Thanks to Mr. Uriel Cisneros for design of our logo!

A special thanks to those who made this event possible:

The Friends of the Library of the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Wake Federation of the Blind
Division of Services for the Blind
North Carolina Council of the Blind
Durham Council of the Blind
Raleigh Mayor’s Committee for the Disabled
The Governor Morehead School for the Blind
The Governor Morehead School Alumni Association Board of Directors

Contact Information

Website: www.gmsaai.org
Blog: http://eyeretreat.edublogs.org/
E-mail: aachase1@gmail.com
The Beginnings

In the 1913 session of the General Assembly, as part of a larger bill, chartered the NC Association of Workers for the Blind. This group consisted of some former students of the Ashe Avenue campus of the NC State School for the Blind and Deaf and may have included others working with or interested in the blind people of NC. The purposes of the NCAWB, according to the bill, were to build homes for blind women and places of employment, likely workshops, for blind men.

This organization held annual conventions on the campus of the NC State School for the Blind, later named The Governor Morehead School. These meetings were held on the Ashe Avenue campus. Apparently, no students who attended the Garner Road campus were members of NCAWB. Many of the workers for the blind were themselves blind. They invited their friends to attend the annual meetings and because many former students of the Ashe Avenue campus attended these events became known as "the reunion." It never was an alumni association although it may at times have functioned as one.

During this same period of time, no formal alumni association existed among the students or alumni of the Garner Road campus of the NC State School for the Blind and Deaf. It should be clearly noted that the NC State School for the Blind and Deaf has always been one school on two campuses until 1976.

The 1970s

While no formal organization of alumni existed representing the Garner Road campus, informal gatherings for reunions occurred from time to time. These reunion meetings became especially significant when, in 1977, the Garner Road campus was permanently closed as a School for the Blind. The reunions were a way of keeping the memory and history of the Garner Road campus alive in the minds and hearts of the alumni to whom the school was so precious. Even though the Governor Morehead School was one school on two campuses for many years, many who attended the two
The 1980s

Around 1979 or 1980 two things happened. First, some of the alumni of the Garner Road campus and GMS staff, who had attended the Garner Road campus, attempted to join NCAWB. They were officially welcomed. The second event that occurred around the same time was an effort by Lonnie Spears from the NCAWB organization, Katherlene Thomas from the Garner Road campus and others desired to establish an actual alumni association. At an initial meeting to develop the alumni association, Tim Snyder was elected as president, but after giving consideration, declined to serve. No other person was elected, no other meeting for establishing the alumni association was held and the effort died.

During subsequent years one or two efforts were made to found an alumni association with no success. No known records exist of any elections of officers in any of these efforts. The alumni of the Garner Road campus continued to have informal reunions and the NCAWB continued to have annual meetings.

The 21st Century

In October, 2006 Lawrence Carter was meeting with a group of alumni from the Garner Road campus about planning a reunion for 2007. The group discussed with him the possibility of drawing up some type of Constitution or by-laws for the group. With the idea of preparing a document, Lawrence approached Ricky Scott. He suggested involving Tim Snyder in the project.

Progress continued with the formation of a planning committee, an organizing Board of Directors and further to the adoption of a Constitution and By-laws and the election of a Board of Directors. The Governor Morehead School Alumni Association, Inc. was formally recognized by the Secretary of State of North Carolina as a nonprofit organization upon issuance of its articles of incorporation in December 2006.

The Founding Fathers
In August 2007, the Governor Morehead School Alumni Association met on the campus of The Governor Morehead School for the purpose of holding its first general business meeting with the election of its officers and board members. The officers were as follows: President, Ricky Scott; Vice-President, Tim Snyder; Secretary, Sharon Benton; and Treasurer, Fred McEachern. The board members were as follows: John Atkins, John Calloway, Lawrence Carter, Patricia Coley-Duncan, Donald Ball, John Leslie Seitz, and Robert Parrish.

