



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

[www.penn-delaer.org](http://www.penn-delaer.org)

**You are invited!**

## **2019 Penn-Del AER Conference**

**April 24–26, 2019**

**Best Western Premier Central Hotel  
Harrisburg, PA**



The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of AER invites you to participate in our annual conference as we focus on **Charting Our Course: Together Toward Tomorrow**. Our nationally respected conference offers a notable line-up of professionals who will present a newly added pre-conference leadership event, 3 general sessions, 40 concurrent sessions, along with a large vendor exhibitors, professional poster presentations, the Penn-Del AER awards banquet, and a tempting silent auction.

New this year, our chapter is sponsoring a pre-conference leadership development event on the morning preceding the opening of the conference. See additional information below. You will not want to miss this remarkable opportunity!

The 2019 Penn-Del AER Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center in Harrisburg, PA. The pre-conference event will start Wednesday April 24 at 8:45 AM, the conference will open on Wednesday, April 24, at 1:00 PM and will conclude on Friday, April 26, at 12:45 PM.

### **NEW THIS YEAR! Pre-Conference Leadership Session Event**

**Penn-Del AER's Professional Development Workshop: Focus on Leadership**

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 — 8:45 AM through 12:15 PM

**Presenter:** Dr. Amy J. Armstrong, who presented the highly evaluated Midnote Address at our 2018 conference, has agreed to develop and present the content portion of our inaugural training event. Dr. Amy J. Armstrong is Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Focus on Leadership Workshop Overview:** Dr. Armstrong's primary focus is appreciative leadership and ways in which leaders can grow themselves and others, both personally and professionally. She emphasizes the relational aspects of leadership and how we can build and strengthen collaborative work, ultimately impacting the work we do with students, clients, and colleagues. Amy believes that, regardless of one's title or position, each professional has the opportunity and the responsibility to build healthy communities and to address the challenge of difficult conversations when necessary. She has crafted this leadership workshop as an interactive morning through which participants can organically discover new aspects of leadership within themselves and for those they serve.

**Pre-Conference Session Event Registration Fee:** \$50.00 for AER members; \$75.00 for non-members (Not included in conference registration fee). Morning beverages and buffet lunch are included in the pre-conference registration fee.

## General Sessions

Our general sessions are presented by experienced, nationally respected leaders whose sessions provide inspiration and insights into ways that we can chart our course together as professionals to benefit the individuals we serve!

### **Keynote Address Speaker, Wednesday April 24: Dr. Bernadette Kappen**

Dr. Bernadette Kappen is certainly no stranger to Pennsylvania and Delaware professionals. Currently the Executive Director of the New York Institute for Special Education, Dr. Kappen has spent her entire teaching and administrative career working in the education of children with visual and hearing impairments and additional disabilities. During her time at the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia, where she eventually became Director, Dr. Kappen worked with children and their families to develop language and communication programs with curricula that offered them skills for the future. Her programs have become models for other professionals, and she has been recognized as an outstanding leader nationally and internationally.

### **Midnote Address Speaker, Thursday April 25: Kevin E. O'Connor, CSP**

In addition to being an author, executive coach, and businessman, Kevin O'Connor is a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP). Not only is he one of 550 persons in the world to hold this highest earned speaking designation, but he also holds three Masters degrees—in Education, Counseling Psychology, and Pastoral Studies. He focuses his expertise and humor to provide insight on the challenges of leadership, professional relationships, and how to improve the effectiveness of teams.

Kevin comes to our conference, not only as a highly sought international speaker, but also as the father of a son who has a visual impairment.

## Footnote Address Speaker, Friday April 26: Fr. James Warnke

Father James Warnke is an ordained Episcopal priest, now retired from 36 years as a psychotherapist in private clinical practice. Jim is a perennial favorite of Penn-Del Conference attendees and returns to close our conference with his characteristic humor and inspiration.

## Concurrent Sessions (as of January 15, 2019)

Participants will have opportunities to attend a wide array of sessions in which professionals in the field of visual impairment provide information about new programs, products, research, methods, and other current topics. Participants will be able to choose from sessions focused on education and rehabilitation, including Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (VRT), Orientation and Mobility (O&M), technology, early intervention, transition, the Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC), and many other areas of interest.

