

## ACENA Spring Newsletter: Issue 31

### In this Issue:

- [2019 ACENA Conference](#)
- [National CE Day](#)
- [Aquinas College CET Training Program Update](#)
- [CE Center Feature: BOOST Conductive Education](#)
- [Important spring dates](#)

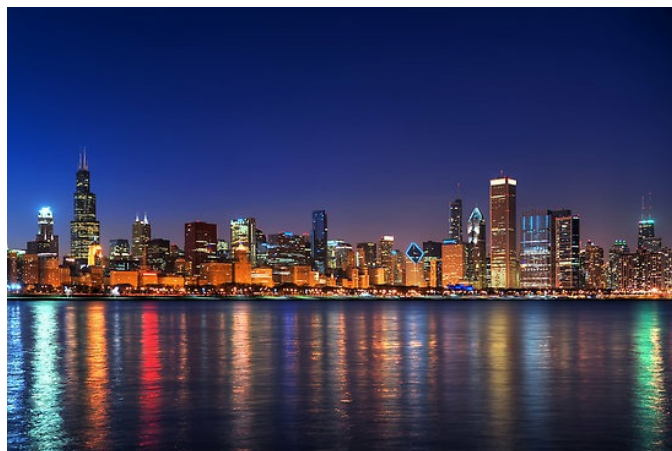
### **2019 ACENA Conference**

Chicago, IL September 13th - 15th



Join us for this year's ACENA Conference in Chicago, Illinois from September 13 - 15! Hosted at the Illinois College of Optometry, key note speakers include Dr. Andrea Zsebe, Dean, András Pető Faculty, Semmelweis University, Dr. Melanie Brown of NICE, and Dr. Valerie Kattouf, OD, of the Illinois College of Optometry.

Book your hotel now! Rooms are booking up very quickly as this is a very popular weekend in Chicago! Book now through ACENA to get your discounted room at book the [Hilton Garden Inn at McCormick Place](#).



Register before May 31st to get the Early Bird Discount! Registration, conference schedule and more can be found at the [conference website](#). Don't delay, register now!

Conductive Education centres all across North America celebrated National CE Awareness Day on **February 21, 2019!** ACENA members were encouraged to post photos of participants on social media with signs saying I CAN or WE CAN. All week, Facebook lit up with posts and pictures with the hashtags; #ICan #WeCan #CEDay2019. Over 10 centers participated to help spread the positive energy and message of National Conductive Education day. Everyone was encouraged to share posts and there were several shout-outs among CE centers to keep the celebration going! Thanks to everyone who got involved. Check out



Next year's National Conductive Education Day: **Thursday, February 20, 2020!**

If you're looking for ways to get involved next year, consider:

- Participating in our #ICAN #WECAN social media campaign
- Running your own spirit week to join in on the fun
- Developing partnerships with other CE centers
- Sharing information on Conductive Education with other organizations, local politicians and news organizations
- Looking for opportunities to present about Conductive Education in your area

If you have other great ideas to spread awareness about Conductive Education, we'd love to hear from you!





We are thrilled to share an exciting update for all conductive education programs throughout North America. The Aquinas College Conductor-Teacher training program will once again be accepting new students for enrollment in Fall 2019. This is a wonderful opportunity for CE programs to examine their own staffing needs for the future and

consider making an investment in the education of future conductor-teachers that can provide services for their center. The Aquinas program, which began in 1999, continues to be the only training program within North America that is offered through cooperation with Semmelweis University Andras Peto Faculty - formerly known as the Peto Institute and founding home of conductive education.

The updated program will offer two tracks. The first will be the continuation of the traditional model and will include State teaching credentials in both elementary and special education in addition to a conductor certification that will be issued by Semmelweis University. The second will be a new, non-teacher track, which will provide opportunities for those that would prefer to work internationally or outside of typical K-12 settings upon graduation. Both will feature coursework that will be taught by local Aquinas College staff and faculty, as well as instruction by professors from the Semmelweis University's Andras Peto Faculty. The programs will both feature laboratory school requirements for acquiring practical skills at the Conductive Learning Center which will complement the theoretical knowledge acquired throughout the coursework.

With CE centers navigating current immigration and Visa challenges, the need for locally trained conductive education professionals continues to grow. Together, we need to find ways to support a sustainable model for supplying conductor-teachers throughout North America in order to meet the needs of programs. Eighty percent of the current and previously enrolled students in the Aquinas College program have been from Michigan - many of whom have chosen to stay in the local area upon graduation. This represents the need for strong local recruitment efforts from programs within their own areas to encourage students to study conductive education and return home in order to provide these important services.

