



Happy FALL Illinois AER!

I hope that the fiscal/school year 2018-19 has started off well for everyone! As a new term begins I wanted to introduce myself to membership. My name is Amy Lund and I am the current President of Illinois AER. After elections had closed, and prior to the new terms starting; the board had two resignations. Sadly Doug Anzlovar and Olaya Landa Vialard left our board which caused a board nomination and approval to fill the missing positions of President and Past President for the new term. I was nominated and approved for President. Since my move to President, that left open the newly elected Member at Large position. Maura Guimon-Warren was nominated and approved to that slot. Mindy Ely was nominated and approved for Past President to create a full board. For an organization that runs on volunteers, there is a strong sense of leadership and knowledge on this board!

Plans are well underway for the 2019 IAER Vision Conference. Stay tuned for the announcement of keynote and break out session topics as well as the registration forms. Thank you so much to Mindy Ely, conference chair and Jennifer Duncan, program chair, for their hard work so far!

Getting involved with conference is a great way to give back to this awesome organization. If you are interested in helping, please contact a board member.

Sincerely,  
Amy Lund  
President IAER

## IAER Board Members

President:  
Amy Lund  
[braillelund@gmail.com](mailto:braillelund@gmail.com)

Secretary:  
Stacy Kelly  
[skelly@niu.edu](mailto:skelly@niu.edu)

Members-at-Large:  
Elizabeth Abelson Budzik- [budzike@d62.org](mailto:budzike@d62.org)  
Maura Guimon-Warren- [mguimonwarren@Naperville203.org](mailto:mguimonwarren@Naperville203.org)  
Dayna Brzezowski- [dagrism@gmail.com](mailto:dagrism@gmail.com)  
Allyssa A. Harpst- [aharpst@usd116.org](mailto:aharpst@usd116.org)  
Lisa Meadors- [lmeadors@eisencoop.org](mailto:lmeadors@eisencoop.org)  
Molly Pasley- [mollyclesen@gmail.com](mailto:mollyclesen@gmail.com)

President Elect:  
Jennifer Duncan  
[duncanj@d62.org](mailto:duncanj@d62.org)

Treasurer:  
Jasmine Wells  
[Jasmine.wells@illinois.gov](mailto:Jasmine.wells@illinois.gov)

Past President:  
Mindy Ely  
[msely@ilstu.edu](mailto:msely@ilstu.edu)

**\*\*ATTENTION RECENTLY AND SOON TO BE RETIRED IAER MEMBERS\*\*** If you have retired from the field since the 2018 IAER conference and you would like to be recognized in the next IAER newsletter OR you will be retiring and would like to be recognized at the 2019 IAER conference please email Lauren Mehalek at [lauren.mehalek@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.mehalek@gmail.com).

## **Committee Reports**

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### **Conference Committee**

The Illinois AER conference is scheduled for Feb. 14 & 15, 2019 at the Marriott hotel in Naperville. Registration is now open. We are excited to announce that Daniel Kish will provide the opening keynote followed by a breakout session. Additional information about the conference program will be released in the coming weeks on the conference website at <https://aerbvi.org/about/chapters/illinois/>

### **IVLC Recruitment Committee:**

As part of the Illinois Vision Leadership Council’s four-year plan, a sub-committee was formed on October 3<sup>rd</sup> with the goal to spread awareness of the current shortage of vision professionals. This sub committee is called the IVLC Recruitment Committee. If you know of any high school students, college students, or anyone looking to change their careers, please spread the word about this great field! Ways to spread the word include going to your districts or agencies on career days, speaking to neighbors, families, or friends who are interested in a new career path, or by sharing our information on social media.

- Follow, share, and contact us...
- Website- [www.WhyEyeTeach.info](http://www.WhyEyeTeach.info)
  - Email- [WhyEyeTeach@Gmail.com](mailto:WhyEyeTeach@Gmail.com)
  - Facebook- [WhyEyeTeach: IVLC Recruitment Committee](#)
  - Twitter- [WhyEyeTeach](#)
  - Instagram- [WhyEyeTeach](#)

While you’re there use the hashtag #WhyEyeTeach and tell us why you are a vision professional or what you love most about your job!

### **Workshop Committee**

The workshop committee has issued one workshop this Fall. It was to Pam Duda from the CASE region for a workshop at ITAP. Participants from the workshop made the following comments:

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program workshop was a hands-on learning experience that included making affordable switches and taking a closer look at a mixture of equipment and devices. The workshop was engaging, informational, and brought awareness to the many services and equipment

that can be provided through IATP. Through this workshop, I now have a vast amount of resources all from one source that will be shared with students, parents, and coworkers.

