



**AMERICAN
PRINTING
HOUSE** ■■■

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For Immediate Release

Two APH Leaders Elected President and Secretary of AERBVI

Louisville, KY (July 25, 2022) – American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is pleased to announce Dr. Olaya Landa-Vialard, APH ConnectCenter Director, and Leanne Grillot, APH Senior Director of Outreach Services, have both been elected to the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) Board of Directors. Landa-Vialard officially became president, and Grillot, officially became secretary during the July international conference in St. Louis.

"I am so honored to be the first Latina to be leading AER as President," said Landa-Vialard. "AER has been such a huge part of my personal journey in this field so I'm looking forward to giving back to an organization that has given me so much."

Olaya has served on its board of directors since 2016 and takes over for Neva Fairchild. This is Grillot's first time serving on a national level.

"I am happy to be elected to serve our vision professional community as the secretary of AERBVI," said Grillot. "My skills with organization and being detail-oriented will assist me in providing an active conduit for communication between board members with the proper notice of meetings, prompt distribution of materials, and accurate reporting of minutes."

AER is a professional membership organization dedicated exclusively to professionals who provide services to persons with vision loss, with the goal of promoting and supporting the professions by advocating for evidence-based practices, high quality standards, value-added resources, and giving voice to issues of critical importance. AER provides professional development via conferences, virtual offerings, and publications to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and abilities of professionals within the field.

The organization also provides networking, mentoring, connectivity, awards, and scholarships for professionals to advance excellence within the field. AER's mission is to serve and empower professionals to deliver standards-based practices that lead to improved educational and rehabilitative outcomes for individuals with visual impairment and blindness.

Landa-Vialard has been with APH since 2020, and has more than 18 years of professional experience in the field of blindness and low vision. Grillot has been with APH since 2019, and has more than 30 years of professional experience.

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Prior to joining APH Landa-Vialard was a Bilingual Educational Diagnostician for Students with Low Vision and Blindness, Deafblindness, and Multiple Disabilities, an Assistant Professor at Illinois State University and a Parent Engagement Specialist with Project Reach, Illinois Deafblind Project. Grillot previously was with Florida Department of Education and was the senior director of dispute resolution and monitoring for the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education.

Landa-Vialard holds a doctorate in Special Education with an emphasis in Visual Impairments from Texas Tech University. Grillot is a doctoral candidate at Florida State University.

The American Printing House for the Blind congratulates Landa-Vialard and Grillot on their new and important roles with AERBVI.

About American Printing House for the Blind

American Printing House for the Blind is a worldwide leader in designing innovative lifelong learning solutions for children and adults who are blind or low vision. We believe in the power and necessity of learning to open the doors to educational success, satisfying employment, social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal well-being. We level the learning playing field by providing specialized technology, materials, products, and services that are essential for education and life. For more information, please visit www.aph.org.