



# National Center for Leadership in Visual Impairment: A Model of Collaboration

Excellence Through Collaboration: A Doctoral Preparation Planning Grant Proposal for Deaf /Hearing Impaired Education

*Kathleen M. Huebner, Ph. D.*  
*Co-Director, NCLVI*



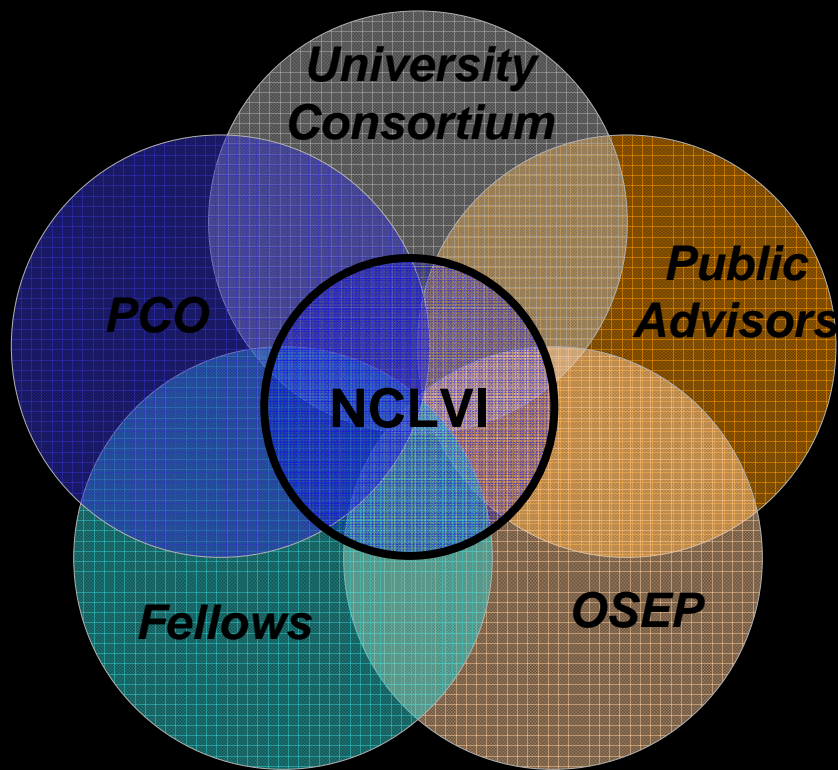
# Presentation

- **Overview and structure of NCLVI**
- **Anticipated Outcomes**
  - **Increased Numbers of Leaders**
- **Added Value Enrichment Program**
  - **Public Policy, Research, Higher Education**
- **Collaboration via Consortium**
  - **NCLVI collaborative model**
  - **From University Consortium perspective**
  - **From Public Advisory Council perspective**
- **Principles**
  - **NCLVI guiding principles and consensus process**
- **Lessons Learned**
- **Questions and Comments**

# NCLVI Objectives

1. Develop a collaborative model for producing leadership personnel in B/VI
2. Increase the number of leadership personnel in B/VI higher education, research, public policy, administration
3. Enhance the training of leadership personnel through NCLVI Value Added Enrichment Program
4. Evaluate the NCLVI model
5. Disseminate information about the NCLVI model

# NCLVI Collaborating Components



- Office of Special Education Programs
- 15-Member Public Advisory Council
- 14-Member University Consortium
- 19 Doctoral Fellows
- Staff at Pennsylvania College of Optometry

# University Consortium

- California State University
- Florida State University
- Northern Illinois University
- The Ohio State University
- San Francisco State University
- Teachers College, Columbia University
- Texas Tech University at Lubbock
- University of Arizona
- University of Louisville
- University of Northern Colorado
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Utah
- Western Michigan University
- Vanderbilt University



# Public Advisory Council

- American Council of the Blind
- American Foundation for the Blind
- American Printing House for the Blind
- Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the B/VI
- Association of State Education Consultants for the VI
- Council of Schools for the Blind
- Early Intervention Training Center for Infants and Toddlers with VI
- Gallaudet University
- Higher Education Consortium in Special Education
- National Association for Parents of Children with VI
- National Association of State Directors of Special Education
- National Center on Low-Incidence Disabilities
- National Council of Private Agencies for the B/VI
- National Federation of the Blind
- National Organization of Parents of Blind Children

