

Salus University Students Call NCECBVI Home

To address the critical shortage of orientation and mobility specialists in Nebraska, NCECBVI, the Nebraska Department of Education, and Salus University partnered to offer a masters degree/certification program in Nebraska. Funding is being

“As of today, we only have nine certified orientation and mobility specialists teaching in Nebraska schools. And according to the Nebraska Instructional Resource Center, we have over 800 students in Nebraska who are verified with some type of visual impairment. That’s tragic,” Sally Schreiner stated.

Some of the Salus students are teachers of the visually impaired and some come with little to no education background. Therefore, this group of future instructors has come into the program with a wide variety of experiences and perspectives. The Salus students are from Nebraska City, Bellevue and Columbus.

“As these students finish the training program in the next couple of years, we look forward to having them serve Nebraska students. I always remind administrators to please start now searching for new teachers of the visually impaired – so



Kerry Trent, Bellevue Public Schools, is training under blindfold while adjunct COMS instructor, Elissa Heibel from ESU 7, provides guidance. Stacey Telgren, Salus student, follows and observes.

provided by a federal grant (through Salus University) and the Nebraska Department of Education. Five individuals answered the call, enrolled in the program, and have been greatly dedicated and working hard on classes for three semesters.

During the summer of 2016, these five ladies called NCECBVI their home-away-from home. Classes were held on the NCECBVI campus, and on the streets of Nebraska City, Omaha and Lincoln. The summer course and field work was coordinated by two instructors, and this also included “adjunct help” from several of our current COMS (Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists) in Nebraska. This specialized training involves a village of teachers, mentors, and administrators who have come together to address this great need.

This fall, the students traveled to the Salus University campus in Pennsylvania and participated in a full week packed with knowledge, skills, and experiences in a true “big” city.



Sherri Frisbie, adjunct COMS, instructs Sara Reuss, from NCECBVI, on orientation and mobility and bus transportation.

we don’t overload these new Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists. And most importantly, always be in ‘recruitment’ mode as we would love to enter this type of agreement again because we obviously still need more people trained in this area,” Schreiner said.