In this manner the Governor Morehead School Alumni Association, Inc. was founded and established and continues with its vital work to this very day and hopefully will continue to do so for many years to come.

**About The Governor Morehead School**

By: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

The Governor Morehead School, North Carolina’s school for the blind, opened in 1845 as the North Carolina Institution of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind. The initiative, a state-supported educational program for children with disabilities, was one of the first in the South. The idea originated in 1843 when William D. Cooke, the head of Virginia’s School for Deaf and Dumb Instruction in Staunton wrote to Governor John Motley Morehead suggesting that North Carolina could start a school of its own. Morehead, known as an advocate for education and for the disabled, leapt at the idea, and offered to bring the matter to the attention of the Presbyterian Synod at its next annual meeting in Raleigh the following year.

After receiving the support of the Synod, Morehead turned his attention to the state legislature. On January 8, 1845, the legislature approved an act “to provide for the education of the poor and destitute deaf-mutes and blind persons in this state.” Four months later, on May 1, the school opened in a building located two blocks west of the Capitol in Raleigh, with four teachers and 23 deaf students between the ages of 8 and 32. The pupils were given instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, history, geography, the arts, and the Bible. Four years later, a legislative appropriation allowed for the purchase of a new building on Caswell Square in Raleigh.
In 1851 blind students began enrolling in the school. William D. Cooke, who left the Virginia school to take charge of North Carolina’s institute, established vocational classes including shoemaking and sewing. His students became the first deaf students in America to produce a newspaper made for and by the deaf, the *Deaf Mute Casket*. By the end of 1858 the school had 39 deaf and 18 blind students. During the Civil War, the school remained open. However, two faculty members left for service with the Confederate army and for a brief time the pupils were employed in making musket parts. From June 1865 until January 1866, the school closed in part because of a lack of supplies to feed the students.

At the conclusion of the Civil War, efforts were made to address the need for a school for African Americans with disabilities. The United States War Department offered to find and rent housing if the North Carolina Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind would supply teachers and instruction. The school opened on January 4, 1869, in a building rented from the American Missionary Association with 21 deaf and 7 blind students. It was the first institute in the nation for African American blind students.

By the late 1880s, enrollment at the white school exceeded the facility’s abilities, requiring the General Assembly to appropriate funds for the establishment of a separate facility for the deaf students. The new school opened in Morganton in 1894. While white blind students remained at Caswell Square in Raleigh, the black deaf and blind students remained at their school on South Bloodworth Street. All three were overseen by John E. Ray, appointed principal of the North Carolina Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and Blind in 1896. Under his tutelage, the school system became the largest of its kind in the United States, boasting 535 pupils in 1912.

In 1905, the institution changed its name to the State School for the Blind and Deaf. Eight years later, the General Assembly made appropriations to move the school for white blind students to the current location on Ashe Avenue in Raleigh. In 1929, the Assembly appropriated more funds to move the school for African American blind and deaf students to Garner Road. Thirty years later initial talks were held about consolidating the two Raleigh schools, and in 1963 the name was changed to the Governor Morehead School in honor of John Motley Morehead.
Four years later, in 1967, the General Assembly approved moving black deaf students to the traditionally all-white deaf school in Morganton, and the following year began the consolidation of the schools for the blind in Raleigh. By 1971 the consolidation of the black and white blind student school at Ashe Avenue was completed, and the following year the Governor Morehead School received reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The modern Governor Morehead School remains the state’s premier institution for the education of the blind in North Carolina, and provides both education and residence for visually impaired students from preschool through age 21. Musicians Doc Watson and Ronnie Milsap are alumni of the school.

**EYE Retreat Leadership**

**Coordinator:** Mr. Alan Chase is the retreat coordinator. This is his 5th year organizing conferences for youth with disabilities. Alan has held numerous leadership positions with the National Youth Leadership Network and Delta Sigma Omicron. He also serves as a member of the UNC-CH Post Secondary Education Alliance, the UNC Pembroke Special Education Advisory Council, and the North Carolina Emergency Transition Advisory Board. Alan holds a professional membership and serves on the Board of Directors for the NC Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Mr. Chase is a special education teacher for the Wake County Public School System. He recently earned a Master’s Degree in Special Education from North Carolina State University. Mr. Chase is responsible for the overall operation of the retreat including programming, schedules, budgets, and administrative duties.

