



NATIONAL CENTER for LEADERSHIP in VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

The Opportunity of a Lifetime

The Pennsylvania College of Optometry announces the establishment of the National Center for Leadership in Visual Impairment (NCLVI) (www.pco.edu/nclvi.htm), a Collaborative Agreement funded by the U.S. Office of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. NCLVI will provide a unique doctoral study experience for 25 qualified individuals committed to the education of children who are blind or visually impaired. Full tuition and a minimum of \$20,000 annual living stipend will be provided to NCLVI Fellows for up to four years of full-time study while they earn their doctorate at any one of 14 Consortium Member Universities (http://www.pco.edu/nclvi/part_univ.htm). Potential applicants (US Citizens only) must first be accepted into a doctoral program at one of the NCLVI Consortium Universities (listed below) and then be selected by NCLVI through a rigorous application procedure. Two national cohorts of students will be selected, the first to begin in the fall of 2005 and the second cohort to begin in the fall of 2006. Funding is available for a total of 25 students. These NCLVI Fellows will participate together in a structured added-value enrichment program in addition to their University Doctoral Program in Special Education.

The enrichment program is being designed by the NCLVI University Consortium with input from a Public Advisors Council (PAC) that includes national professional, consumer and parent organizations in the field of blindness as well as other relevant professional organizations in higher education and special education (http://www.pco.edu/nclvi/public_advisors.htm). The enrichment program will include face-to-face research and issue-based seminars, on-line discussions, cohort listservs, opportunities for short and long term field-work experiences and internships including housing provided by members of PAC and the organizations they represent, and funds for travel and waivers of registration at selected national conferences and meetings. The enrichment activities will provide NCLVI Fellows with opportunities never before enjoyed by doctoral students either individually or as a group.

Participating Universities	
California State University Dr. Sharon Sacks, ssacks@calstatela.edu	University of Arizona Dr. Jane Erin, Jerin@u.arizona.edu
Florida State University Dr. Sandra Lewis, lewis@coe.fsu.edu	University of Louisville Dr. William Penrod, wpenrod@louisville.edu
Northern Illinois University Dr. Gaylen Kapperman, gkapperman@niu.edu	University of Northern Colorado Dr. Kay Alicyn Ferrell, Kay.Ferrell@unco.edu
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