The IATP workshop in Springfield was a wonderful opportunity for both new and experienced teachers to tour the IATP and become more familiar with this resource. The information Pam provides is invaluable in keeping us up-to-date. This workshop provided me with switches that I can utilize with my students and the instructions to make additional switches. It also gave me a better understanding of the array of services provided by ITAP.

This workshop provided me with switches that I can utilize with my students and the instructions to make additional switches. It also gave me a better understanding of the array of services provided by ITAP.

Make sure to utilize your membership resource and apply for workshop grant monies to bring exciting workshops to your area!

### **Mini Grants/Stipends/Volunteer Service Grants**

Greetings IAER Members!

Members can continue to utilize \$100 toward IAER conference expenses, however, as a board we have decided to open the \$200 awards to ***national and international*** conferences (e.g. ICEVI, International AER, CEC, AFB, APH, etc.)! This is an international year so get applying! We have \$1200 available for conference expenses!

We still have \$2000 available in mini-grant funds! Priority is given to new and innovative programs but **please don't let this discourage you from sending in an application!** We have ample money for mini-grants, even if you have applied for a specific program in the past. As a member, you can use this money for planning quality programs for students and families.

Last, but not least, the Volunteer Direct Service grant is available for this fiscal year. If you or someone you know is traveling to provide services or programming in another country or area of the USA, please apply for this grant! More information is available under "Grants and Scholarships" at <http://il.aerbvi.org>

If you have any questions, please see the contact information below.

Email: [mollyclesen@gmail.com](mailto:mollyclesen@gmail.com)

Address:  
Molly Pasley  
300 High Oak Dr.  
East Peoria, IL 61611

Molly Pasley  
IAER Mini-Grant/Stipend/Volunteer Service Grant Chair

## Awards Committee

Hello IAER members! It is that time again! Do you know an organization, police department, business, teacher, rehab specialist or overall exceptional individual in our field? Nominate them for an award! There are several awards to choose from. Three are individual awards for excellence in teaching, rehab and distinguished service and one community partner award. Let's show our colleagues and community partners how much their work in our field is appreciated and valued. The community partner does not have to be an IAER member or work in the field. Spread the word! If you need a copy of the application or have any questions, please email Lisa Meadors at [lisameadors@gmail.com](mailto:lisameadors@gmail.com). The deadline for applications is **December 21, 2018**. Thanks!

## Resource Updates

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### Illinois State University Update

#### Illinois State University Update

Illinois State University Special Education Department has officially opened a search for an Assistant Professor in Low Vision/Blindness. Projected start date is August 16, 2019. Please feel free to share the official posting (included in Agency Reports) with any qualified and interested parties.

A stand-alone graduate-level course entitled Neurological Visual Impairment in Children has been approved. This course was designed for working TVI's, O&Ms, and other school-based personnel who need information on the newest information about CVI. Be watching for this course to be offered in an upcoming semester.

There are 5 students that will graduate this May. We are happy to send job posts their way if you have an opening. Send post to either Mindy Ely ([msely@ilstu.edu](mailto:msely@ilstu.edu)) or Pam Duda ([pduda@usd116.org](mailto:pduda@usd116.org)).



**Visually Impaired and  
Assistive Technology for ALL**

**NOW RECRUITING FOR THE SUMMER 2019 COHORT**

**Northern Illinois University Presents Camp VITALL  
Summers-Only Assistive Technology Certificate of Graduate Study for Practicing Vision  
Professionals**

- If currently licensed/certified as a TVI, COMS, and/or CVRT, eligible to study in Camp VITALL summers-only program
- New ACVREP Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist for People with Visual Impairments (CATIS)
- Financial aid – all tuition and fees
- Stipend of \$920 per summer
- Summer 1 – 8-week on-campus courses
- Summer 2 - Approx. 12-week full-time internship
- Learn more the about new ACVREP CATIS at: [www.acvrep.org/certifications/catis](http://www.acvrep.org/certifications/catis).
- For information about the NIU Program, go to: [www.vision.niu.edu](http://www.vision.niu.edu).
- Start your application today by contacting the Project Director, Stacy Kelly, at: [skelly@niu.edu](mailto:skelly@niu.edu) or 815-753-4103.

