Report of the Educational Services Advisory Committee

to the Trustees of the

American Printing House for the Blind

Fiscal Year 2018

# Purpose

The purpose of the Educational Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) is to:

* Provide oversight and leadership in the planning, evaluation and delivery of product-related services.
* Identify new services needed.
* Assist in the promotion of APH products through services, and
* Advise APH on general operations and communications as they relate to the accountability and accessibility of services provided.

# Introduction

In April of 2018 the Educational Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) met in Louisville, KY at the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) to address the 2017 ESAC report and to develop commendations and recommendations for the current fiscal year. To assist with this endeavor, interactive presentations were made by APH’s administrative staff, including progress updates on the 2017 recommendations, operations and information on new initiatives.

# The 2018 ESAC Commendations

1. The ESAC offers a commendation for the quality and quantity of historical information available on the museum page of the APH website.

2. The ESAC offers a commendation for the ongoing effort to redesign the APH website including providing the gold standard for accessibility in website design, mainstream product purchasing design and one login for EOTs which allows access to centralized information.

3. The ESAC offers a commendation for the adoption of an intentional planning and organization process of rolling out new products.

4. The ESAC offers a commendation for the use of analytics to support

APH’s decision making process.

5. The ESAC offers a commendation to APH for its continued support of the highly successful Scholar Program.

6. The ESAC offers a commendation to APH for successfully securing an increase in the federal quota funds.

7. The ESAC offers a commendation for the intentional and targeted increased use of social media.

8. The ESAC offers a commendation for adopting a structured model for decision making, efficiency and tracking purposes related to product proposals.

9. The ESAC offers a commendation for APH’s continued support of teacher preparation programs through presentations, visits to the APH headquarters and the loaning of products for use by future teachers.

# The 2018 EPAC Recommendations

**Consistent with The Act to Promote the Education of the Blind (1879), the Educational Services Advisory Committee (ESAC) recommends that APH:**

1. Reinstate APH’s policy of providing materials for employees, EPAC, ESAC, Annual Conference attendees and all other audiences in accessible formats at the same time.

2. Investigate or open a dialog with NLS regarding increasing the term of the contract regarding transcriber certification in an effort to increase the number of certified transcribers available to produce braille as necessary.

3. Research alternative funding outside of quota funds for populations that do not fall within the regulations of the Act.

4. ESAC recommends that APH continue investigating ways to support existing EOTs with initial or refresher training courses. Consider developing a list of experienced EOTs who are willing to be a resource to other EOTs.

5. Explore opportunities for professional development to different audiences (O and M, TVI, VR etc.) utilizing a variety of platforms (face-to-face, online etc.)

6. Consider expanding National Instructional Partnership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Educational Services Advisory Committee Members:

Marty McKenzie, Chair

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April 16-19, 2018