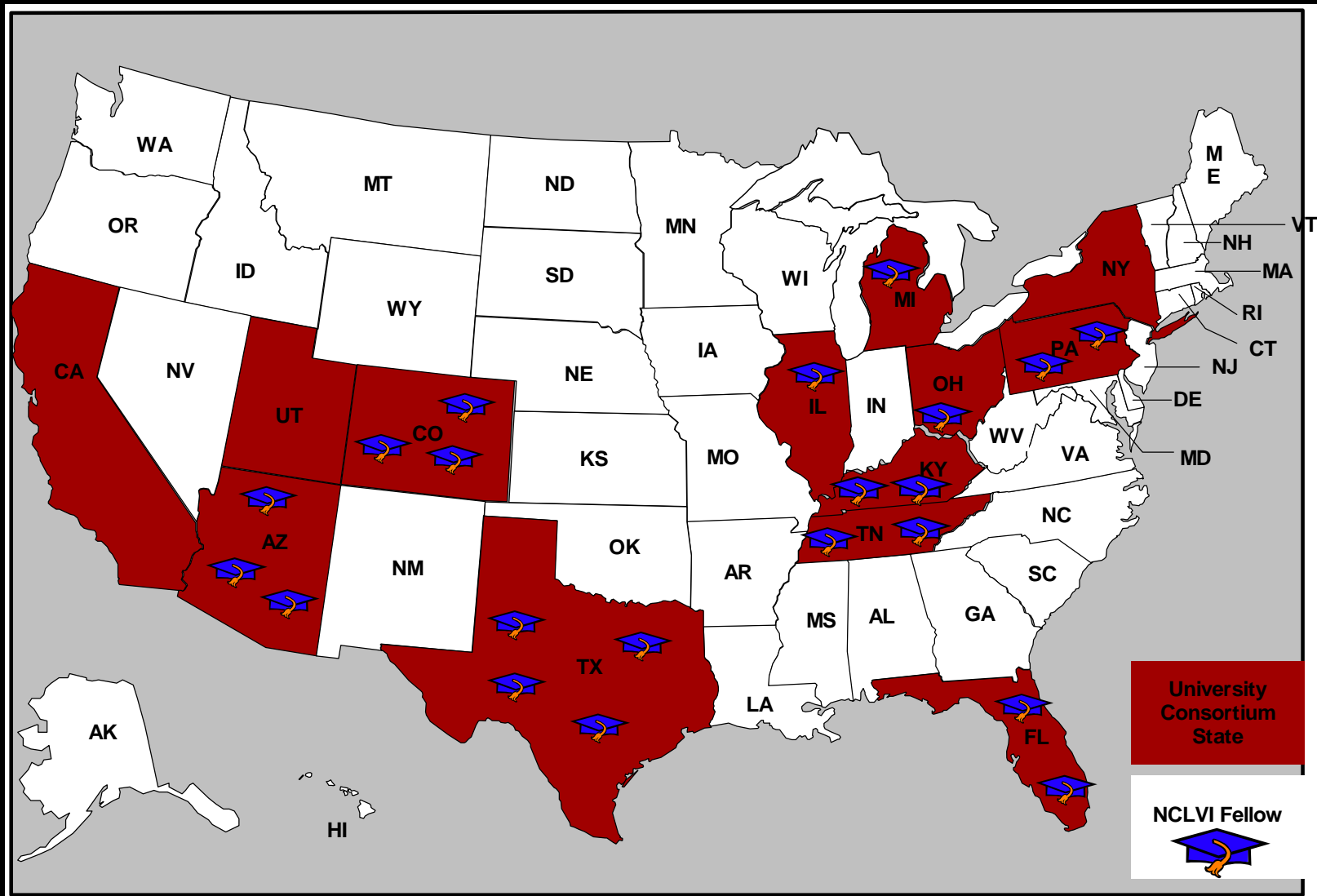


# NCLVI Fellows

- Fellowship competitions 2005 and 2006
- 144 inquiries, 43 applications
- 21 NCLVI doctoral fellows attending 10 consortium universities originally, now 19 NCLVI fellows attending 10 universities



# NCLVI Fellows, cont.





# Collaboration Integral to NCLVI Model



# **NCLVI Communication and Collaboration**

**Communication –the vehicle for collaboration:**

- Email, including NCLVI electronic mailing lists**
- Phone, including conference calls**
- Blackboard**
- Face-to-Face Meetings**

