

2023 – 2024

ATTRACT – PREPARE – RETAIN



JOIN IN CONVERSATIONS WITH FELLOW SPECIAL EDUCATION PERSONNEL AND BUILD CONNECTIONS WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE SIMILAR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES.

Coffee, Tea, and O&Me

Connect with Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists (COMS) from across Pennsylvania for engaging discussions that bring together professionals with diverse backgrounds and experiences. During these virtual sessions, guest presenters will share their knowledge, real-world insights, and practical tips from the field. Whether you're an experienced COMS or just starting out in the profession, this networking series will help you empower individuals with visual impairments to navigate their environment confidently and independently. Participants can earn ACVREP and ACT 48 credits while joining in these enriching discussions.



Coffee, Tea and O&Me: Public Transit October 11, 2023 (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

Public transportation is key to independence for individuals with visual impairments and can open doors to education, employment, and leisure. Learning how to navigate a transit system independently for a student with visual impairments can be extremely challenging. During this networking session, we will explore practical tips, tools, and resources to help those with visual impairments travel safely and confidently. Time will be provided to ask representatives from Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) questions and gain deeper insights into services that all public transit programs are required to offer to individuals with visual impairments. Breakout room conversations will also be available to share ideas, experiences, and best practices.

Coffee, Tea and O&Me: Assistive Technology January 10, 2024 (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

Assistive technology (AT) is vital in improving orientation and mobility (O&M) services for those with visual impairments. These innovative tools empower individuals to navigate their environment safely and independently, ultimately enhancing their quality of life and promoting inclusivity in society. During this networking session, we'll delve into practical tips, tools, and resources for certified orientation and mobility specialists (COMS) to seamlessly integrate AT into their instructional practices.

Coffee, Tea and O&Me: Intersection Analysis April 10, 2024 (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

Crossing intersections can be intimidating for anyone. Intersections are even more challenging for individuals with visual impairments. With the increasing complexity of intersection designs and the addition of accessible pedestrian signals (APS) for safety, staying current with the latest O&M instructional techniques is essential for every COMS. During this networking session, we will discuss ways to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate intersections and crossings safely, so they can feel more confident during travel in all environments.

Audience:

Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialists (COMS), Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs)

Registration and Contact Information:

To register for this training, go to: <https://www.pattan.net/events/>

For questions related to registration, contact:

Paula Quinn, PaTTAN West, pquinn@pattanpgh.net

For questions related to content, contact:

Tim Knight, tknight@pattanpgh.net

Continuing Education Credits: Act 48, ACVREP



Individuals attending these virtual sessions must login individually, on time, using a computer or iPad, stay the duration of the events, and complete the evaluations by the designated deadlines to be eligible to receive continuing education credits. This training series is offered for up to 3 continuing education credits.