**Assistant Day Coordinator:** Mr. Brice Smith is a graduate of North Carolina State University. He majored in public relations. He was born with a visual impairment and attended the Wake County Public School System. He has held leadership positions with the North Carolina Association of Blind Students and the North Carolina Federation of the Blind. Brice is currently completing a summer internship here in Raleigh. He is responsible for providing administrative support to the Coordinator and managing daytime activities.
**Assistant Evening Coordinator:** Mr. Brent Jones is the Evening Coordinator. Mr. Jones is a graduate of The Governor Morehead School and has taken classes at Wake Technical Community College. Brent served two years as an AmeriCorp volunteer for the Wake County Department of Human Services JobLink Center. He currently works for Blind Industries and Services of Maryland. He is responsible for all activities that occur after 5pm and assisting the Coordinator with night operations.

**Senior Group Leader:** Mr. Kevin Currin is the Senior Group Leader. Kevin is responsible for supervising all group leaders, ensuring proper supervision of participants during activities, and resolving basic discipline referrals. He is currently pursuing a biology degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Kevin volunteers with an art therapy program called Artheels at the UNC Chapel Hill hospital too. He also serves as secretary for the North Carolina Association of Blind Students. Kevin attended Governor Morehead School from preschool to eighth grade.

**Night Monitors:**

Mr. James Shaw is a 5th grade teacher at Washington Gifted and Talented Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, NC. He is a former residential life staff member of The Governor Morehead School.

Ms. Carol Owens is the behavior technician for The Governor Morehead School. This is her second year helping us with supervising participants during the overnight hours.

**Presenters**

**GMSAAI:** Dr. Ricky Scott earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership from North Carolina State University. He currently serves as President of the Governor Morehead School Alumni Association and a member of the Raleigh Mayor’s Committee for the Disabled. Dr. Scott has overseen the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the annual GMSAAI Convention in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Dr. Scott’s dissertation studied trends associated with post secondary education of blind and visually impaired students. He also has done extensive research in other areas of education for children with disabilities.
Mock Class Professor:

Suzanne Balik is a Lecturer in the Computer Science Department at NC State University, where she has been teaching for twelve years. She has a Master's Degree in Computer Science from NC State and a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from Grove City College. She was previously employed as a Senior Analyst/Programmer at the T.R. Evans Research Center of Diamond Shamrock Corporation. At Diamond Shamrock, she developed and managed the development of chemical and business applications in support of the Research Center and the company's chemical production facilities.

Suzanne is also a PhD student in Computer Science at NC State. Her research centers on providing blind people with the means to create and access combinatorial graphs in a universally accessible way. This type of graph, which is often conveyed as a node-link diagram, figures prominently in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) disciplines. In order for blind students and professionals to compete in these areas, they must be able to create and edit graphs and readily share them with sighted people. Together with a blind Computer Science student, Suzanne created a Graph Sketching program known as GSK that allows blind and sighted people to easily create and edit graphs and share them in real-time. They are currently in the process of recruiting testers for the program.

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NCSU Disability Services:  Sabina Vermeulen, Associate Director, has been working at the DSO since August 1999. Sabina was born and raised in Queens, New York. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Psychology from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, and a Master of Science degree in Education-Rehabilitation Counseling from Hunter College of The City University of New York. Sabina has over 20 years of professional experience. Her prior employment includes Rehabilitation
Counselor positions with: DSB/Wake County Schools Transition Program, NC Division of Services for the Blind, NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services, and State University of New York at Albany; and as a Social Caseworker at the Kennedy Child Study Center. She has also held the following administrative positions: Coordinator of Rehabilitation Services at State University of New York at Albany; Director of Rehabilitation and Raleigh Branch Manager at Goodwill Industries, RTP.