- **Painting with a Visual Twist** — Maureen Army and Michael Bryant
- **Supporting Braille Users in High School Math and Science: Tips, Tricks, and Hacks** — Maria Baldwin and Michele Resch
- **Introduction to iPhone X Gestures with Apps** — Michael Bryant
- **A Modest Proposal: Blind Coding Academies** — Anthony Candela
- **Educational Rights and Realities of Blind Students** — Carlton Anne Cook Walker and Anna Walker
- **Helping Youth with Visual Impairments Accelerate Their Futures** — Anisio Correia
- **The Sweet Spot for Magnification: The Functional Implications of Refraction and Its Impact on Magnification** — Karen S. Cote
- **Braille Challenge Mobile App: What Did We Learn about Comprehension, Fluency, and Accuracy in Braille Reading?** — Frances Mary D'Andrea and Tessa McCarthy
- **Overbrook School for the Blind Van Goghs for Art Education: Making Art Accessible for Everyone** — Susan DiFabio and Frank Irzyk
- **Chartering Pathways to Tomorrow: The Power of Positioning and Movement** — Cortney Divito and Melissa Kowalkowski
- **We Taught the Law and the Blind Community Won** — Heather Dougherty and Maria Lepore-Stevens
- **Pennsylvania's Career Readiness Indicator Connection to the ECC for Students Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Deaf-Blind** — Jennifer Edgar and Jacki Lyster
- **Simplified Calculating Strategies Using the Double-A Method on the Cranmer Abacus** — Thomas Forrest, Jr.

- **Bioptic Driver Training: Making a Difference for Persons with Visual Impairment** — Chuck Huss
- **Ethical Dilemmas: How to Ethically Navigate through Situations Teachers of the Blind May Face.** — Nicole Johnson and Kathleen Stanfa
- **CVI Connect in the Classroom** — Julie Kushman
- **Show Your Stuff: Creative Equipment in Vision Professions** — Maria Lepore-Stevens
- **“You got them now?” Responding to the Public on Community O&M Lessons** — Maria Lepore-Stevens
- **At Your Beck and Call: Voice-Activated Home Assistants and Use by Blind and Vision Impaired** — Jule Ann Lieberman
- **Truly SWIFT Braille Transcription: Styling Microsoft Word Documents for Effortless Translation into Braille Using the Duxbury Braille Translator** — Brenda Loughrey and Patricia D’Ascenzo
- **Creating Accessible PDF Documents and Forms** — Brenda Loughrey and Debby Holzapfel
- **From Scooting to Cruising: Taking Small Steps to Help Students with Multiple Disabilities Achieve Far-Reaching Goals** — Tessa McCarthy and Staci Wills
- **How It Took a Village to Help a Veteran Return to Work** — Katie McCormick, Karen Shane Cote and John Mc Mahon
- **Working with Families** — Kevin O’Connor
- **Dyslexia and Braille Readers** — Angel Perez
- **Eyes on Demand: A Comparison of Be My Eyes and Aira** — Londa Peterson
- **DATA Analytics, Braille Innovations** — Damian Pickering and Tyler Brown
- **Game Their Gains: Mastering Motivation through Game Design Principles** — Stephan Sauerburger
- **Changing Your World One Step at a Time: Practices for Making a Difference** — Dona Sauerburger and Stephan Sauerburger
- **Blind in Pennsylvania and Delaware but Not in Virginia** — Rachel Schles
- **Using Expanded Core Curriculum-Based Mobile Games to Maximize Educational Outcomes** — Marty Schultz
- **ALL ABOARD: Discovering a Collaborative Pathway toward Independent Living - How Parents, TVIs, and VRTs Can Chart a Child's Path to Success** — Lachelle Smith and Emily Vasile
- **“So you're a teacher of the visually impaired! Do you know sign language?”** — Christine Snellman

- **Braille Tech Tools and Student Productivity: Opening the Braille Tech Tool Box Featuring the Brailnote Touch by Humanware** — Peter Tucic and Kate Morrow
- **Using iOS Devices to Access Books/Literacy for Students with Multiple Disabilities Including CVI** — Amanda Whelan
- **Technology and Learning Media Assessment: A Comprehensive Team-Based Approach to Assess Reading, Writing, and Technology Skills for Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired** — Douglas Williams and Brenda Loughrey
- **Fun Science Activities for Young Children: A Hands On Approach** — Marilyn Winograd and Lillian Rankel
- **Vispero in Education: Affordable Software for All Students** — Michael Wood
- **Using Universal Design in Education (UDE) to Reach All Learners as a Starting Point for Creating Optimal Learning Environments** — Lisha Yochimowitz

## Poster Sessions

On Thursday, April 25, presenters will exhibit posters on new programs, innovative techniques, research, and more. Poster presenters will be on hand to answer questions and provide additional detail.

