



Transitions:
Moving On, Moving Out
June 26 - 30, 2017

Hosted by



ACVREP

ACVREP VISION

That **all people** with vision impairment receive services from highly qualified professionals.

ACVREP MISSION

To **establish a worldwide standard of service delivery** to people who are blind or visually impaired through the certification of vision rehabilitation and education professionals.



ACVREP Certifies the professionals who serve people who are visually impaired

ACVREP has certificants in the US, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, France, Bermuda, Taiwan and Singapore

As of June 19, 2017 ACVREP had **4,088** certificants:

Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists	2,919
Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists	673
Certified Low Vision Therapists	484
Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialists*	12

*(New certification - expect to certify 50-70 individuals by August 2017)

ACVREP

Certificants Must Meet all Requirements:

- Minimum level of education
- Accomplished practical skills
- Passage of a rigorous international exam

Being Certified Demonstrates to Clients the Commitment to:

- Quality service delivery to help them reach their life goals
- Continuing Education to remain current in the field
- Bound by a strong Code of Ethics

ACVREP

- ACVREP was founded in 2000 when the certification of professionals was spun out of the AERBVI membership association
- The goal was to create an independent body to add rigor to the certification process to meet national and international certification standards
- Founding President was COMS, Eileen Sifferman. Other distinguished professionals such as Dr. William Wiener and Dona Sauerberger have previously served on the COMS Subject Matter Expert Committee (SME)
- The current COMS SME of 14 members includes noted international members including Dr. Lil Deverell, Australia – Dr. Nancy Higgins, New Zealand – Dr. Kim Zebehazy and Jennifer Urosevic both of Canada.



COMS Certification

While ACVREP has always welcomed international applicants for the COMS certification, the two current criteria that have provided a challenge for international candidates are:

- Meeting the COMS educational requirements where an applicant must have a minimum of a US-equivalent bachelor's degree and have taken their orientation and mobility courses at the university level
- Completing an internship of a minimum of 350 hours supervised by a COMS
- Demonstrating continued education and personal professional development through a recertification process every 5 years



Regional or Country Specific Certification Proposal:

ACVREP recognizes that the educational systems in other parts of the world may have a different personnel preparation structure than the US system. ACVREP recognizes that other regions of the world provide high-quality and comparable standards of training in the area of orientation and mobility although the training may not be university-based.

Therefore, it is in that context that ACVREP proposes the following for your feedback:

- Creating country or region specific orientation and mobility certifications evidenced by a certification name for that country/region
- The country/region would set up a local O&M Committee including 1 OMS with a minimum of three years' experience, 1 employer of OMS, one personnel preparation representative from each personnel preparation program, and one consumer. This Committee will oversee the development of the local certification program in partnership with ACVREP

ACVREP

- Eligibility criteria based on the educational and experiential/internship standards of that country/region
- All orientation and mobility applicants, regardless of country/region, take the same universal ACVREP exam based on a universal Body of Knowledge for orientation and mobility
- All fees would be based on current fee structure paid in US Dollars
- Recertification would be required at least every 5 years
- A minimum number of 25 applicants at initial set-up and 50 within 5 years is needed to make such a program feasible

ACVREP

Visit our **Poster Session** for more detailed information and a copy of the full proposal

Or

Email questions, comments or a request for the full proposal to:

comments@acvrep.org