Virginia A. Jacko - Publications and Professional Presentations

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles


Jacko, Virginia A., MS, Isabel Chica, MS, Sandra Lewis, EdD and Rebecca Shearer, PhD, “Innovative Inclusion Program for Early Learners Offered by the Miami Lighthouse Learning Center for Children™,” *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*, March-April 2021, Volume 115, Number 2

Jacko, Virginia A., MS, Carol Brady-Simmons, COMS, Nihusa Dias, MPA, Raquel Van Der Biest, OTR/L, CLVT, Alma Abdel-Moty, DrOT, MS, OTR/L, and Lynne Richard, PhD, OT/L, “Bringing Low Vision Assessments and Interventions to Underserved Seniors Affected by Age-Related Eye Disease,” *British Journal of Visual Impairment*, December 2019, Volume 38, Number 1, pp. 15-23


Jacko, Virginia, Amy McKenzie and Tatiana Palma, “Intervention through Art for Adults Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired,” *Journal of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired*, Volume 2, Number 1, Winter 2009, pp. 9-11

Book Chapters and Books


Jacko, Virginia, and Doug Eadie, *The Blind Visionary*, Governance Edge, LLC, 2010, with a foreword by José Feliciano. *The Blind Visionary* was named one of four finalists in the Motivational Category of the 2010 Next Generation Indie Book Awards

Web Accessibility and Distance Learning

Jacko, Virginia, “Publix Scores High for Online Accessibility,” interview, 17 June 2020, available at progressivegrocer.com/publix-scores-high-online-accessibility

Jacko, Virginia A., “Visually Impaired Adapt to Distance Learning,” Miami Herald, Letter to the Editor, March 29, 2020


Board Governance


Jacko, Virginia A., “I think of myself as a CEO who happens to be blind,” Miami Lighthouse CEO honored globally, Miami Herald, December 11, 2019

Other Articles


Jacko, Virginia A. and Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, “We’re giving Visually Impaired Students Lessons to Succeed, Miami Herald, Letter to the Editor, May 2, 2017

Presentations and Participation in Professional Meetings

Jacko, Virginia, panel participant, "Living Well with Low Vision" webinar, Prevent Blindness, 2022

Jacko, Virginia, President and CEO of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, a Leading National Advocate for Accessibility and Authentic Inclusion, AccessAbility Works Podcast: Episode 018, 2022

Jacko, Virginia, Educating All Learners Alliance Podcast, “Achieving ADA Compliance on a National Level,” 2021

Jacko, Virginia, Panelist on Accessible Websites and Distance Learning for the Visually Impaired, 2020 VisionServe Alliance Annual Leadership Meeting

Jacko, Virginia, Presentation to the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce regarding website accessibility for businesses, 2019

Jacko, Virginia, Ann Keil Dux, Mario Artecona and Gail Nelson, panel discussion on Corporate Social Responsibility, December 9, 2019

Jacko, Virginia, William Rivera, Robert S. Fine, Esq., AIA, Daniel F. Benavides, Esq., and Jorge Hernandez, Website Accessibility Seminar, cosponsored by Miami Lighthouse, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Greater Miami and the Beaches Hotel Association, August 8, 2018


Jacko, Virginia, MS, Alma Abdel-Moty, DrOT, MS, OTR/L, and Kinsuk Maitra, Ph.D., OTR/L “A Community and Academic Research Partnership: Serving Individuals with Vision Impairments,” presentation at the annual Florida Occupational Therapy Association meeting, November 3, 2012

Jacko, Virginia, Alma Abdel-Moty, Dr. OT, MS, OTR/L, Hector Huerta, and Tara Riley, Short Course: “A Community and Academic Partnership: Serving Individuals with Vision Impairments,” presentation at the Florida Occupational Therapy Association Conference, November 2-3, 2012, Tampa, FL


Jacko, Virginia, John Clapp, Carol-Brady-Simmons, and Hilda Flores, “Orientation and Mobility Internships at Miami Lighthouse: Building a Bridge from the University to the Practice of the Profession,” paper presented at the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired regional conference, Cleveland, Ohio, November 13-15, 2009


Virginia A. Jacko - Highlights and Awards

2023 Invited Keynote Speaker, Purdue Women’s Conference, June 8, 2023


2021 Quoted in “Mastercard Introduces Accessible Card Design for Blind Users,” Wall Street Journal, October 26

2021 Featured in Purdue University News, “Purdue College of Health and Human Sciences alumna Virginia Jacko exemplifies blindness isn’t a barrier,” September 30

