

Perspectives

A letter from Louise Tripoli, Project Officer, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Programs (OSERS)



Louise Tripoli

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to represent OSERS, and to introduce the new face of the PEPNet Regional Centers – currently in their third funding cycle (October 2006 – September 2011).

One of the most important goals of the PEPNet centers in this new cycle is to help secondary, postsecondary, vocational, technical, continuing and adult education institutions to more effectively meet the needs of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, including those with co-occurring disabilities, such as learning and emotional disabilities.

To help accomplish this, the PEPNet Regional Centers are creating a shared identity and are developing best practices to ensure that educational opportunities for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing are provided equitably and more effectively virtually anywhere within the United States and its territories.

The PEPNet Regional Centers have changed their names to emphasize this shared identity. The four Regional Centers are:

- **PEPNet-Midwest** at Saint Paul College;
- **PEPNet-Northeast** at Rochester Institute of Technology;
- **PEPNet-South** at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville;
- **PEPNet-West** at California State University, Northridge.

Other new objectives for the Regional Centers include personnel development activities and an expansion of technology use activities. Technical assistance and dissemination activities remain as continued objectives.

At the same time, OSERS also expanded the group of stakeholders to whom PEPNet provides resources to include secondary education staff, students and parents.

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Missing something?

If you missed a live PEPNet training, don't fret--we have archived the Webcasts and TeleTrainings. They are available online through the PEPNet website.

The archives are the next best thing to being there. Each archive has audio or video files from the training, a transcript, PowerPoint presentations and handouts.

To view archives:

1. Go to www.pepnet.org
2. Click on Resources
3. Click on Training Materials
4. Click on the training you want to "attend."
5. Click on the item you want to download--it will be saved or displayed on your computer.

PEPNet LISTSERV

Do you have questions related to education for students who are deaf/hard of hearing? Join the PEPNet listserv and post your question to more than 500 helpful people!

Who's on the list?

- Postsecondary Interpreters
- Consultants
- Administrators
- Teachers
- Speech-to-text Providers
- Parents
- Students
- Transition Coordinators
- Community and Rehabilitation Specialists

To subscribe to the list go to:

<http://listserv.uwm.edu/mailman/listinfo/pepnet>

If you need assistance contact:

Cassie Franklin, Listserv Administrator
csmanuel@uwm.edu

PEPNet listserv subscribers also have access to the listserv FAQ Archives.

The PEPNet Listserv "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) is a compilation of the most frequently discussed topics on the PEPNet Listserv. Original postings from members are selected for FAQ. More than 500 PEPNet Listserv members post an average of 15 topics and an average of 75 postings each month. FAQ topics are determined based on the frequency the topic appears on the list and the number of responses reported.

Currently available in the archives:


FAQ 1.05 - Service Provider Parking/Mileage Compensation

FAQ 1.06 - Deaf Friendly Colleges

FAQ 2.05 - The Impact of VRS on Postsecondary Institutions

FAQ 3.05 - ESL Resources

FAQ 4.05 - Interpreter Hours



PEPNet

Advancing educational opportunities for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

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Site Search: Enter Search Terms

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PEPNet-Northeast

PEPNet-South


PEPNet-West

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PEPNet Conference

"Putting the Pieces Together"
Hyatt Regency in Columbus, Ohio
April 15-18, 2008



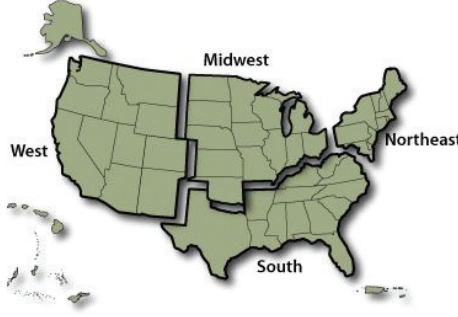
The Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet) will hold its biennial conference, Putting the Pieces Together, on April 15-18, 2008, in Columbus, Ohio, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus hotel.

