



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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September 25, 2018

To: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

From: William J. Hussey, Director, *WJH*
Exceptional Children Programs

Re: Deaf-Blind Project

The Exceptional Children Division (ECD) along with the NC Deaf-Blind Project (NCDBP) and Teacher Support Program at East Carolina University (ECU TSP) invites participants to attend the Empowerment Through Touch: Haptic Training professional development workshop. The two-day workshop will be held November 17-18, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Asheville; and will begin at 9:00 am and end at 4:00 pm. each day. Lunch is provided as part of the training experience.

“Touch signals is a method of providing visual and environmental information to an individual who is deaf-blind discreetly and in real time. This information allows a person who is deaf-blind to make informed choices and decisions based on a more complete picture of their situation. The course will provide an overview of touch signals with a specific focus on Haptic Communication. Haptics, developed in Norway, is a standardized system with a fixed set of signals performed in a specific way.” Source: <https://nationaldb.org/events/detail/event/0/926>.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the touch communication system that provides information to people who are deaf-blind through pictures that are drawn discretely. The touch communication system includes Tactile Sign Language, Touch Cues, and Touch Signals.

Presenters for this professional development will be Marilyn Trader, the Helen Keller Southeast Regional Representative and Ashley Benton the Deaf/Deaf-Blind Services Coordinator with the NC Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Participants will earn 1.4 professional CEUs upon successful completion of the training.

If you are interested in attending or would like additional information, please email Dottie Snyder at Dorothy.snyder@dpi.nc.gov

WJH/DM/ss