**U.S Department of Education  
Office of Special Education Programs  
Grant #H325K160016**

**Have a job opening?** Please forward information about job openings to Stacy Kelly (skelly@niu.edu) so we can share this information with our recent and upcoming graduates.

**Generous Student Financial Assistance Available in TVI/O&M/CATIS:** We have remaining slots for full funding in our TVI, O&M, and CATIS programs. We would like to share our ad designed for a national audience. Please feel free to forward it on to others who might be interested, in state or out of state.

**Training for a Rewarding Career  
Generous Student Financial Assistance**

**Teaching Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired, Providing Orientation and Mobility Services for Those Children, and/or Specializing in Assistive Technology for Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired**

Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, Illinois) offers a nationally regarded program at the graduate level for individuals who wish to join a rewarding career in teaching children who are blind or visually impaired as a teacher of students with visual impairments, orientation and mobility instructor, or assistive technology specialist for children with visual impairments. There is an overwhelming need for teachers who specialize in instruction for students who are visually impaired. As a consequence, there are many job opportunities in all regions of the United States. Individuals who choose this career path can anticipate having no difficulty obtaining life-long employment with great job security! In addition to numerous job opportunities, good pay, and excellent job security, individuals who choose this career path experience a sense of fulfillment not commonly found in other careers. These teachers play a significant role in the lives of children who are visually impaired and their families.

Generous student financial assistance is available. We will pay all in-state or out-of-state tuition, all fees, health insurance, and a stipend of \$5,520 per calendar year for qualified individuals who wish to come to Northern Illinois University to enroll in the Visual Disabilities Graduate Program focusing on special education for children who are blind or visually impaired with an additional emphasis in assistive technology.

**For more information, go to the following YouTube link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUfWnBbNZMg>

**Also, go to the following website to read about the program:**

[www.vision.niu.edu](http://www.vision.niu.edu)

**Interested individuals can contact the Project Director, Stacy Kelly, at the following e-mail:**

[skelly@niu.edu](mailto:skelly@niu.edu)

Or by calling 815-753-4103

Admissions requirements are as follows:

Online application with a fee of \$60

GRE scores of 30%tile verbal and 30%tile quantitative (\$205 fee)

Official transcripts of all previous academic work

GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

ACT score of 22 or successful completion of the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP)

Two letters of recommendation

Personal statement

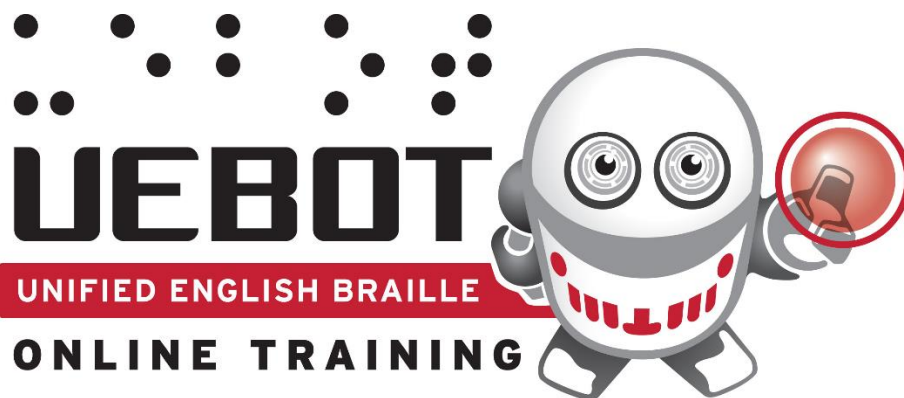
The link to the online application process for the Graduate School can be found on the page, [www.vision.niu.edu](http://www.vision.niu.edu).

The direct link to the online application can be found on the page,

<https://www.niu.edu/grad/admissions/apply-now.shtml>.

**This is not an online program.** All courses except for the field experiences (e.g., student teaching and the internships) are taken on campus in DeKalb, Illinois, the home of Northern Illinois University. DeKalb is conveniently located 60 miles west of Chicago, Illinois.

Students progress through the program in cohorts. Each cohort begins in the fall of each academic year. The generous financial assistance is awarded on a first come, first served basis to qualified applicants. Be sure to notify Stacy Kelly ([skelly@niu.edu](mailto:skelly@niu.edu)) of your intent to apply to ensure that your name is included in the pool of candidates!



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Northern Illinois University  
[uebot.niu.edu](http://uebot.niu.edu)

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  - 10 free ACVREP CEUs
  - University credit available
- Flexible on-line training to meet busy schedules
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