**Presenter Biographies for Braille Literacy Conference**

**Janet Anderson**

Janet (Jackie) Anderson has a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Clark Atlanta University, an M.S. in Special Education and Teaching and an M.S. in Early Intervention Services from Louisiana Tech University. Jackie taught second and third grade in a regular education classroom in the Baltimore County Public School System for ten years. From 2012 to the present, Jackie has been teaching blind students in Cobb County, Georgia. During this period she has served as both a resource and itinerant teacher. Currently, Jackie is a doctoral candidate at Kennesaw State University, studying Inclusive Education and Educational Leadership.

**Marianne Denning**

Marianne Denning has a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Fort Hays State University in Kansas. She has a M.Ed. in Teaching the Visually Impaired (TVI) from Salus University in Pennsylvania. She is certified to teach blind students in Ohio and Kansas.Marianne has been a TVI since fall, 2009. She has worked three years in a local school district and began her own business, Denningweb LLC in the fall of 2012. She provides technology and Braille training through virtual instruction. She works with students of all ages to learn to use JAWS and a Braille display or an iDevice with VoiceOver and a Braille display; if a student doesn’t know Braille that is where she begins. Her goal is to teach students to turn in high quality assignments like their sighted peers. Use of a Braille display is an important component to accomplishing this goal. She believes Braille knowledge and technology is an important part of a student’s tool kit. Staying current with technology for blind students takes dedication since it is constantly changing. Marianne stated, “I don’t just prepare students for school this year, but I want them to succeed in life after school.”

**Abigail du Pont, EdM**

Abigail began her career as an early intervention teacher of the visually impaired at the Maryland School for the Blind, providing statewide vision services to families. After fifteen years of providing vision services to families of children with blindness and visual impairment, Abigail began her sixteenth year of teaching as a prekindergarten teacher in the Early Learning Program at the Maryland School for the Blind. Abigail enjoys helping families appreciate how books can come alive for their children by using real objects to represent illustrations, and creating extension activities for after the book has been read to help reinforce concepts and themes from the book.

**Karen Frank, EdM**

Karen has worked at the Maryland School for the Blind for the past thirty-six years as a TVI and a supervisor. Her current position is the early learning coordinator, but she began her career as a classroom teacher for children age two to six. She then provided statewide consultation services to families and school districts, including assessment of the developmental and literacy needs of young students. In addition to a master’s degree in special education, she is also certified in orientation and mobility.

**Eric Guillory**

Eric Guillory has a B.A. in secondary Social Studies Education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He has a M.Ed. in teaching the visually impaired from the University of Arizona. For six years, Eric was both an itinerant and resource teacher for blind students in Louisiana. He served as Director of the Louisiana Instructional Material center for three years. From 2007 to the present, Eric serves as the director of youth services at the Louisiana Center for the Blind. Currently, Eric is a doctoral candidate at Louisiana Tech University studying Educational Leadership.

**Krystal Guillory**

Krystal Guillory has a B.A. from Louisiana State University in Secondary English Education with an added certification in teaching the visually impaired. She has an M.S. in Early Intervention from Louisiana Tech University. Krystal has been an educator for nearly fifteen years. Currently, she serves as the teacher of blind students for the Lincoln Parish School district in Louisiana. She also serves as our NFB BELL Academy Coordinator in Louisiana! Krystal also works as an early interventionist with the Early Steps Program at the Louisiana Center for the Blind.

**Conchita Hernandez**

Conchita Hernandez has a B.A. from Saint Mary’s College of California in Spanish and History. She received her masters from Louisiana Tech University in Education with a focus on teaching blind students. From 2007 to the present, Conchita has been teaching blind students in the DC public school system. Currently, Conchita is a doctoral candidate studying Special Education at George Washington University.

**Michelle Horseman, EdM**

Michelle began her career as a preschool teacher at the Maryland School for the Blind. After nine years, she spent one year as an itinerant teacher in a local county before returning to the Maryland School for the Blind. Since that time, she serves as the education and vision assessor. Her primary responsibilities include completing learning media, functional vision, and educational assessments for on-campus students, regardless of age or additional disabilities.

**Frank Irzyk, EdM**

Frank is the technology coordinator at the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In his forty-two year career, Frank has worked as a teacher of students with blindness or visual impairment, and as an educational consultant with the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network; he also has worked as a product manager and product specialist with Freedom Scientific, and as an adjunct faculty member at Hunter College, specializing in access and assistive technology training.

**Joshua Irzyk, EdD**

Dr. Irzyk is principal of the General Academic Program at the Maryland School for the Blind. Prior to that position, he was the statewide vision/low incidence specialist for the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland School for the Blind. He has worked as a teacher of students with blindness or visual impairments and as an orientation and mobility specialist.

**Paige Morra**

Paige Morra has a B.A. in Family and Child Studies from Louisiana Tech University. She has an M.A. in Special Education with a concentration in Visual Impairment. Paige has experience teaching in a preschool classroom. She has also served as a Braillist for the Plano, Texas School District. Currently, Paige is a TVI Itinerant teacher for this district. Paige brings a great deal of innovation in the use of technology balanced with fundamental blindness skills and literacy.

**Diane Pomeroy Wormsley, PhD**

Dr. Wormsley began her teaching career at the New York State School for the Blind. She taught in Australia and Papua New Guinea and was an assistant professor at Illinois State University, assistant to the dean of the College of Health Sciences at University of Wyoming, and an educational specialist and regional director for the American Foundation for the Blind. Dr. Wormsley was also a program director and associate professor at Pennsylvania College of Optometry (now Salus University), and the Brenda Brodie Endowed Chair and professor in special education at North Carolina Central University. Following her retirement in 2015, she served briefly as executive in residence at American Printing House for the Blind. Formerly the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Visual Impairments and Blindness*, she is currently the associate editor of the journal, as well as an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Wormsley’s publications include: *Braille Literacy: A Functional Approach*, *Braille Literacy Curriculum*, and *I-M-ABLE: The Individualized Meaning-Centered Approach for Braille Literacy Education*. She co-authored *Foundations of Braille Literacy*, and co-edited *Instructional Strategies for Braille Literacy*. Dr. Wormsley has published numerous articles on her research, and has presented on those topics at conferences and workshops around the world. Among her past awards are the Alan J. Koenig Research in Literacy Award, and the Mary K. Bauman Award and C. Warren Bledsoe Award for Instructional Strategies for Braille Literacy.