

PROJECT INVITE

Interdisciplinary Neurological Visual Impairment Teaching Experts: Training Professionals to Work with Children with Visual Impairments in Rural, Remote & High-Need Areas

VIRGINIA MURRAY SOWELL
CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION IN SENSORY
DISABILITIES



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

College of Education™



A U.S. Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs Grant

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Project INVITE grant was created to recruit and train scholars from Texas, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho to become teachers of students with visual impairments (TSVI) or orientation and mobility (O&M) specialist with specialized expertise in neurological visual impairment.

The two Sensory impairment programs that a student can choose from to pursue in Project INVITE are:

- *Master's in Special Education with emphasis in Orientation and Mobility*
- *Master's in Special Education with emphasis in Visual Impairment*

*Students will also complete a seminar course in Neurological Visual Impairment (NVI) and other interdisciplinary activities throughout the program. Project INVITE is recruiting the second cohort of scholars for a 2.5-year training program at Texas Tech University.

BENEFITS (Grant funds will cover):

- all tuition and fees each semester,
- required textbooks and course materials,
- all travel expenses required for on-campus orientation, for 5-week O&M course in Lubbock, and other course-related weekends at TTU (travel is on a reimbursement basis)
- enrichment experiences such as conference expenses and specialized courses.

COHORT 2

Begins summer of 2022 in June, end time is summer of 2024. Grant will support 2.5 years in the prospective program.

36 graduate hours required for MEd in TSVI program, 36 hours for MEd plus 1 course for O&M program.

Must commit to attendance at all on-campus events including; Orientation in April 2022, course weekends in summer 22, Fall 22, Spring 23 (VI only), and required 5 weeks at TTU Lubbock campus in summer 2023 for O&M scholars.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Texas Tech University
College of Education
P.O. Box 41071
Lubbock, TX 79409
806-742-2320

O&M: Nora Griffin-Shirley, Ph.D.
n.griffin-shirley@ttu.edu
806-834-0225

TSVI: Rona Poggrund, Ph.D.
rona.poggrund@ttu.edu
512-206-9213

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

- 1) All applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree.
- 2) For TSVI program, must have an initial teaching certification in general or special education from Texas, Wyoming, or Montana. For Idaho, VI applicants must have a Standard Instructional Certificate. Only bachelors required for O&M program.
- 3) Must have access to a working computer and high-speed internet for online courses.
- 4) Must commit to completing your program within the established timeline.
- 5) Must commit to working with children with visual impairments for at least two years for each year of scholarship funding received.
- 6) Must be a U.S. citizen.

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**Interdisciplinary Neurological Visual Impairment Teaching Experts:
Training Professionals to Work with Children with Visual Impairments in
Rural, Remote & High-Need Areas**

SHARED PROGRAM COURSES:

- EDSP 5390: NVI Course
- EDSP 5380: Programs & Services for Individuals with Visual Impairments
- EDSP 5383: Anatomy & Functions of the Visual System
- EDSP 5384: Basic Orientation & Mobility Skills
- EDSP 5389: Strategies for Students with Multiple Impairments
- EDSP 5307: Collaborative Problem Solving in Special Education
- EPSY 5379: Introduction to Educational Research
- EPSY Elective Course (3 hours): EPSY 5310, 5314, 5323, 5331 or 5332

O&M CERTIFICATION COURSES:

- EDSP 5386: Intermediate O&M Training for Individuals who are Blind/VI
- EDSP 5387: Advanced O&M Training for Individuals who are Blind/VI
- EDSP 5391: Intermediate Seminar in Orientation and Mobility
- EDSP 5392: Advanced Seminar in Orientation and Mobility
- EDSP 5093: Internship in Special Education - Orientation and Mobility

TSVI CERTIFICATION COURSES:

- EDSP 5300: Exceptional Children & Youth
- EDSP 5381: Instructional Strategies for Individuals with Visual Impairments
- EDSP 5382: Braille Code for Teaching Individuals with Visual Impairments
- EDSP 5093: Internship in Special Education - Visual Impairment

*36 hours for MEd in TSVI, 36 total hours for MEd in O&M plus 1 course.