[Find out more information about the PEPNet Conference](#)

About PEPNet

PEPNet's national network of regional centers provides resources, information, in-service training, and expertise to enhance educational opportunities for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. We work with services providers in:


- Two- and Four-year Colleges
- Universities
- Secondary Education Programs
- Community Rehabilitation Programs
- Continuing Education Programs
- Adult Basic Education Programs
- Vocational and Technical Training Programs



To visit the webpage for your region click on your state or territory.
[PEPNet-Midwest Website](#) - [PEPNet-Northeast Website](#) -
[PEPNet-South Website](#) - [PEPNet-West Website](#)

Testimonials

Lauren Kinast
Deaf/HH Services Coordinator
Services for Students with Disabilities
The University of Texas at Austin



"I have attended four PEPNet conferences and each time I have gone, I've come back with a "heavy set" of new information and knowledge to apply to my job or towards serving Deaf/HH students in the post-secondary environment..."

[Read the rest of this, and other testimonials](#)

Upcoming Trainings

[Addressing The Needs Of Consumers Who Are Deaf And Low Functioning - August 24, 2007](#)

PEPNet LISTSERV

Do you have questions related to education for students who are deaf/hard of hearing? Join the PEPNet listserv and post your question to more than 600 helpful people!

[Visit the PEPNet listserv page find out more about the listserv](#)

www.pepnet.org

PEPNet website: New look, new info

PEPNet's new website has many familiar features but there is more—much more! Here are some valuable resources at your fingertips:

- information about the PEPNet Conference
- schedule of upcoming trainings - NEW!
- testimonials from individuals - NEW!
- subscription information for the PEPNet Listserv and past posts in the form of FAQs
- free and low cost products and publications available from the PEPNet Dissemination Center (formerly called the PEPNet Resource Center)

- free online trainings for education professionals: Orientation, Transition, and Notetaking - NEW!
- links to regional sites for a listing of advisory committee members and information about each regional outreach site - NEW!
- regional center directories with contact information for PEPNet family members in regional offices and outreach sites

*Check often.
We update frequently.*

PEPNet's

three-pronged approach improves educational access for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

1 Technical Assistance & Dissemination

Linking state, regional, and national educators, service providers, individuals, and technologists in a cooperative network.

2 Personnel Development:

Creating and promoting training opportunities for education and rehabilitation professionals on transition, secondary, and postsecondary educational services for students who are deaf.

3 Technology Utilization:

Demonstrating technology that provides access to and accommodations within programs for individuals who are deaf.

Learn more. Visit our website: www.pepnet.org

STSN Logo contest offers cash prize

Your art and design skills could net a \$250 award in the Speech-to-Text Services Network's (STSN) logo competition.

STSN is looking for a new logo that graphically expresses their broad range of stakeholders, and the group's goals and mission: to provide

information and support for speech to text technology and to foster speech to text service excellence. The logo design entry judged the best gets the cash.

For entry and other information about the logo competition, or to learn more about STSN, go to

www.stsn.org

New name, same great resources

New products, more technology usher in new funding cycle

The PDC (PEPNet Dissemination Center) previously known as the PEPNet Resource Center (PRC), has a name change but has not altered its mission. The PDC established its repository of training and informational materials in 1997 and continues to operate out of the PEPNet-West regional office at the California State University, Northridge (CSUN). The PDC's materials, created or collected by PEPNet's four regional centers, are updated and new products continue to be developed when training needs are identified. Hundreds of products are delivered monthly.

Tony Ivankovic has been at the helm of the PDC since its inception and has seen a lot of change in the way the PDC produces and delivers products that assist in advancing educational opportunities of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. In the "old" days, common media were videocassettes, printed matter and occasionally, computer disks. These materials are now rare and CDs, DVDs and the Internet are the new media of choice. "And that's a good thing," Tony says, as the first year of the third funding cycle comes to an end. "It's time for change, and we can better meet our goals with technology."

"Computers and the Internet," Tony continues, "have proven to be essential for programs working with secondary and postsecondary deaf and hard of hearing

students around the US and beyond." In the last few years Tony and his PEPNet colleagues across the country have identified areas where technology can improve the

production and delivery of PDC products, while lowering or eliminating their cost. For example, many training and educational materials can be downloaded from the PEPNet website for free—and more online materials are added to the site regularly. Most of the printed matter is already in .pdf format. PEPNet's goal is to continually streamline the process of getting materials on line and to

make production even more cost effective.

