



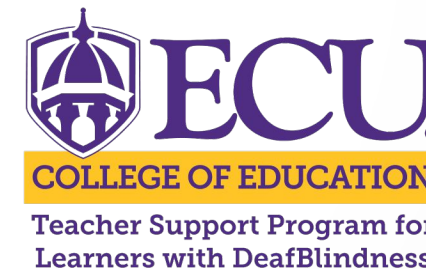
Office of Special Education Programs  
U.S. Department of Education



# NORTH CAROLINA DeafBlind Project



North Carolina Department of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**



NORTH CAROLINA  
**DeafBlind Project**



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**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**



# Alan Chase

Consultant for Visual Impairment and  
Co-Director, NC DeafBlind Project

My journey with DeafBlindness began as a teacher when I served two students who have dual sensory loss. Later, as Assistant Principal at the TN School for the Blind, I supervised the DeafBlind Interveners and was the school liaison to the TN DeafBlind Project.



# Virginia Madorin

Consultant for Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
and Co-Director, NC DeafBlind Project

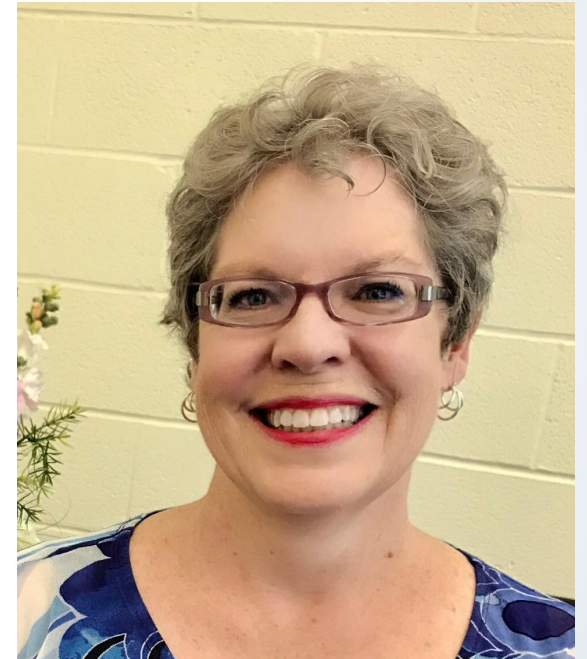
I became connected to the world of  
DeafBlindness as a beginning teacher,  
working with students with DB. I became  
Co-Director of the Project in 2021.



# Sandra Warren

Co-Director, NC DeafBlind Project  
Professor, East Carolina University

In a previous life, I was a court monitor to close an institution for individuals with disabilities and establish community systems of support. During this work, I met my first person with DB and he changed my perspective on life. I love working with our phenomenal NC DB team!





# Sherri Vernelson

Section Chief  
Grant Administrator

I became connected to DeafBlindness as a teenager when a family in my church had a baby with CHARGE syndrome. I became her support person when she was old enough to attend Sunday school classes. I was reacquainted with DeafBlindness when I joined the NC DeafBlind Project around 2018 through my work at NCDPI. I became the grant administrator in 2022.



# Brittany Cutshaw

North Carolina DeafBlind Project Co-Director

As a parent of a child (7 y.o.) with medical complexity and DeafBlindness, I understand the barriers that families face every day. I am dedicated to helping empower families to become their own child's best advocate. My son has taught me what a rewarding experience it is to support a DeafBlind learner, and I hope to share that perspective with families and professionals alike.

