



Pennsylvania - Delaware Chapter

Association for the Education and
Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually
Impaired

www.penn-delaer.org

2017 Penn-Del AER Conference

Building Bridges – Creating Connections

April 26-28, 2017

Best Western Premier Central Hotel

Harrisburg, PA

Call for Presentations

The Penn-Del AER Chapter is pleased to present the *Call for Presentations* for the 2017 Penn-Del AER Conference. The theme of this year's conference is "Building Bridges – Creating Connections."

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 event.

- Each accepted concurrent presentation will receive a \$100.00 honorarium.
- Each accepted poster presentation and round table will receive 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 for preparation of a presentation.
- Deadline for proposal submission is **December 1, 2016**.

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. Please take this opportunity to help the 2017 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 with your colleagues. Please distribute this information with others who may be interested in presenting.

Conference information will be updated regularly on www.penn-delaer.org.

General Information about Presentation Proposals

Presentation Format Descriptions

Concurrent Session Presentations are usually 70 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. This format may include a panel of speakers who provide views on a specific topic. Panel presentations should be limited to four speakers. Concurrent presentations will take place during all three days of the conference.

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 in order 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. Poster presentations will be displayed on Thursday, April 27, 2017, from approximately 10:00 AM to 5:15 PM. There will be specific times during the day when presenters are expected to be present at their poster tables.

Proposals for poster presentations should follow the same format and submission process as concurrent session proposals.

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. We encourage vendors to submit a presentation that utilizes their product for educational or rehabilitation outcomes. (e.g., "Using Video Magnifiers to Access Board Work" or "Notetakers in the College Classroom")

Proposals will be reviewed by the conference committee 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 conduct a “green” conference by employing environmentally responsible practices, we will compile all handouts electronically and provide the full collection of handouts to each conference participant. This will also allow conference handouts to be checked for accessibility.

Presenters are required to provide their handouts on disk or as an email attachment no later than March 15, 2017. Files should be submitted as accessible PDF files, if possible, or in one of the Microsoft Office formats.

Conference Registration for Accepted 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.

Instructions for Submitting the Proposal Form

- Proposals are to be submitted through a web-based submission process using the link below. 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. The link is:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017PennDelConferenceSubmission>
- **Submission forms must be completed in full and must include:**
 - **Presentation type:** Designate presentation type as concurrent (usually 70 minutes in length), poster, or if other (provide an explanation).
 - **Presentation title**
 - **Abstract of the presentation:** This should be a concise summary of the complete presentation in 50 to 200 words. This is required for ACVREP approval.
 - **Primary learning objective(s)** or outcome(s) for participants who attend the session. The learning objective(s) should indicate the knowledge, concepts, or skills participants should be able to

demonstrate following the presentation. This is required for ACVREP approval.

- **Description of presentation** to be included in the conference program.
- **Names and contact information** for lead presenter and all co-presenters. Before submitting a proposal, please confirm the commitment of co-presenters and identify them on the proposal submission form.
- **Brief profile** of each presenter.

If you have questions about this process, contact Mary Nelle McLennan, Penn-Del AER Conference Presenter Coordinator, email

penndel.conference@earthlink.net or call 412-367-9085.

Deadline for proposal submission is December 1, 2016.

Accepted presenters will be notified by the end of January 2017.

For More Information

Website: www.penn-delaer.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PennDelAER

Twitter: twitter.com/PennDelAER

Contacts

Mary Nelle McLennan, Penn-Del AER Conference Presenter Coordinator
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Vince McVeigh, Penn-Del AER Chapter Immediate Past President and Chair of the 2017 Penn-Del AER Conference Planning Committee
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Rebecca Renshaw, Penn-Del AER Chapter President
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We hope you will submit a presentation proposal and join us for the

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