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President's Message, Division of Visual Impairments and Deafblindness'

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President's Message

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The Pacific Northwest is truly a place of old and new magic. Panoramic views of mountains, the smell of the Pacific, and the freshness of giant sequoias fill the senses in powerful ways. Beyond the unarguable beauty of the region, the professionals who work in these diverse states bring a spirit of innovation and knowledge sharing with students who are visually impaired or deafblind. In this issue we feature some of this regional

mosaic that reflects efforts to engage, educate, and empower both students and professionals.

In addition to sharing the region's bounty, we offer some insight into DVIDB's initiative to revalidate our teacher of deafblind and interveners competencies. Using CEC's consensual validation process, we are beginning to engage strand leaders and external agency partners to systematically review competencies that guide personnel development efforts for serving students who are deafblind, connecting this work to efforts on the advocacy front to support the Cogswell-Macy Act.

This message is also bittersweet for me as it is my last as President. As I reflect on what DVIDB is building, I feel happy about our continued efforts to engage and encourage educator leaders, to celebrate the work of researchers and practitioners and to sustain knowledge and skills competencies that guide our services to students with visual impairments or deafblindness. I also take pleasure in welcoming Dr. Nicole Johnson as your President for 2020-2021. I'm thankful to have served and will continue to support Nicole and our wonderful board. In closing, I wish you a joyful New Year and hope to connect with you in our beautiful Rose City at our international convention in February!