PDC's information and training materials come in a variety of formats—handbooks, curricula, articles, videotapes, CD-ROMs, conference proceedings, fact sheets, service guidelines and standards, models of effective practice, start-up strategy kits and more. DVD and CD products may be ordered online. A search engine is available on the PDC website to find PEPNet products that meet your training needs. Products may be searched by categories such as media type (Booklets, DVDs, CDs, etc.), audience (Interpreters, Teachers, etc.), or subject/topic.

With the advancement of technology, many of the PDC products are also available for downloading. If you are interested in finding available products please visit the link below.



Tony Ivankovic in his natural habitat

<http://www.pepnet.org/resproducts.asp>

PEPNet 2008 Conference

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

April 15-18, 2008



The Postsecondary Education Programs Network (PEPNet) will hold its biennial conference, Putting the Pieces Together, on April

15-18, 2008, in Columbus, Ohio at the Hyatt Regency Columbus hotel. The conference is sponsored by the four

Regional Centers on Postsecondary Education for Individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, which are funded by U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services.

PEPNet 2008 will provide opportunities for professional development and networking with peers who provide similar services. Past conferences have attracted administrators, counselors, interpreters, tutors, faculty members from disability services, student development, developmental studies and

college-level courses. We welcome interested secondary-level faculty and staff, adult service providers from rehabilitation agencies and

centers for independent living, etc. to participate in this conference.

Proposed topics include implementing best practices, enhancing student transition, establishing and using professional networks, preparing for changes in professional roles, using technology effectively, accommodating changing demographics, tracking legislative trends and impacts, devising creative funding approaches, delivering support services, planning career goals, handling job placement issues, and other topics of professional interest.

Pre-conference workshops begin Tuesday, April 15, and the conference itself opens

that evening at 7 p.m. with a plenary presentation. Have some fun at the opening reception on Tuesday night by wearing a t-shirt or cap from your campus and show your school colors. The conference closes at about 2 p.m. on Friday. Plan to stay through the closing plenary session and luncheon – you won't be disappointed!

Registration Deadline
March 17, 2008

More Information at
www.pepnet.org



Photos, Top: PEPNet Directors (l to r) Marcia Kolvitz, Cathy McLeod, Dianne Brooks and Dave Buchkoski celebrate a successful PEPNet 2006 conference.

Above: Tech Bill Anilosky readies video for conference access.

Left: PEN-International Director Jim DeCaro facilitates a presentation.

Midwest region has new director

Elise Knopf joins PEPNet as the new Director of PEPNet-Midwest. With more than 15 years of experience in the disability and human services field, she takes over the director's reins from Dave Buchkoski, who is retiring after 11 years with PEPNet.

Elise began building her career in Iowa, earning a BA in History from Cornell College, then moved to Washington, DC to serve as a Legislative Correspondent for U.S. Senator Tom Harkin from 1989 to 1992 during the development and historic enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act.



Elise Knopf

In 1994, with the ink barely dry on her new MA in Rehabilitation Counseling from Gallaudet University, Elise moved to Boston and worked for four years with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as a case manager.

In 1998 Elise returned to the Midwest to work for Communication Services for the Deaf of Minnesota as Refugee Case Manager, and later as the Interim Division Director.

Since January 2000, she has been the Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Employment Center for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Elise also currently chairs the Minnesota Commission Serving People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

Directors and staff representatives from PEPNet's four regions are all smiles at the conclusion of a successful Strategic Planning Meeting in Jan. 2007. The meeting, held at the National Center on Deafness at California State University, Northridge, set an agenda of collaboration among the four centers. Joining them are Louise Tripoli, PEPNet Project Officer; Roz Rosen, NCOD Director; and Nancy Bloch, Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of the Deaf and facilitator for planning sessions.



Tripoli *Continued from page 1.*

These new stakeholders join the postsecondary institutions, vocational rehabilitation and community agency personnel currently being served.

