



## **International Services & Global Issues Division 18**

### **Spring 2025 Newsletter**

Happy Spring, and welcome to the Spring edition of the AER International Services and Global Issues Division newsletter!

This has been a challenging spring for everyone in our field, especially our colleagues from other countries who may be targeted by the current administration. Our division remains committed to the inclusion of colleagues and students all over the world and ensuring their voices are heard. Currently, we are planning a spring mixer which will allow us to come together and share our experiences and support in countries outside of North America. We hope that you will join us to connect during this difficult time.

We always welcome suggestions for improving the division. Please email us with your thoughts, comments, and questions at [aer.global.division@gmail.com](mailto:aer.global.division@gmail.com). I look forward to working with you and learning from you this year.

With gratitude,  
Callie Brusegaard, PhD, ISGI Chair

#### **Call to Action!**

During this term, the executive committee has made a commitment to update our global contacts list. We are looking for information about the work each of you are doing internationally. We will be compiling information from a North American perspective. If you



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have worked in a country outside of the U.S. or Canada in the past 10 years and have current contacts, please [complete the Google Form](#) with the following information:

Your Name:

Your Institution:

Country you worked in:

Description of work:

Country Contacts:

### **Scholarship Application**

AER's Global Issues Division is offering a scholarship competition for students originating from areas outside of the United States and Canada who are obtaining post-secondary education to serve students with visual impairments in their region. Therefore, this scholarship is open to cultural and geographical locations around the world; however, it is not open to American or Canadian students studying in or outside of their home country.

Two (2) scholarships of \$1000 will be awarded to students studying to work with people who are blind or have low vision. The scholarship is a restricted award and needs to be used to further the student's education in the field of blindness.

**The deadline for the application is June 30, 2025**

### **Upcoming Division Events**

SPRING MIXER!



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Join us for our Spring Mixer on May 20, 2025 at 4:00 pm PST/7:00 pm EST. We will be joining Global Regional breakout rooms to discuss services, needs, and research with each other. We hope to see you there. [Zoom Meeting Room](#)

Please join us for our next **working group meeting**! Meet division officers, learn more about upcoming opportunities, and help shape our newest scholarship opportunity. We'll be meeting via Zoom on Monday, June 16, at 1pm EST. Join us at this link:

<https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94895999089>

If you're unable to join us but would like more information on getting involved in division activities, please email [aer.global.division@gmail.com](mailto:aer.global.division@gmail.com) OR Callie Brusegaard, Chair, at [callie.brusegaard@umb.edu](mailto:callie.brusegaard@umb.edu)

We do not currently have any webinars scheduled. If you have suggestions for topics or speakers, please email either Kevin McCormack or Katie Ericson at [aer.global.division@gmail.com](mailto:aer.global.division@gmail.com)

### Other Important Dates

- 2nd Annual Online Symposium on Multilingual Learners with Visual Impairments: Literacy Success For All will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025, from 9am—1pm PST/ 12—4pm EST on Zoom & Canvas. The Cost is \$40.00. You can find the registration [here](#).
- The third International Symposium on Physical Activity and Individuals with Visual Impairments or Deafblindness is scheduled for June 2025. It will be held in conjunction with the International Symposium on Adapted Physical Activity ([ISAPA](#)) at Munster Technological University in Kerry, Ireland. More information to come.



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- The Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES) 2025 Conference will be held in two locations over 4 days! DISES, Kenya Institute of Special Education (KISE), and Egerton University will be co-hosting July 1-2, 2025, at KISE in Nairobi and July 2-4, 2025, at Lake Naivasha Resort in Lake Naivasha. Learn more at the DISES [website](#).
- Join The Charge Syndrome Foundation in Phoenix, AZ for the largest worldwide gathering of individuals with CHARGE, their families, professionals and experts on CHARGE syndrome. The 16th International CHARGE Syndrome Conference, “The Grand Adventure,” will be held at the JW Marriott® Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, in Phoenix, AZ , July 24-27, 2025. Learn more at their [website](#).
- World Blindness Summit and WBU General Assembly, taking place from September 1–5, 2025, in São Paulo, Brazil. Held under the theme “*A fragile world, an unbreakable movement: together towards inclusion*,” this landmark event will bring together advocates, experts, and leaders from around the world to discuss the most pressing issues facing the global blind and partially sighted community. Click here for the [event website](#).
- It is with great pleasure that we announce Vision 2025, the 15th International Conference of the International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation ([ISLRR](#)), that will take place in Florence from September 8 to 12, 2025.

## Job Postings

**Vision Australia** is currently seeking expressions of interest with Orientation & Mobility positions available in New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory. Please see [this link](#) for more details.

## **Notes from the Field...**

### **International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairments (ICEVI)**

The ICEVI World Conference took place in November 2024 at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. The conference theme was “Inclusion in Diversity: Equity and Accessibility for All.” The conference sponsors literally laid out the red carpet and showed their warm hospitality with performances from traditional Gujarati dancers as well as a band composed of students who are blind or visually impaired. A diverse group of individuals from across the globe came together in Ahmedabad to share ideas, celebrate accomplishments, and discuss solutions to on-going issues impacting children and adults who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind in their communities. Powerful speeches were made with common elements of teamwork, collaboration, empowerment, and human rights. There was an emphasis on the right to education and the right to accessible, self-chosen employment for individuals who are blind, visually impaired, and deaf-blind. Similarly, there was discussion of digital accessibility as a human right’s issue and how providing accessible media through inclusive publishing ecosystems shows commitment to diversity. Disability was described through the lens of the medical model and the social model, and solutions for meaningful inclusion gave attendees tools that may help foster paradigm shifts in their communities so that individuals with disabilities and their families can be celebrated rather than isolated for their differences.

It was an honor to attend the ICEVI World Conference 2024 on behalf of AERBVI’s International Services and Global Issues Division. I left with a feeling of admiration for everyone I met and the work they are doing to positively impact the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Janet Cloaninger, M.A., COMS, TSVI



International Services & Global Issues Division

Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist

Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments

### **Articles of Note**

Emerson, R. W. (2025). Eleven Notable Papers on Blindness and Low Vision From Across the Scholarly Research Landscape. *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, 119(1), 82-84. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0145482X251320501> (Original work published 2025)