For more information regarding the training program, please contact Andrea Benyovszky at [abenyovszky@conductivelearningcenter.org](mailto:abenyovszky@conductivelearningcenter.org).

---

## **CE Center Feature** **Boost Conductive Education**



BOOST Conductive Education was founded in 2001 by two families, who vowed to find an easier way than traveling out-of-state to help their daughters with cerebral palsy, Alexa McBride and Katya Dvorak, and to get the care and support they needed to progress.

In 2008 United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay took over the program and has been growing it ever since. [UCP of the North Bay](#), is a locally run 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. We serve over 750 children and adults with disabilities including cerebral palsy, autism, intellectual, and accompanying mobility, vision, and hearing loss. Our programs are located in Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties, in California. BOOST is an important branch of our organization as it supports our mission:

"To enhance the quality of life of people with cerebral

BOOST Conductive Education's mission is:

"To make a significant, life-changing impact on the mobility and independence of children and adults with motor disabilities through Conductive Education."



BOOST has developed as a result of the need expressed by parents for more movement education for their children. BOOST grew from a three week summer camp to a year round program with different components that assure our participants holistic growth. Our multidisciplinary team consists of OT's, PT's, SPLT's, Behaviourists, Marriage and Family Therapist's and of course Conductor Teachers.



We offer an Academic Classroom for students 1st through 8th grade. The rich curriculum is based on Conductive Education principles and is intertwined with academics. Our participants receive all the necessary therapies based on their IEPs and

have numerous other possibilities to challenge themselves and grow in all areas of their lives. We are fortunate to go on a weekly basis gardening, horseback riding, and take dance classes. BOOST values inclusion and found a way to collaborate with local public and charter schools. Our students gain role models and their typical peers gain greater understanding and acceptance of diversity, flourish in this environment as they become more accepting.

After 3pm children that go to a different school join us for one on one and small group sessions with our conductors. Mini intensive programs are hosted once a month on a Saturday and Sunday to provide continuity in the children's development. These two day sessions are the shorter version of the winter and summer programs. We typically have 5-8 students a group and theme these classes according to the season, and current holiday.

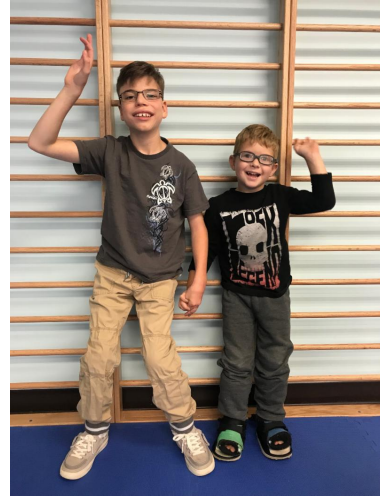
BOOST offers two Intensive programs, the Winter Intensive runs for the first week of January and the Summer Intensive runs for the entire month of July. Students and their parents attend the intensive program(s) to increase the children's mobility, independence and learn how to incorporate Conductive Education in their everyday life.

BOOST also provides an opportunity for students from Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa Junior

College, and local high schools to earn volunteer credits, explore the rehabilitative field of medicine, and work hands-on with children with disabilities.

Many of our volunteers have gone on to become specialists in the fields of Occupational, Physical Therapy and Special Education.

Now that we have laid the foundation of a year round program with services that meet the needs of our community, we would like to focus on fine tuning and further improving the program as well as increasing the number of students we serve. BOOST plans on opening it's services up for adults with Cerebral Palsy and offer a regular support group. We would also like to raise the awareness of Cerebral Palsy and spread the word about Conductive Education in Northern California by working closely with the Association for Conductive Education in North America.



**Saskia Kramer, CET**

BOOST Conductive Education Director  
United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay

[skramer@ucpnb.org](mailto:skramer@ucpnb.org)

718-640-0410

[www.boostcamp.org](http://www.boostcamp.org)

---

## Mark your Calendars!

May 10: Deadline for submitting proposals for ACENA Conference

May 17: Selections to be made for presenters at conference

May 28: ACENA Board Meeting

May 31: Early bird deadline for ACENA Conference registration

\*Check out [ACENA's calendar](#) to stay up to date ! If you would like to participate in a subcommittee meeting, please get in touch with us to find out more!

---

[www.acena.org](http://www.acena.org)

Check out our facebook page

