concurrent presentation will be awarded a \$100.00 honorarium.
- Each accepted round table session will be awarded a \$50.00 honorarium.
- Speakers can earn professional development credits from ACVREP for presenting a concurrent or poster session and can earn ACT 48 credits (through their employer) for preparation of a presentation.
- Deadline for proposal submission is October 31, 2024.

- Accepted concurrent session presenters will be notified by the end of January 2025.

Poster Presentations

Poster Presentations provide an informal forum for information sharing and discussion. Poster presentations are self-explanatory displays of information. Poster presenters personally attend their displays at assigned time periods to provide additional information and to discuss the topics with attendees. Conference participants circulate through the poster session and interact with the presenters on a one-on-one basis.

We encourage poster presentation submissions from both service providers and students who are preparing for a career in the professions of education and rehabilitation of individuals who are blind or have low vision. Poster topics can highlight an aspect of recent learning, an area of interest, or research that enhances professional practices.

The day and time for poster presentations will be confirmed closer to the conference date. Presenters will personally attend their displays and interact with conference attendees during the formal poster session. The conference will provide a draped six-foot table on which presenters can display a stand-alone poster and materials.

- Each accepted poster presentation will be awarded a \$50.00 honorarium.
- Speakers can earn professional development credits from ACVREP for presenting a concurrent or poster session and can earn ACT 48 credits (through your employer) for preparation of a presentation.
- Deadline for proposal submission is October 31, 2024.
- Accepted poster presenters will be notified by the end of January 2025.

Proposal Selection Criteria

Presentations at the Penn-Del AER Conference should be designed to educate participants about successful practices, innovations, research, or expanded perspectives that improve services to students and clients who are blind or visually impaired. If exhibitors submit proposals, we encourage presentations that focus on products for educational or rehabilitation outcomes. (e.g., "Using Video Magnifiers to Access Board Work" or "Notetakers in the College Classroom")

All proposals will be reviewed by a broad-based panel using the following criteria:

- Is the topic important and relevant to the work of professionals in the field of visual impairment?

- Does the topic provide significant or innovative ideas or research findings that bring fresh insight or approaches?
- Does the topic present a new or expanded perspective, practice, program, or innovation?
- Does the topic fit into the content strands of the conference and add balance to the overall program?
- Has this topic been presented at a recent Penn-Del AER Conference?

Conference Handouts

In our effort to employ environmentally responsible practices, we will compile all handouts electronically and provide the full collection of handouts to each conference participant. This will make all conference handouts available to all conference participants. Handouts will be posted in a shared Dropbox folder that will be available during the conference.

Presenters are requested to submit electronic copies of all handouts they intend to distribute, as well as PowerPoint presentation files in an accessible format that will be used during their presentations. Members of the conference committee are available to assist in making materials accessible or to answer questions related to creating accessible digital documents prior to the conference. Electronic files may be submitted as email attachments or shared URLs via a link to a file stored in the cloud. All files are checked for accessibility. Handout and PowerPoint materials need to be submitted no later than March 15, 2025.

Conference Registration for Accepted Concurrent Session and Poster Presenters

All presenters will need to register for the conference. Those who plan only to present will need to register, although their registration fee will be waived. Presenters who plan to attend the conference must register and pay the conference registration fee.

Details for Submitting Proposals for Concurrent Session or Poster Presentations

Proposals are submitted through a web-based submission process, using the Google Form link provided. Each proposal submission must be entered into the online form in **one "sitting,"** so please have all your information ready before you begin to enter your proposal.

Presentation title: This will be printed in the conference program booklet.

Abstract of the presentation: The abstract should provide a brief description of your presentation. It should not exceed 100 words. This description will be submitted to ACVREP and will be published in the conference program booklet. It should fully inform conference attendees what they can expect from your presentation.

Primary learning objective(s): The learning objective(s) should indicate the knowledge, concepts, or skills participants should be able to demonstrate as a result of the presentation.

Note: Learning objectives should complete the following sentence: "Following the presentation, participants will be able to"

Name and contact information for each presenter: Before submitting a proposal, the lead presenter should confirm the commitment of co-presenters and include them and their contact information on the proposal submission form. Please indicate if you do or do not want presenters' contact information published.

Honoraria: Presenters will be asked to indicate if they are able to accept an honorarium for their presentations. Honoraria will be provided at the conference.

Brief profile of each presenter: Provide a brief profile of each presenter including current position, place of employment, or university program with anticipated graduation date. This information will be used to introduce presenters.

Room set-up preference (for concurrent session presentations only): Indicate any special room set-up requirements such as a panel table or additional rectangular tables.

Audio-visual equipment needed (for concurrent session presentations only): AV equipment will be available as noted on the form. Indicate whether you will require a PowerPoint presentation, additional power strips, flip chart and markers, doc camera, an extra microphone, or if you have any other AV requests.

Presenter waiver and consent: Read waiver details and check yes or no for consent.

Signature: Typed signature of lead presenter acceptable.

Submission forms must be completed in full to be considered by the Review Panel.

Submission Links and Deadline Date

- [Proposal for Concurrent Session Presentation](#)
- [Proposal for Poster Presentation](#)
- Deadline Date: October 31, 2024

For More Information

If you have questions about the proposal process, contact Mary Nelle McLennan, Penn-Del AER Conference Program Chair, email: penndel.conference@icloud.com or call (412) 559-7782.

Contacts

Holly Russell, Conference Chair, Immediate Past President, Penn-Del AER Chapter, russell.hm@comcast.net

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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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