

Joan Billger Burleigh, Ph.D. CEO and Co-Founder

Dr. Burleigh's thirty-year career in the field of audiology has focused on teaching, research and administration in areas of clinical audiology, pediatric audiology, and central auditory processing disorders in children and adults. She has served as a clinical audiologist, researcher, director of two Auditory Centers, educator, national speaker, entrepreneur, author, and inventor. Until her retirement in 2005, she served as a Senior Research Scientist and Scholar in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Director of the Center for Central Auditory Research at Colorado State University.

She has been involved in the field of Central Auditory Processing Disorders since 1974, researching areas such as behavioral manifestations, evaluation procedures and management for children and adults with central auditory nervous system dysfunction. She currently is the principal investigator in research studying central auditory nervous system function as it relates to human performance. She is the primary inventor of patented technology for identifying and managing central auditory nervous system dysfunction, and co-inventor of the Able Planet, Inc. LINX™ technology. Both inventions have received numerous international and national design and engineering awards.

Dr. Burleigh is the author or co-author of more than 150 professional articles and invited workshops or presentations on hearing disorders and central auditory processing disorders in North America. With over 30 years of applied research she is a recognized expert in this field. She is the co-author of Handbook of Central Auditory Processing Diagnoses in Children. She has also authored or co-authored invited chapters in textbooks, including Central Auditory Processing Disorders in Sensory Integration: Theory and Practice, (2002). Dr. Burleigh has authored or co-authored tests for central auditory nervous system function including the Ipsilateral-Contralateral Competing Sentences Test.

She has volunteered hundreds of hours in working with children and adults with disabilities. She has equally spent hundreds of hours educating the general population on hearing loss and Central Auditory Processing Disorders, as well as her peers globally. Dr. Burleigh is a member of the American Speech and Hearing Association

In recognition of Dr. Burleigh's contributions and achievements on behalf of humanity, Dr. Burleigh was awarded the highly prestigious General Grand Chapter Distinguished Service Gold Medal in 1996, the only non-Mason ever to receive this honor in the history of this two hundred year old organization. She joins an incredible membership of award winners such as: James Cash Penney, President Gerald R. Ford, Senator Barry M. Goldwater, and Senator Sam Nunn.

Dr. Burleigh is listed in numerous Who's Who nationally. She is also the associate producer of an award winning documentary film, "Silent World, Lonely World."

Dr. Burleigh serves as Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of the Able Kids Foundation, a research-based, solutions-oriented nonprofit that partners with local, national, and international organizations, eliminating barriers and expanding opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tulsa, in 1971, majoring in speech pathology and audiology. Dr. Burleigh obtained her Masters of Arts degree in audiology from Northwestern University, in 1973, and her Doctor of Philosophy in special needs from Colorado State University in 1996.