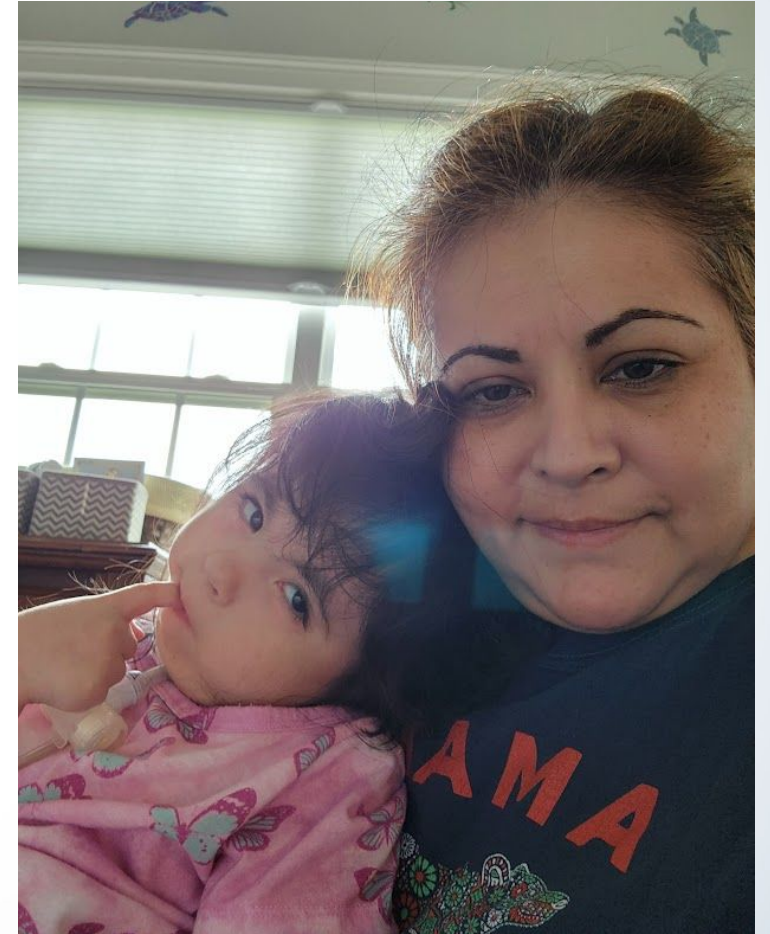


# Nancy Giurato

Parent Educator ECAC & DeafBlind Family Engagement  
Coordinator NC DeafBlind Project

My initial connection with the world of Deafblindness was when my daughter transitioned from early intervention into preschool. I was referred to my state Deafblind project by a non-profit organization serving deaf and hard of hearing families.

I joined the NC DeafBlind Project team in 2022. I love the sense of belonging to the Deafblind community and sharing family-to-family experiences with our kiddos.





# Heather Lister

Lead Teacher of the Visually Impaired  
NC Early Learning Sensory Support Program

I became connected to the world of DeafBlindness when I served as a Preschool Teacher and taught my first child with dual sensory loss. In that role, I attended my first DeafBlind Conference through the NC DB Project. I love working with children with deafblindness, their families, and other providers.





# Neena Malosky

Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
NC Early Learning Sensory Support Program

I initially became connected to the word of DeafBlindness when I worked in the school system. More recently, I have had the opportunity to work with many children under 3 who are DeafBlind and their families. I absolutely love it! I joined the NC DeafBlind Project Core Team in August of 2023. I am so grateful for the opportunity for collaboration and learning more about how to support families of children with DeafBlindness.



NORTH CAROLINA  
**DeafBlind Project**



# Patty Dischinger

## Technical Assistance Consultant

ECU Teacher Support Program for Learners with DeafBlindness focusing on Early Intervention and Preschool

I started out as a teacher of the Deaf and found myself especially drawn to working with children with complex needs including deafblindness. I became very interested in vision issues when I was the teacher in the DeafBlind classroom at Metro School in Charlotte and I got my VI training at NC State. My ultimate goal was to work for a state DB Project. I am so happy to be here!



# Andrea Blackwood

Technical Assistance Coordinator

ECU Teacher Support Program for Learners with  
DeafBlindness

I initially became connected to the world of DeafBlindness as a student at ECU. My career path has always included students with dual sensory loss. My passion for teaching students with disabilities and students with dual sensory loss came together when Sandra Warren asked me to join the NC DB Project as a Technical Assistance provider. For that I will always be grateful.





# Julie Brickhouse

Technical Assistance Consultant

ECU Teacher Support Program for Learners with  
DeafBlindness

I became connected to the world of DeafBlindness related to my work in an adapted curriculum classroom. I was fortunate to join the ECU Teacher Support Program once I retired from teaching in the classroom.



# Moniqua Gallop

Digital Media Communications Consultant for  
ECU Teacher Support Program for Learners  
with DeafBlindness

I became connected to the world of  
DeafBlindness after completing an ASL course  
at ECU. After that, I received a certificate in  
DeafBlindness and have been working with the  
team since 2021.



# Matthew Martinez

NCDPI - Consultant for Significant Cognitive Disabilities

I became connected via my work at NCDPI. My passion for the education of all learners and ensuring all have quality instruction fuels my passion for this project.