**Assistive Technology:** Rebecca Sitton joined the DSO team in February 2010. A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, she received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Materials Science and Engineering from North Carolina State University. Rebecca is a certified Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP) and Rehabilitation Engineering Technologist (RET). She has 10 years of experience working with technology and persons with disabilities. Rebecca’s prior employment includes Rehabilitation Engineering and Program Specialist positions within the North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Program and Assistive Technology Consultant and Specialist positions with the North Carolina Assistive Technology Program. Rebecca currently serves as the Assistive Technology Coordinator in the Disability Services Office.

**Entering the Workforce!:** Peggy J. Beasley, known informally as Ms. B-R, is the Principal of Washington Gifted and Talented Magnet Elementary School. Ms. Beasley grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana but has lived in Raleigh (except for five years/1991-1996) since 1978. She graduated with a B.A. in Speech and English Education from Northwestern (Louisiana) State University in 1970 and received Master's Degrees in 1974, 1976, and 1978 from Louisiana State University (M.Ed. in Educational Supervision/Administration), the University of Arkansas (M.A. in Communication,) and the University of Oklahoma (M.Ed. in Reading.) Ms. B-R has over thirty years experience as an educator. She has taught grades 7-12 and has been a school administrator at at the high school, middle school, and elementary levels. She has been principal at three WCPSS schools prior to coming to Washington, including Fuller GT Magnet Elementary, York Elementary, and Powell GT Magnet Elementary. Ms. Beasley believes completely in the Wake County Public School System and is a staunch advocate of the magnet school system. She is particularly pleased and honored to be principal of Washington GT Magnet Elementary, the Outstanding Magnet School in America.
Group Leaders

Ms. Ashley Coleman is from Bladenboro, North Carolina. She enjoys reading anything she can get her hands on. She also enjoys taking long walks with her dog, and spending most of her time with him. Ashley plans to attend UNC Pembroke in the fall to major in teaching. Her goal is to one day teach braille.

Mr. Michael Cox is 47 years old. He has had Macular Degeneration for the past five years. He is currently going to Wake Technical Community College to study Heavy Equipment repair. He is from El Paso, Texas where he was born and lived for four years. After that, he moved to the Marshall Islands for two and a half years and then he moved to Greensboro, NC in 1971. He has lived in NC ever since. But, he has traveled all over the United States, except to Alaska, New Hampshire, Vermont and the other states above New York.

Ms. Victoria Davis resides in the State of Georgia, but is formerly a resident of Raleigh. She worked for Industries for the Blind in Durham for two years. She is currently in school to study counseling and hopes to pursue a graduate degree in the future. Her career goal is to be a crisis counselor for the blind.

Mr. Preston S Johnson was born in Annapolis, MD, on January 12th 1979, to Leslie Johnson Sr., a Marine and an electrician, and Diane Johnson, a school teacher. Being the son of a school teacher, Preston was quite intelligent but possessed more of an entrepreneurial spirit than the attitude of a scholar. After receiving his high school diploma, Preston began a career in the restaurant and hospitality business. While managing the kitchen in a retirement home in Florida, Preston began to notice problems with his vision. After going to the doctor to have his fears confirmed he realized that he was going blind due to diabetic retinopathy. Not knowing what to do Preston turned to God. After many prayers and surgeries, Preston moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, where he connected with other inspiring blind people and is currently back in school in the culinary program at Wake Technical Community College. He hopes to open a halfway house and a soup kitchen one day.
Mr. DJ Robinson is a 2011 graduate of The Governor Morehead School. He currently attends Wake Tech Community College with the intent to transfer to Appalachian State University to obtain his degree in physical education. DJ recently got a new guide dog and is very excited about his new friend. He participates in Paralympics events, such as cycling and track and field. DJ is a very outgoing, lovable, and fun person. He enjoys working with kids and meeting people from all walks of life.

