IN CASE YOU HAVEN’T HEARD...

Dear colleagues:

This is Marilyn Rushton wishing each of you a very happy 2016.

In case you haven’t heard...The next Canadian Vision Teachers’ Conference is entitled Seeing Beyond the Horizon 2016. This Conference will be held from May 5 through 7 at the beautiful Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, and will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to network, rejuvenate and learn together.

We’d love to hear from you if you need more information or have questions, so please don’t hesitate to email us at seeingbeyond2016@gmail.com or give me a shout at: 778 386 7951, or mrushton@shaw.ca.

**And please do share this info with the transcribers and EAs who work with your students.**

In the meantime, please take a moment to visit our website where you can: take advantage of the Early Bird Conference Registration rate until February 12, register for the pre-conference, and book your room at the Sheraton. Here is the Conference web address, followed by an excerpt from the website:

http://seeingbeyondthehorizon2016.weebly.com

From the Conference Schedule page:

Come join us for the 2016 Seeing Beyond the Horizon Conference in beautiful British Columbia from May 5-7, 2016!  The conference program is packed full of relevant and informative topics. There is something for everyone who enriches the lives of those who are blind, partially sighted or deaf-blind.
The following is the general agenda to give you a sense of the conference layout and some of the topics. The specific agenda will be available once concurrent sessions and general session speakers are confirmed.
**Pre-Conference: Wednesday, May 4, 2016**
**Technical Materials in UEB**
Join us for the Pre-Conference and spend the day with Eileen Curran, Teacher of Students With Visual Impairments, Carroll Center, from Boston, Ma. diving into the mysteries of back-translation and the preparation of technical materials in UEB. This is a great way to feel more confident in providing quality braille for supporting students in Math and other STEM areas.
**Conference Start: Thursday, May 5, 2016**
The conference launches in the morning with an inspirational keynote address from Dr. Pat Mirenda, Professor in Special Education, Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology and Special Education, University of British Columbia
about inclusion. The rest of the day is packed with concurrent sessions, vendor exhibits and a second general session.
**Friday, May 6, 2016**
This is another packed day full of opportunities for networking and learning from each other. The morning begins with a general session and the day continues with concurrent sessions and vendor exhibits. An afternoon general session on early intervention will lead us into some great poster sessions before the evening banquet option.
**Saturday, May 7, 2016**
The last day of our conference will begin with a morning general session followed by more concurrent sessions. After lunch the conference will come to an end with Dr. Diane Wormsley, Endowed Professor Emeritus, Special Education, Blindness and Visual Impairment, North Carolina Central University, Co-chair of BANA Braille Research Committee, as our final general session speaker presenting on her I-M-ABLE program to support literacy for students with visual impairments and additional disabilities.
**General Concurrent Session Topics**
We have a wide variety of topics for concurrent sessions! These include:
·         Sports, physical literacy, recreation, self-defense
·         Technology - JAWS, LaTeX, Classroom Innovations, navigating the internet, iOS and more!
·         Mathematics accessibility and strategies
·         Out-of-school and residential opportunities- camps, ECC programs and more!
·         Early Intervention
·         Supporting students with deafblindness
·         Employment, success, and identity
·         Supporting parents
·         Self-determination
·         Literacy
·         Visual conditions and implications
·         Teaching considerations and strategies
·         Accessible materials
·         Teaching the Expanded Core Curriculum

Warm regards,

Marilyn Rushton

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