The Visual Impairment Training Program (VITP) in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, North Carolina Central University, is pleased to announce the awarding of a federal grant offered by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), U.S. Department of Education. This federal grant titled “Equipped for the Future: Transforming Education of Students with Visual Impairments through Technology and Personnel Preparation” (Award # H325K130405) will be used to prepare teachers of students with visual impairments (TVIs) and Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists. The program seeks individuals interested in working with PreK-12th grad students who are blind or visually impaired.

Candidates will:
• Learn how to read and write braille and to teach braille reading
• Learn about eye conditions and their implications for education
• Learn to perform Functional Vision and Learning Media Assessments
• Learn about orientation and mobility and access technology
• Learn about methods of teaching children who are blind or have low vision
• Learn to teach the use of optical devices to children with low vision
• Learn how to incorporate areas of the Expanded Core Curriculum

The program includes:
• Full in-state tuition and fees available

In order to be eligible, students must be:
• Fully admitted to the North Carolina Central University Graduate School
• Willing to commit to work with children who are blind or visually impaired in the U.S. for twice as long as they receive financial support
A teaching certificate/experience in education are desirable but not required.

Application deadlines are November 10 for early decision admissions and June 1 for Fall enrollment for degree programs and for licensure add on. Candidates who accept the OSEP grant funding will agree to a payback provision which requires two years of work in the field of visual impairment for each year of funding. Additional information can be found through this link and can be addressed by calling the number on the website.
Grant website for payback.  https://serviceobligations.ed.gov/

Additional requirements of candidates receiving funding under the federal grant include:
1. Regular and frequent correspondence with the VITP program coordinator
2. Completion of the Program of Studies.
3. Participation in a VI/O&M Mentor program for one year after completion.