- **Tactile Physics Labs for Visually Impaired Students** — Morganne Bennett
- **Tai Chi and Yoga Benefits for People with Visual Impairments** — Maci Filopanti
- **Camp Abilities: An International Model for Sport and Empowerment** — Maria Lepore-Stevens
- **Serving Those Serving Time: An Exploratory Study of Challenges Surrounding Serving Inmates with Visual Impairments** — Fabiana Perla and Francesca Crozier-Fitzgerald
- **NFB BELL Academy: Reading Fun for Everyone in the Sun and on the Run** — Anna Walker, Matt Shore, and Carlton Anne Cook Walker
- **I Can Babysit, Too: Empowering Students Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired in Employment** — Rebecca Weber
- **IDEAL: A Transitional Summer Program** — Daniel Wesley and Monica Jones

## Vendor Exhibit Hall

Vendors from across the country will exhibit their products and services on Thursday, April 25. Come see the latest in assistive technology, training programs, adapted products, available services, and much more!

## Conference Materials

Conference materials will be available to all attendees in electronic format via Dropbox link and USB drive. If you prefer a hard copy of the long program, you can indicate that on your registration form.

Session materials created by presenters and provided to us by March 15, 2019 will be available via the Dropbox link and USB drive.

## Penn-Del AER Awards Banquet

The Penn-Del AER Awards Banquet on Thursday evening will honor the recipients of the Penn-Del AER Richard L. Welsh Service (Welsh) Award and the Elinor Long Educator of the Year (ELEY) Award.

This dinner event provides an opportunity for our AER Chapter to publicly recognize the contributions of outstanding professionals and for us to celebrate the work we do and the differences we can make.

## Silent Auction

There's a spot at the Silent Auction waiting for you! If you are interested in donating an item, please send an email to Susan Neff at [suneff@pa.gov](mailto:suneff@pa.gov), telling her what the donated item will be with the approximate value and then simply bring the item to the registration desk at the conference. If you would like to make a monetary contribution that will be used to purchase items to be auctioned, please include on your registration form. Make the check payable to Penn-Del AER and note that it is for Silent Auction. Thanks, in advance, for your help in making your Silent Auction a success!

## Professional Development Credits

Penn-Del AER offers certificates of completion for conference participants to apply for professional development credits.

## Registration Information

To register for the pre-conference event and the conference, access the registration form available on the [Penn-Del AER website](#).

### Pre-Conference Session Registration and Fee:

Registration for the new Professional Development Workshop: Focus on Leadership is provided on the conference registration form. An additional registration fee is required for this pre-conference event and includes a private lunch buffet.

### Conference Registration Fee:

Conference registration fee varies depending on membership type and the postmark date the completed registration form and check are mailed. Thursday lunch and dinner are included in full conference registration.

## Hotel Information

The Central Hotel and Conference Center at the Best Western Premier  
800 E Park Drive  
Harrisburg, PA 17111-2807  
Phone: 717-561-2800

The conference hotel room rate \$119.95 plus 11% tax. Room rates are guaranteed until March 24, 2019, so reserve early. Below are instructions on how attendees can make easy online reservations:

- Go to [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com) and scroll to the bottom of the page
- Under Discover, click Group Reservations
- There you will enter the group code: A20QD0S9 (it is case sensitive and those are zeros, not the letter O)

You can also use the following URL, which is specific to our group:

[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.39125.html?groupId=A20QD0S9](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.39125.html?groupId=A20QD0S9)

If you prefer to book your room via phone, you are more than welcome to call the hotel directly at 717-561-2800. Just follow the prompts to reach the front desk and one of their reservation agents will be happy to make your reservation.

## Contacts

Dr. Rebecca Renshaw, Conference Chair and Past-President, Penn-Del AER Chapter, [rebeccarensaw@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccarensaw@yahoo.com)

Holly Russell, Assistant Conference Chair and President-Elect, Penn-Del AER Chapter, [russell.hm@comcast.net](mailto:russell.hm@comcast.net)

Angela Humbertson, Penn-Del AER Chapter President, [humbertson94@rcn.com](mailto:humbertson94@rcn.com)

## NOTE

Pictures will be taken for publicity purposes.

The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the Association for the 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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