Mr. Justin Salisbury is a mathematics major and economics minor from Willington, Connecticut. Justin has been recognized on the Dean’s List and Chancellor’s List and graduates with Summa Cum Laude academic honors. He has been awarded the ECU Alumni Association Scholarship, Eron-Vittitow Scholarship, Harriot Advancement Council Scholarship, Arts and Sciences Scholarship, East Carolina Creed Week Award, and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Academic Excellence Award. During his time at ECU, Justin has been a member of the National Federation of the Blind of North Carolina and Connecticut, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, the NC Council of Teachers of Mathematics, ECU Ambassadors, ECU Honors College Ambassadors, Student Pirate Club, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. He was also president of Voices for Victims, peer minister and director of Financial Affairs for the Episcopal Campus Ministry, vice president and president of the NC Association of Blind Students, treasurer for the National Alliance of Blind Students, and treasurer for the Alpha Chapter of Epsilon Chi Nu Fraternity, Inc. He volunteered for the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, Eastern Bull Native American Center hurricane repair, was a tutor at the Pirate Tutoring Center, and took an alternative spring break in New Orleans with Episcopal Campus Ministry. After graduation, Justin plans on attending graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. in Economics.

Ms. Jewel Shuping is 27 years old and is a full time student at Wake Technical Community College. She is working to transfer to Louisiana State University to major in Special Education. In her free time, she volunteers with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science, assisting the Special Populations Director in making the museum a more fun and accessible experience for blind visitors. She also enjoys creating tactile art, reading (Braille, of course), and surfing the internet.
Schedule

Monday, June 30th
7:30am – Depart Sunshine or Music Houses
7:45am – 8:30am – Breakfast for group leaders only (Dining Hall)
8:30am – 11:30am – Volunteer and Group Leader Orientation
11:45am – 12:30pm – Volunteer and Group Leader lunch only (Dining Hall)
12:30 – 1:00pm – Group Leaders move into cottages
1:00pm – 2:30pm – Participant Registration (Crockett Peeler basement)
2:30pm – 3:00pm – Unpack and Socialize (Cottages)
3:00pm – 4:30pm – Welcome and Overview (Crockett Peeler basement)

   Barbria Bacon, Director, Governor Morehead School
   Ricky Scott, Ed.D., President, GMS Alumni Assoc.
   Alan Chase, M.Ed., Program Coordinator

4:45pm – 5:30pm – Dinner (Dining Hall)
5:45pm – 6:45pm – Hints from current college students (Cottages)
7:00pm – 10:00pm – Goal Ball (Gym)
11:00pm – Lights out!

Tuesday, July 31st
7:30 – Depart cottages
7:45am – 8:30am – Breakfast (Dining Hall)
8:45am – Leave for NCSU
9:15am – 11:30am – Disability Services Overview and Registration
11:45am – 12:45pm – Lunch at NCSU
1:15 – 2:00pm – Accommodations with a Professor (Daniels 218)
2:00pm – 2:30pm – Intro to Mock Class (Daniels 218)
2:30pm – 3:45pm – Mock Class (Daniels 218)
4:15 – Return to GMS
4:45pm – 5:30pm – Dinner (Dining Hall)
6:00pm – 10:00pm – Social time (Gym open, homework, etc)
11:00pm – Lights out!

**Wednesday, August 1**
7:30 – Depart cottages
7:45am – 8:30am – Breakfast (Dining Hall)
8:45am – 10:00am – The Community College (Crockett Peeler basement)
10:15am – 11:15am – NCSU Student Organizations (Crockett Peeler basement)
11:30am – 12:15pm – Lunch
12:30pm – Leave for NCSU
1:00pm – 2:00pm – NCSU Career Services (Harris Hall)
2:30pm – 3:45pm – Mock Class (Daniels 218)
4:15 – Return to GMS
4:45pm – 5:30pm – Dinner (Dining Hall)
6:00pm – 10:00pm – Social time (Gym open, homework, etc)
11:00pm – Lights out!