STATE CONTACT INFORMATION:

Idaho: Jeanne-Marie Kopecky jeanne-marie.kopecky@iesdb.org

Montana: Barbara Peterson bpeterson@msdb.k12.mt.us

Texas: Mary Shore shorem@tsbvi.edu

Wyoming: Laurel Henry laurel.henry@wyo.gov

TTU CONTACT INFORMATION:

Texas Tech University
P.O. Box 41071
Lubbock, TX 79409
806-742-2320



O&M: Nora Griffin-Shirley, Ph.D.

n.griffin-shirley@ttu.edu (806-834-0225)

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Project INVITE: *Interdisciplinary Neurological Visual Impairment Teaching Experts*
Sequence of Courses, Cohort Two

	Sum I 2022	Sum II 2022	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Sum I 2023	Sum II 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Sum I 2024	Hours
TSVI	EDSP 5384 Basic Orientation and Mobility Skills & EDSP 5300 Exceptional Children and Youth	EDSP 5380 Programs and Services for Individuals with Visual Impairments	EDSP 5383 Anatomy and Functions of the Visual System & EDSP 5382 Braille Code for Teaching Individuals with Visual Impairments	EDSP 5381 Instructional Strategies for Individuals with Visual Impairments & EDSP 5390 Seminar in NVI	EPSY Elective Course	EDSP 5307 Collaborative Problem Solving in Special Education	EDSP 5389 Strategies for Students with Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairments or Deaf-Blindness & EDSP 5093 Internship in Special Education Visual Impairment (1 hr)	EDSP 5093 Internship in Special Education Visual Impairment (2 hrs)	EPSY 5379 Introduction to Educational Research	36
O&M	EDSP 5384 Basic Orientation and Mobility	EDSP 5380 Programs and Services for Individuals with Visual Impairments	EDSP 5383 Anatomy and Functions of the Visual System & EDSP 5391 Intermediate Seminar in Orientation and Mobility	EDSP 5392 Advanced Seminar in Orientation and Mobility & EDSP 5390 Seminar in NVI	EDSP 5386 Intermediate Orientation and Mobility Training for Individuals who Are Blind/ Visually Impaired & EDSP 5387 Advanced Orientation and Mobility Training for Individuals who are Blind/ Visually Impaired	EPSY Elective Course	EDSP 5389 Strategies for Students with Multiple Disabilities and Visual Impairments or Deaf-Blindness & EDSP 5307 Collaborative Problem Solving in Special Education	EPSY 5379 Introduction to Educational Research	EDSP 5093 Internship in Special Education Orientation & Mobility	39



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**Virginia Murray Sowell Center for
Research and Education in Sensory Disabilities
Texas Tech University**

**College of Education
3002 18th St.
Lubbock, TX 79409**

**Project INVITE: Interdisciplinary Neurological Visual Impairment
Teaching Experts 2019-2024**

**Funded by the U.S. Department of Education
Office of Special Education Programs**

Scholarships are available for **Project INVITE- Interdisciplinary Neurological Visual Impairment Teaching Experts: Training Professionals to Work with Children with Visual Impairments in Rural, Remote, and High Need Areas** to complete a master's degree with an emphasis in orientation and mobility or visual impairment as well as certification as an orientation and mobility (O&M) specialist or a teacher of students with visual impairments (TSVI). Project INVITE has a focus on working with students with neurological visual impairment (NVI). **To apply, submit the following documents to the Project INVITE Collaborative Partner in your state, _____, via mail to the address at the end of this application, postmarked by Friday, January 10, 2022.** Scholarship recipients are expected to begin the program in the summer 2022 semester, starting on June 1, 2022, and completing in summer, 2024.

To be eligible for this scholarship for the TSVI program, you must be a general or special education teacher with current licensure/certification/endorsement in your state and be a U.S. citizen. To be eligible for this scholarship for the O&M program, you must have a bachelors' degree and be a U.S. citizen. If you are selected as a scholarship recipient, upon completion of the program of studies, you will be eligible to be certified in your state in your specialization area. For orientation and mobility, you will be eligible for national O&M certification from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP).

