

## Hotel Information

To reserve your room at the state rate of \$140, call the Wyndham Oceanfront and mention "Pathways to Possibilities."

The Wyndham VA Beach Oceanfront hotel has extended the state rate of \$140 per night to participants 3 days before and 3 days after the conference.

As this is prime vacation season in the Virginia Beach area, rooms are limited, so book your reservation early!

The Wyndham hotel requires one night's deposit in advance to hold your room. Therefore, your credit card will be charged the amount of \$159 at the time of making your reservation. Any remaining cost(s) will be charged at the time of check-out.

Cancellations must be received 72 hours or more prior to arrival to avoid the penalty of one night's room and tax being charged to your credit card.

## Hotel Address/Contact Information

Wyndham Oceanfront Virginia Beach Hotel  
57th Street and Atlantic Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Reservations: (800) 365-3032  
[www.wyndham.com/hotels/ORFVB](http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/ORFVB)



Partnership for People with Disabilities  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
700 E. Franklin Street, Box 843020  
Richmond, Virginia 23284-3020



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## Pathways to Possibilities

### 2nd Annual Conference

A combined conference for Educational Professionals, Related Service Providers, Parents and Family members who work and/or live with students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Low Vision, Deaf-Blind, Dual Sensory Impaired and/or have Multiple-Disabilities



**August 13 – 15, 2008**

Wyndham Oceanfront Hotel/Resort  
Virginia Beach, VA

**Presented by:**

The Virginia Project for Children and Youth  
with Dual-Sensory Impairments  
and  
The Virginia Project for the Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing

[www.vcu.edu/partnership/pathways](http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/pathways)

## About the Conference

This year's Pathways conference is a collaborative effort designed for educational professionals, related service providers, parents and family members who work and/or live with students in Virginia who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind, Low Vision, Deaf-Blind, Dual Sensory Impaired and/or have Multiple-Disabilities. It will provide a broad scope of the most current, research-driven information and resources for the education and support of students and young children in these low incidence populations. Keynote speakers and conference presenters will address topics across a range of communication modalities, age interests and the unique combinations of sensory and cognitive challenges.

Please register online at:  
[www.vcu.edu/partnership/pathways](http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/pathways)

Please fill out the attached registration form and mail with payment to:

**Betty Harrell**  
 700 East Franklin Street  
 P.O. Box 843020  
 Richmond, VA 23284-3020

For questions/more information contact:

**MD Strand:**  
 Mark Campano (804) 828-8252  
**D/HH Strand:**  
 Ann Hughes (804) 828-1342

## Conference Schedule

Wednesday August 13, 2008	
MD Strand	D/HH Strand
8:00am - Registration	
9:30 - 11:30am Opening Keynote	
12:00 - 1:00pm - Lunch	
1:15 - 3:15pm Session 1	1:15 - 3:15pm Keynote
3:15 - 3:30pm - Break	
3:30 - 5:00pm Session 2	3:30 - 5:00pm Breakout Session 2
5:00 - 6:00pm Check-In /Networking/Exhibitors	
6:00pm - Evening Social	
Thursday August 14, 2008	
8:00am - Registration	
8:30-10:00am Session 3	8:30-10:00am Session 3
10:00 - 10:15am - Break	
10:15-11:45am Session 4	10:15-11:40am Session 4
12:15 - 1:30pm - Lunch	
1:30 - 3:00pm Session 5	1:30 - 3:00pm Session 5
3:00 - 3:15pm - Break	
3:15 - 4:45pm Session 6	3:15 - 4:45pm Keynote
Friday August 15, 2008	
8:00am - Registration	
8:30 - 10:00am Session 7	
10:00 - 10:15am Break	
10:15 - 11:30am Session 8	
12:00 - 2:00pm Closing Keynote	

## Keynote Speakers

**Rachel Coleman** is the mother of Leah, who was born deaf, and Lucy, who has spina bifida and cerebral palsy. She is the co-creator of Signing Time, which teaches ASL vocabulary to children of ALL abilities in a fun and engaging way. Since the release of their first video in 2002, parents and professionals everywhere praise the Signing Time series for opening up a world of possibilities for their children, whether they are using ASL as a means to communicate with their babies before they develop speech, or learning a second language, or even for children with special needs for whom speech is a challenge. Rachel will show you how sign language can give children wings.

**Mary Koch**, Auditory Education Consultant, is nationally known for her work in communication skills development with children who are deaf and their families. She has worked at Johns Hopkins, Gallaudet University and now at Boys Town National Research Hospital, where she is developing the ACoRN project (a national model of education and intervention for children who are deaf or hard of hearing). Mary's keynote will include thoughts about the importance of language and its impact on literacy in children of all communication modalities.

**Josh Swiller**, Ph.D., author of *The Unheard: A memoir of deafness and Africa* was born hard of hearing and was profoundly deaf by age four. He attended NYC public schools, graduated from Yale, attended Gallaudet and has had a variety of jobs from slipper salesman to teacher to Peace Corps Volunteer in a rural village in Zambia. About writing he says, "Writing is something you do when the other jobs won't stick!" Josh credits his love of books and writing to his parents. As powerful a speaker as he is a writer, you're sure to be both entertained and inspired by his words.

**Jerry Petroff**, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Special Education at The College of New Jersey. Jerry is affiliated with the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University as a consultant on issues regarding families, inclusive education and personal futures planning and is a faculty advisor for Pennsylvania's Initiative for Higher Education Reform: Preparing Teachers to Teach All Students. He is actively involved in inclusive education initiatives for students with severe disabilities in the states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, West Virginia and North Carolina. He recently co-authored the text book *Assistive Technology in the Classroom: Enhancing the School Experience of Students with Disabilities*.