**Thursday, August 2**
7:30 – Depart cottages
7:45am – 8:30am – Breakfast (Dining Hall)
8:45am – 9:45am – NC Library for the Blind (Crockett Peeler basement)
10:00am – 11:00am – Division of Services for the Blind (Crockett Peeler basement)
11:30pm – 12:15pm – Lunch (Dining Hall)
12:30pm – Leave GMS
1:00pm – Tour of the North Carolina Legislature
2:00pm – Tour of the NC Museum of Natural Sciences
4:15 – Return to GMS
4:45pm – 5:30pm – Dinner (Dining Hall)
6:00pm – 10:00pm – Dance!
11:00pm – Lights out!
Friday, August 3rd
7:30am – Depart cottages
7:45am – 8:30am – Breakfast (Dining Hall)
8:45am – 9:45am – Final Exam! (Crockett Peeler basement)
10:00am – 11:00am – Entering the Workforce (Crockett Peeler basement)
11:00am – 11:30am – Pack belongings and take them to Crockett Peeler basement
11:45pm – 12:30pm – Lunch
12:45pm – 1:45pm – Farewell and pick-up

Emergency Information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding what to do in the event of an emergency or there is an emergency please ask your group leader or any of the Retreat Coordinators. Feel free to always call or text Alan Chase at 910-612-2220 for specific information.

All EYE Retreat leaders have been advised what to do and provided with procedures on how to respond appropriately to fire, severe weather, injuries and other emergencies. The Coordinators will monitor weather conditions and facility conditions and make changes to travel, programming, or schedules as deemed necessary to ensure safety. We will maintain a first aid kit onsite for minor injuries.

Disclaimer: Parents will be contacted in the event of any serious medical emergencies. Parents are responsible for any and all costs associated with offsite medical care. Medical care is not available onsite.

Expectations

THINGS TO DO:
1. Be honest at all times.
2. Respect and follow the directions of leaders.
3. Be conscious of your own safety and that of your peers.
4. Remain in groups of no fewer than three at all times.
5. Remain in the presence of leaders at all times when away from the campus.
6. Be mindful of campus traffic while en route to any and all events and activities.
7. Be mindful of noise levels while in the dorms, campus buildings, and restrooms.
8. Dress appropriately for program activities and summer weather.
9. Adhere to the assigned schedule of events in a timely manner.
10. Participate in all activities.
11. Be accountable for the decisions you make regarding your own actions and behaviors.
12. HAVE FUN!!

Disclaimer: The Coordinator of the EYE Retreat has the authority to dismiss any person who violates these expectations, as well as any other generally-accepted rules of conduct (not necessarily covered in the expectations) which, in the Coordinator’s professional judgment, are essential to the educational goals of the program.

THINGS NOT TO DO: 
1. Dishonesty, theft, or verbal/physical assault on others.
2. Tampering with fire alarms, extinguishers, or hoses.
3. Possession, sale, or use of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs.
4. Possession of weapons of any kind, including all guns, all knives, all explosives, and/or any other implement that could be used as a weapon.
5. Violation of any state or federal laws, including rules established by 1) The Governor Morehead School, 2) leaders, and 3) The Governor Morehead School Alumni Association.
6. Failure to sleep in assigned dorm room.
7. Possession of matches, lighters, or any other flammable device.
8. STATE LAW prohibits tobacco products, weapons, gambling, soliciting, and alcohol on the GMS Campus.

Disclaimer: The Coordinator of the EYE Retreat and The Governor Morehead School Alumni Association are not responsible for any lost, stolen, or misused property. All property brought on campus is done so at the persons’ own risk. Violation of any of the aforementioned rules may result in immediate dismissal from the Retreat and/or notification to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
Curriculum and Research

The Envisioning Youth Empowerment Retreat’s program is based on research from several universities on what makes for a successful transition for students from high school to post secondary settings.

