

PROJECT INVITE

Interdisciplinary Neurological Visual Impairment Teaching Experts: Training Professionals to Work with Children with Visual Impairments in Rural, Remote & High-Need Areas

VIRGINIA MURRAY SOWELL
CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION IN SENSORY
DISABILITIES



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

College of Education™



A U.S. Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs Grant

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Project INVITE grant was created to recruit and train scholars from Texas, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho to become teachers of students with visual impairments (VI) or orientation and mobility (O&M) specialists with specialized expertise in neurological visual impairment.

The two Sensory impairment programs that a student can choose from to pursue in Project INVITE are:

- *Master's in Special Education with emphasis in Orientation and Mobility*
- *Master's in Special Education with emphasis in Visual Impairment*

*Students will also complete a seminar course in Neurological Visual Impairment (NVI) and other interdisciplinary activities throughout the program. Project INVITE will be recruiting 2 cohorts of 15 scholars each for a 2.5-year training program at Texas Tech University.

BENEFITS (Grant funds will cover):

- all tuition and fees each semester,
- required textbooks and course materials,
- all travel expenses required for on-campus orientation, for 5-week O&M course in Lubbock, and other course-related weekends at TTU
- enrichment experiences such as conference expenses and specialized courses.

COHORT 1

Begins Summer of 2020, June 2nd, end date is summer of 2022. Grant will support 2.5 years in the prospective program. Required 5 weeks on TTU Lubbock campus in summer 2021 for O&M program. 36 graduate hours required for MEd in VI program, 36 hours for MEd plus 1 course for O&M.

COHORT 2

Begins summer of 2022 in June, end date is summer of 2024. Grant will support 2.5 years in the prospective program. Required 5 weeks on TTU Lubbock campus in summer 2023 for O&M Program. 36 graduate hours required for MEd in VI program, 36 hours for MEd plus 1 course for O&M program.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Texas Tech University
P.O. Box 41071
Lubbock, TX 79409
806-742-2320

O&M: **Nora Griffin-Shirley, Ph.D.**
n.griffin-shirley@ttu.edu
VI: **Rona Pogrund, Ph.D.**
rona.pogrund@ttu.edu

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

- 1) All applicants must hold at least a bachelor's degree.
- 2) For VI program, must have an initial teaching certification in general or special education from Texas, Wyoming, or Montana. For Idaho, VI applicants must have a Standard Instructional Certificate. Only bachelors required for O&M program.
- 3) Must have access to a working computer and high-speed internet for online courses.
- 4) Must commit to completing your program within the established timeline.
- 5) Must commit to working with children with visual impairments for at least two years for each year of scholarship funding received.
- 6) Must be a U.S. citizen.