**DBVI MONTHLY FORUM NOTES – November 28, 2023**

**Deputy Commissioner Cato** announced new staff in the Services Division:

Gary Joyce, Business Relations Specialist, Roanoke Regional Office

Lj Bowens, Orientation and Mobility Instructor, Staunton Regional Office

Ernecia Conner, Reader Advisor, LRC

Jodie Brown, Braille Transcriber, LRC

Danny Hensley, Driver, Bristol Regional Office

One promotion:

Isaac Crisp, promoted from VR Counselor, Richmond Regional Office, to VR Specialist, Services Division

Several Services Division staff will be attending and presenting at the National Initiative for Cyber Educators Security Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, in December. DBVI has been working collaboratively with Cyber.org to present innovative STEM and cyber learning academies to our vision impaired students for the past 6 years, garnering partners like Palo Alto Networks along the way. This presentation will focus on work the DBVI students accomplished this summer with Cyber.org and Palo Alto, with an emphasis on how businesses and educators can encourage and accommodate students with disabilities for success in cyber.

**Deputy Commissioner Gaines** announced new staff in the Administration Division:

We have hired three new Security Officers who are classified staff, no longer contractors. Keith Washington is the Lead Security Officer and will be on campus during weekdays. Glen Nickens and Crystal Watkins are Security Officers on campus nights. We are still recruiting for weekend positions.

Recruiting for a Fiscal Tech, Procurement Officer and several Facilities positions.

The Governor’s Office is promoting cost saving initiatives. When creating a purchase requisition in eVA, staff must create the requisition from the State contract that is in eVA if a contract exists. DARS Procurement is onsite on a regular basis and available by phone and email if you have questions.

Utility costs are way above what has been budgeted this year. Staff are encouraged to think about ways to save/help reduce costs in this regard. Dominion is increasing rates by 50% on November 1.

**Deputy Commissioner Koch** announced new staff in the Enterprises Division:

T Shoniregun came back last month as VIB Procurement Manager in the Stone House

Teresa Kirkdoffer came back last month as Fiscal Manager in CVL

Muhammad Asif - v Supply Store Associate – Ft. Belvoir

Debbie Taylor - Production Supervisor – Charlottesville Plant

James Roberts - Contract Specialist – CMS Chester

A video was shared showing a Thanksgiving meal that was prepared and served at Fr. Gregg-Adams cafeteria that is run by one of the VIB vendors.

**Commissioner Mitchell** reminded staff to stay home if they are not feeling well and telework when sick if they are able.

**The December Forum has been cancelled.**