# **NCLVI Meetings To Date**

- **3 Annual University Consortium meetings**
- **1 Public Advisory Council meetings**
- **1 Joint UC-PAC meeting**
- **3 Face-to-face enrichment trainings for Fellows, (Public Policy will be repeated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort)**

# NCLVI Meeting Process

- **Guiding Principles**
- **Checking In and Out**
- **Agenda always with input from all involved**
- **Consensus –Fist to Five Method**
- **Minutes Review and Posting on Website**



# Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles of the NCLVI University Consortium *As of October 11, 2005*

We are in agreement that the purposes of the NCLVI consortium are worthy of our commitment to the following:

1. If we disagree, we will do so respectfully.
2. We will listen and consider all perspectives expressed by members.
3. We will keep, foremost in our minds, the long-range objectives of increasing the quantity and quality of leadership personnel who will ultimately influence improved services for individuals with visual impairments birth to 21 including those with multiple disabilities.

# NCLVI Guiding Principles, cont.

4. We will develop, implement, and follow a communication system that will be uniform across consortium members.
5. We understand that different universities operate differently.
6. We respect each university's doctoral program.
7. We will focus discussion on outcome-oriented agenda items.

# NCLVI Guiding Principles, cont.

8. We will respect and promote diversity in all its many forms and at all times.
9. Once we have reached consensus on an item, the full group must be present in order to change that decision.
10. When university members are not able to be present at a meeting, they will appoint a proxy.
11. The consensus process will be verbalized as to make it accessible to all meeting participants.

# University Consortium

## Perspective – *Jane Erin U of Arizona*

- **University of Arizona**
- **Advisor to 3 NCLVI Fellows**
- **Attended all Consortium Meeting and Joint Meeting**
- **Enrichment Committee Chair (2005-2006)**
- **Involved in Enrichment Program delivery**





# **Successful Collaboration in NCLVI? –*Jane Erin***

- **Financial support to attend meetings**
- **Opportunity for all stakeholders to be involved from the beginning stages of planning, i.e. enrichment program planning**
- **Central coordination of the project**

# Obstacles to Collaboration

–*Jane Erin*

- **Large size of community and uneven participation of individuals → different levels of understanding about project; slows progress of meetings**
- **Negotiating and compromising**

# **Implications for other B/VI Communities –*Jane Erin***

- **Common goal and agreement among stakeholders on desired outcome in the NCLVI community lend themselves to collaboration**
- **Other B/VI communities (higher education structures, IEP teams) may not possess this unified focus**

# **Public Advisory Council (PAC) Perspective**

*–Karen Blankenship*



- **Association of State Education Consultants for the Visually Impaired**
- **Attended PAC Meeting and Joint Meeting**
- **Participated in online enrichment delivery (Public Policy)**
- **Individual contact with Fellows**

# **Implications of Collaboration for B/VI Community**

*–Karen Blankenship*

- **NCLVI collaborative laying the foundation for Fellows of framework, skills, thoughts, and ideas for ongoing collaboration when they enter the field as leaders**

# Public Advisory Council (PAC) Perspective –*Deborah Hatton*



- Early Intervention Center for Infants and Toddlers
- Attended Joint Meeting
- Gift-PAC to Fellows
- Individual Collaboration with an NCLVI Fellow – Phonological Awareness Study  
Donna Brostek

# **Implications of Collaboration for B/VI Community**

*–Deborah Hatton*

- **Collaboration is the only way to conduct research in the field of B/VI**
- **“The collaboration that NCLVI has initiated is unprecedented and it is going to produce exemplary leaders in our field.”**

# **Additional Fellow/PAC Collaboration**

- **National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDE) and Shawn Sweet Barnard (Externship)**
- **American Printing House for the Blind (AOH) and Derrick Smith (Product Development)**
- **American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) and Holly Lawson, Tiffany Wild, (Interns), Amy Freeland, (Consulting)**
- **National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and Tiffany Wilde (Internship), Julie Durando (Research)**



# Questions & Comments

# NCLVI

[www.pco.edu/nclvi.htm](http://www.pco.edu/nclvi.htm)

**Co-Directors**

[mgarber@pco.edu](mailto:mgarber@pco.edu)

[kathyh@pco.edu](mailto:kathyh@pco.edu)