The EYE Retreat curriculum is based on three main principles: 1) mentoring, 2) real world experiences, and 3) developing advocacy skills. These three areas all correspond to areas of validated research that help students with visual impairments be successful in employment, higher education, and the community.

1. Our mentoring component helps with networking and social skills, both of which are predictors for success.
2. Our visits to Governor Morehead School, NC State University, and local businesses to experience demonstrations builds upon orientation and mobility skills, knowledge of assistive devices, and knowledge of available resources.
3. Our use of part of a self-advocacy curriculum and interactions with business leaders and professors forces students to develop and refine their advocacy and self-determination skills.

Unfortunately, research specific to students with visual impairments is limited. Most research addresses topics generalized to students with all types of disabilities. Nonetheless, some useful information is provided below to help you understand our programming.

Here are some facts about students with disabilities generally:

1. About 6% of fulltime freshmen self-report a disability in higher education.
2. 37% of students with disabilities enroll in higher education, whereas 78% of nondisabled peers enroll in higher education.
3. In 1994, 16% of students with disabilities enrolled in higher education completed a bachelor’s as compared to only 12% in 2000.

Research based activities that make transition more effective for students with disabilities:
1. Mentoring
2. Self-determination training
3. Sense of belonging (physical and emotional accessibility)
4. Sense of purpose
5. Campus involvement

Research has indicated that in order for students with visual impairments to be most competitive in the employment arena the following activities are most valuable:

1. Self-determination training
2. Work experiences throughout high school and college
3. Higher education
4. Use of assistive technology and/or devices
5. Orientation and mobility training
6. Social skills

Further research into students with visual impairments indicates that most are attending college at a rate comparable to nondisabled peers or in some cases at a slightly higher rate.

1. Attending a community college: 31% students with visual impairments and 17% for nondisabled peers.

2. Attending a university: 34% students with visual impairments and 38% for nondisabled peers.

Employment statistics for students with visual impairments are not impressive.

1. 38% of youth with visual impairments have some type of employment at any given point during the study period. Out of the 38%, only about 12% had fulltime employment. However, only 10% to 23% of those with employment had the same job consistently throughout the research period. This is compared to a 78% rate of employment for nondisabled peers during the same period of time.
About 32% of students with visual impairments dropout of college after the first or second year. A qualitative study of current upperclassmen students with visual impairments sought to identify the most important activities in the retention rates for student with visual impairments.

- Preregister for classes 93.0%
- Communicate with teachers 87.2%
- Decide on college to attend 85.3%
- Apply for financial aid 84.7%
- Locate transportation 82.3%
- Learn how to manage money 81.0%
- Receive campus O&M instruction 80.8%
- Make housing arrangements 78.3%
- Order textbooks early 77.3%
- Visit college during orientation 76.0%
- Work with vocational rehabilitation services 75.3%
- Communicate with disability services office 75.2%
- Find and schedule readers 70.1%
- Decide on college major 57.4%
- Meet or talk with roommate 53.8%
- Attend college preparatory program 42.3%

References


McDroom, L. *Making the grade: college students with visual impairments*. Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness, (91)3.
General Campus Information

• The Governor Morehead School Campus is located at 301 Ashe Avenue in Raleigh, NC. We are adjacent to Pullen Park, The NC State University Campus, and Downtown Raleigh.
• In addition to The Governor Morehead School, the campus is home to the NC Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, Offices for the Division of Services for the Blind, The Governor Morehead Preschool, Wake County School’s Young Women’s Leadership Academy, and the NC Central University Visual Impairment Teacher Training Program. Please be mindful that these other departments will be working on campus during our EYE Retreat. The Rehabilitation Center for the Blind will be hosting a College Transition Program for high schoolers during this time as well. We will partner with the Rehabilitation Center’s program for some activities.
• Onsite security is available by Governor Morehead School from 6am to 10pm during our stay. The State Capital Police are responsible for routine patrol of the campus during the overnight hours.