Biographical Data

1. Full Legal Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Gender ____ Male ____ Female

3. Social Security Number _____

4. Present Mailing Address:

Address: _____

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Do not use after this date: (mm/dd/year) _____

Permanent Address (If different from above):

Address: _____

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

5. Email address(es): _____

6. Phone numbers: Daytime: _____ Evening: _____

Cell: _____

7. Are you a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America or a U.S. Territory?

____ YES ____ NO

If yes, which state is your legal residence? _____

8. I am applying for: (only select 1 program)

____ Program of studies in Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TSVI)

____ Program of studies in Orientation and Mobility (O&M)

9. Which of the following best describes you?

- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Are you Hispanic or Latino? (Circle one) Yes / No

10. Check the degrees or certificates you currently hold (check all that apply):

- ☐ High School diploma or equivalency
- ☐ Associate Degree
- ☐ Bachelor's Degree
- ☐ Master's Degree in _____
- ☐ Educational Specialist
- ☐ Doctoral Degree in _____
- ☐ Post-doctoral degree
- ☐ State or professional credential/certificate
- ☐ State-issued endorsement
- ☐ Grantee-issued endorsement
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

11. List the address and contact information for a relative or other person not living with you through which you can be contacted:

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Academic Data

Please list below all undergraduate and graduate college/universities and/or professional schools you have attended, in chronological order. Attach an additional page if necessary.

SCHOOL	FROM	TO	DEGREE/MAJOR

Professional Data

Please list your teaching or other professional certifications, including where they were obtained and in which areas. Attach an additional page if necessary.

CERTIFICATION	OBTAINED FROM	AREA

Employment

Name of Current Employer: _____

Location: _____

Job title: _____

Average hours of work per week: _____

Additional Materials

1) Biographical essay and photo

Tell us about yourself, including your interests and work experience. Your essay should not exceed one page in length. Please double space and use 12-point font. Attach a recent photo of yourself.

2) Essay Question

Please respond to the questions below. Your response should be two to three typed pages in length (12-point font, double spaced). Use standard, professional, high-quality writing style.

What are your interests within the field of visual impairment or orientation and mobility? How do you envision using your education upon completion of your graduate program? How will your training help students or programs in your state or region? Are there any additional skills that you have that will help you as a teacher in your state or region (languages spoken, community leadership experience, etc.)?

3) Letters of Reference

Please submit two letters of reference; one letter must be from a supervisor either past or present. These references should attest to your professional abilities, leadership skills and perseverance, and explain why you should be selected to receive the Interdisciplinary Neurological Visual Impairment Teaching Experts scholarship.

4) Vita or Resume

Please include a copy of a current vita or resume showing educational and work experience.

5) Teaching Commitment Obligation

Please read and sign the Teaching Commitment Obligation form. The electronic version of this document may include a typed signature, but the mailed copy must include an original hand-written signature.

Teaching Commitment Obligation and Scholarship Requirements

I understand that if I am selected to receive a Project INVITE scholarship, I must:

- 1) teach on a fulltime basis in an approved, special education program for a minimum of two consecutive years for each year of scholarship received (see <https://pdp.ed.gov/OSEP/Regulation/ProgramRegs2006> for information on federal service obligation)
- 2) begin the first school year of eligible fulltime teaching service in an EC-12 school program within twelve months from the date I receive my certification, and
- 3) provide employment verification to OSEP and to Dr. Rona Pogrud at Texas Tech University until my obligation is fulfilled.

I understand that failure to comply with the above will result in a requirement to repay any scholarship funds received.

I understand that withdrawing from the program prior to completion will require me to refund all monies spent on tuition, travel, books, and other expenses.

I understand that not completing the program by the planned completion date may require me to pay for my own expenses beyond the planned completion date.

I understand that if money has been paid up front for travel which I do not complete, I will be required to refund the program for those expenses. Expenses for unused airline tickets will not be reimbursed once used for class travel. Penalties for changing flights will not be reimbursed by the program.

I understand that signing below does not guarantee selection as a Project INVITE scholarship recipient.

Print full legal name

Signature

Date

Return completed application postmarked no later than January 10th, 2022 to your state representative:

(Contact individual for mailing address)

Idaho: Jeanne-Marie Kopecky jeanne-marie.kopecky@iesdb.org

Montana: Barbara Peterson bpeterson@msdb.mt.gov

Texas: Mary Shore shorem@tsbvi.edu

Wyoming: Laurel Henry laurel.henry@wyo.gov