2020 PRWeek national media Award for Best in the Nonprofit Category

2019 Henry Viscardi Distinguished International Achievement Award that recognizes extraordinary leaders with disabilities
2019 South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Women's Society Network Advocacy Award
2019 Dr. Ramiro Collazo Outstanding Service Award, Miami Cuban Lions Club
2018 Plaza Health Network Foundation Women of Distinction and Caring
2018 Harvard Business School Executive Education Program “Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management” Certificate of Completion
2018 Lions International 2018 100th Anniversary President’s Leadership Award
2017 Dr. George L. Spelios 2017 Florida Leadership Award, The Able Trust
2017 South Florida Business and Wealth Apogee Award Miami CEO of the Year
2017 Miami Herald Indulge, November 2017 “Miami Movers” Visionary Leader
2017 American Cancer Society Inner Circle of 12 Honoree
2017 Miami Lighthouse recognized by Miami New Times as “Best of Miami” 2017 Charity.
2017 Comcast Newsmaker of the Week Interview
2016 Lions Clubs International Foundation Melvin Jones Fellowship Award for dedication to Humanitarian Services
2016 Miami Lighthouse Early Intervention Blind Babies Program named Children’s Program of the Year by The Children’s Trust
2016 Division of Blind Services 75th Anniversary, “Successful 75” Award in recognition of accomplishments as former DBS vision rehabilitation client at Miami Lighthouse
2016 Fifty Shades of Pink Women’s Breast Health Initiative, Miami Women Who Rock Award Recipient
2016 South Florida Business Journal Influential Business Women
2016 Miami Lighthouse recipient of Silver Medal in Miami Today’s Gold Medal Awards
2015 Miami Lighthouse recognized as an organization, whose work is distinguished by leadership, innovation and achievement in community health in Florida at the Florida Blue Foundation’s Sapphire Awards luncheon
2015 Beacon Council Award in the education service category
2014 Molina Health Care Community Champion Award
2014 AXA Advisors Businesswoman of the Year, Public Service/Non-Profit Professional category
2013 One of ten distinguished alums honored by Purdue University as an “Old Master”
2013 Most Valuable Non-Profit Award, Switchboard of Miami
2013 Special Recognition Award for Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Dade Counseling Association & Division of Student Services.
2013 Junior League of Miami “Women Who Make a Difference” Honoree
2012 Claude Pepper Memorial Award: Thelma Gibson Community Service Award
2012 Florida Women of Achievement Honoree
2012 Named Distinguished Alumni by the College of Health and Human Sciences and the HHS Alumni Association, Purdue University
2012 Featured in “Best of Committed Nonprofit Leaders Achieve Tangible Results,” Best of Miami Section, Miami Today, week of Thursday, May 31, 2012
2011 Florida Heiken Children’s Vision Program selected as winner of the South Florida Business Journal’s Excellence in Healthcare Award in the community outreach and service to the poor and uninsured category
2011 Comcast Newsmaker of the Week Interview
2010 Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Business Diamond Award
2009 Finalist, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce Health Care Heroes Award in the category of Community, Government and Organizational Collaborations
2009 Women of Leadership Award, South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
2008 Health Foundation of South Florida Concern Award
2008 AXA Advisory Business Woman of the Year, Public Service/Non-Profit category
2008 Quiet Storm Achiever Award, Women’s Power Caucus, Not-for-Profit category
2007 South Florida Business Journal Woman of the Year in the Non-Profit Leader Category
2007 Comcast Newsmaker of the Week interview
2006 American Red Cross Sarah Hopkins Woodruff Spectrum Award
2006 Horizon Award, Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLN)
2005 Apollo Award Recipient, “In recognition of extraordinary commitment and devotion to Guiding Eyes for the Blind and guide dog users everywhere,” Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Inc., Yorktown Heights, NY
2005 Featured Newsmaker, Miami Today, September 8, 2005
Virginia A. Jacko - Professional and Community Organizations

Educating All Learners Alliance (an initiative of the National Center for Learning Disabilities)
The Miami Foundation Community Advisory Council
Miami-Dade County Health Equity Special Needs Advisory Committee
Henry Viscardi International Achievement Award Selection Committee 2020, 2021 (during which time the committee was co-chaired by former Senator Robert Dole) and 2022 Charity Navigator Nonprofit Advisor Florida Council on Aging VisionServe Alliance Ex officio Trustee of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH); APH Legislative Advocate for Federal Funding of Classroom Materials