



Pennsylvania - Delaware Chapter
Association for the Education and Rehabilitation
of the Blind and Visually Impaired
www.penn-delaer.org

You are invited!

2020 Penn-Del AER Conference

April 22–24, 2020

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



The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of AER invites you to participate in our annual conference as we present **Vision 20/20: Focus on Partnerships**. Our nationally respected conference offers a notable line-up of professionals who will present a leadership event, 3 general sessions, 40 concurrent sessions, along with a large vendor exhibit, professional poster presentations, the Penn-Del AER awards banquet, and a tempting silent auction.

The 2020 Penn-Del AER Conference will be held at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center in Harrisburg, PA. The opening session begins at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, April 22; the conference concludes Friday, April 24, at 12:45 PM.

Our chapter is sponsoring a unique leadership development event featuring Kevin O'Connor on Wednesday morning, April 22, preceding the opening of the conference. For details, go to the [Penn-Del AER Leadership Event](#) section. You will not want to miss this remarkable opportunity!

On Wednesday evening of the conference, Maureen Army will return to facilitate a reprise of her 2019 session "Painting with a Visual Twist." This special workshop in which participants create art under simulators will be limited to 25 individuals.

Penn-Del AER Leadership Event Featuring Kevin O'Connor

Date and Time: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 — 8:45 AM through 12:15 PM

Title: Partnering with (Sometimes) "Interesting" People: Skills and Approaches for the Leader in YOU!

Overview: As official — and sometimes unofficial — leaders, we encounter those who easily partner with us as well as with some who have other ideas, agendas, or history. The leader’s job is to engage everyone on the team, not just the willing cooperators. This half-day event is devoted to skills you can use immediately to better adapt to differences in others ... especially those “interesting” ones along the way!

Presenter: Kevin O’Connor, who presented the highly evaluated Mid-Note Session at our 2019 Conference, will conduct Penn-Del AER’s second annual pre-conference professional development event.

In addition to being an author, executive coach, and businessman, Kevin is a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP). Not only is he one of 550 persons in the world to hold this highest earned speaking designation, 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.

Leadership 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 focus on partnerships as professionals to benefit the individuals we serve!

Opening Session and Keynote Address Speaker on Wednesday April 22, 1:00 PM:

Janie Blome, AER Executive Director

Mid-Note Address Speakers on Thursday April 23, 10:00 AM:

Dr. Valerie Kinloch, Dean, School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Heidi Ondek, Executive Director and Superintendent, Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children

Footnote Address Speaker and Conference Closing on Friday April 24, 11:30 AM:

Robin Clark, ECC Coordinator, Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind

Complete details about the “Note” addresses and bios of the speakers will be available on the [Penn-Del AER website annual conference tab](#) in the near future.

Concurrent Sessions

Participants will have opportunities to attend a wide array of 40 concurrent 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.

A complete list of concurrent sessions will be available on the [Penn-Del AER website annual conference tab](#) in the near future. Please check to see the exciting presentations that will be offered.

Poster Sessions

On Thursday, April 23, presenters will exhibit poster presentations on new programs, innovative techniques, research, and more. Poster presenters will be on hand to answer questions and provide additional detail.

A complete list of poster sessions will be available on the [Penn-Del AER website annual conference tab](#) in the in the near future.

Vendor Exhibit Hall

Vendors from across the country will exhibit their products and services on Thursday, April 23. 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, 2020, 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 Shelley Faust Jones at sfjconsulting@outlook.com, 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 leadership event and for the conference, access the registration form available on the [Penn-Del AER website](#).

Penn-Del AER Leadership Development Event Registration and Fee:

Registration for the Leadership Development Event 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
(717) 561-2800

The conference hotel room rate is \$120.95 plus 11% occupancy tax (\$134.25 with taxes). The cutoff date to make reservations is March 24, 2020.

Here is the [direct link](#):

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.39125.html?groupId=8B4LV1T0

One can also go to www.bestwestern.com and go to the bottom of the page and click on group reservations. They can then put in the code: 8B4LV1T0

If you prefer to book your room via phone, call the hotel directly at (717) 561-2800, choose option #4 and then option #1.

Contacts

Dr. Rebecca Renshaw, Conference Chair and Past-President, Penn-Del AER Chapter, rebeccarensaw@yahoo.com

Holly Russell, Assistant Conference Chair and President-Elect, Penn-Del AER Chapter, russell.hm@comcast.net

Angela Humbertson, Penn-Del AER Chapter President, humbertson94@rcn.com

NOTE

Pictures will be taken for publicity purposes.

January 15, 2020; January 18, 2020

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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