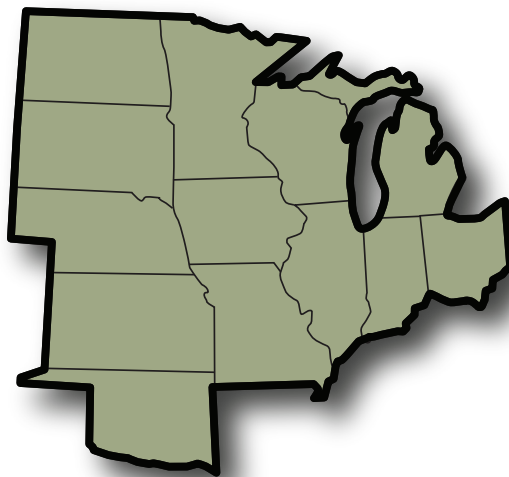
Understanding the challenges and opportunities facing deaf and hard of hearing students as they transition from secondary to postsecondary education and employment is a very personal issue to me. I have a Master's in Deaf Education and I received my Ph.D. from Gallaudet University in Administration and Supervision of Special Education. In addition to overseeing the PEPNet grant, I oversee grants in personnel preparation, technology and media, research and the state deaf/blind programs. It is with this background that I feel uniquely qualified to provide guidance, support and resources.

I look forward to working with the PEPNet Directors and their staff to support them in achieving their goals. It is an honor to be working with the PEPNet family, who care about the success of students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

I look forward to seeing you at the PEPNet national conference in April 2008!

PEPNet-Midwest provides training and

resources to: *Illinois • Indiana • Iowa
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Nebraska • North Dakota • Ohio
Oklahoma • South Dakota • Wisconsin*



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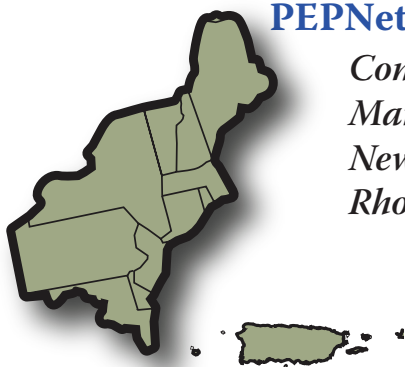
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PEPNet-Midwest



PEPNet-Northeast provides training and resources to:

*Connecticut • Delaware • District of Columbia • Maine
Maryland • Massachusetts • New Hampshire
New Jersey • New York • Pennsylvania • Puerto Rico
Rhode Island • U.S. Virgin Islands • Vermont*

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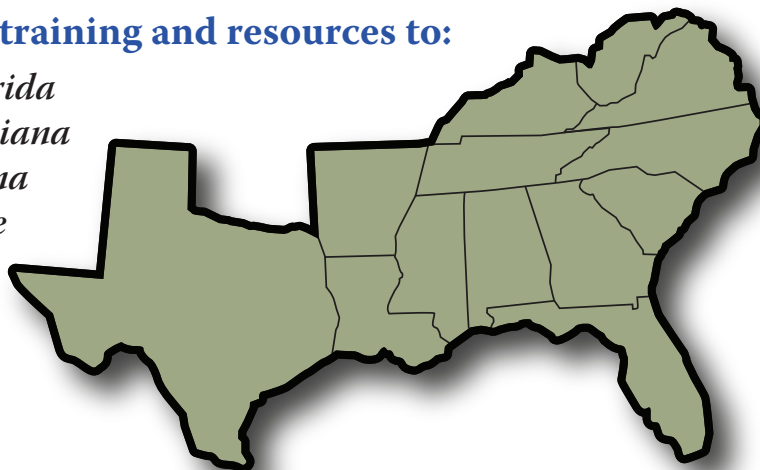
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Texas • Virginia
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PEPNet-South



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Micronesia • Guam • Hawaii • Idaho • Montana
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Utah • Washington • Wyoming*



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PEPNet's national network of regional centers provides resources, information and expertise to enhance educational opportunities for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. We work with:

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