**NABS Notes**

**April 2014**

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N**ABS Update**

As the semester is finishing, we are preparing for national convention. The NABS annual meeting will take place on July 2nd. Registration begins at 6:15 pm, and the meeting begins promptly at 7:00pm. If you have any ideas of topics or presentations you would like to see, let Sean Whalen know at nabs.president@gmail.com. We will have more details on everything NABS will be doing and how you can get involved at national convention very soon. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

**NABS On Social Media**

Do you want to stay connected with us on our social media outlets? Be sure to follow us on twitter and friend us on facebook.

[www.twitter.com/nabslink](http://www.twitter.com/nabslink)

[www.facebook.com/nabslink](http://www.facebook.com/nabslink)

You can also check out our website at

www.nabslink.org

**State Announcements**

Note: All announcements are printed below as they were received from their senders. No effort to edit for content, grammar or clarity has been made on the part of NABS.

Colorado

This past weekend (April 10-13) Colorado hosted the 2nd annual South Western Student Seminar at our Colorado Center for the Blind. Thirty students were in attendance from eight states. The seminar was an extreme success and involved numerous presentations on various STEM related topics, tours of the Center, an inside look in to a day in the life of a center student, and panels featuring the topics of working with Voc Rehab, and building a thriving student division. Dr. and Mrs. Maurer were also in attendance and provided their insights in to what it takes to become an outstanding student leader. While the seminar was an exciting time for learning, it culminated at a bowling alley where competition was fierce. We sincerely thank all those in attendance and those who helped to make it a success and would love for another student division to follow in our foot-steps and make the seminar even better next year

North Carolina

From July 27th to August 2nd, 2014, the North Carolina Association of

 Blind Students and Governor Morehead School Alumni Association will

 host its 6th annual summer transition camp for visually impaired youth

 and young adults. They will came to Raleigh, NC to participate in the

 Envisioning Youth Empowerment Retreat.

 The goal of the EYE retreat is to teach visually impaired youth the

 academic and social skills they will need to make successful

 transitions from High School to College, by offering 5 days of

 intensive training. "Group Leaders" for the retreat are visually

 impaired college students or recent graduates.

 The EYE Retreat programming is based on validated research about which

 skills and experiences facilitate a successful transition. The week

 includes "mock" college classes, information on college services,

 visits to local employers, technology training, community involvement,

 and the opportunity to experience accessible sports.

 Tenth Grader Lauren Siegel from Raleigh says, "In addition to the

 university and state agency resources shared during the scheduled

 activities, we introduced each other to things like energy drinks,

 chicken wings, premier blindness rehabilitation centers, and consumer

 advocacy organizations…The EYE retreat has helped me become more

 comfortable about modifications, using assistive technology, and

 advocating for myself, and has made me more comfortable about my

 disability in general."

 For more information, contact Alan Chase, EYE Retreat Coordinator at

aachase1@gmail.com or visit www.eyeretreat.org or

www.twitter.com/eyeretreat.

 Online application at: [www.goo.gl/PjhDs](http://www.goo.gl/PjhDs)

Oklahoma

At the 2014, OABS (Oklahoma Association of Blind Students) business meeting held at the NFB of Oklahoma state convention in April. We held elections for all board positions. The new OABS board is as fallowed: Cammie Loehr, President

Brooke Anderson, Vice President

Eric Holland, Secretary

Callie Chappell, Treasurer

At the conclusion of board election we voted to have monthly conference calls. We also scheduled are first conference call in order to make amendments to our constitution. We proceed to use the rest of are meeting to strategies different ways we could grow the division throughout the coming year. I am excited to report that OABS is firmly here, we have a vision for Oklahoma and am ready to start making our vision a reality.

Texas

The Texas Association of Blind Students and the Texas Parents of Blind Children hosted the fourth annual NFBT Youth Conference the weekend of April 4 through April 6, 2014 in Houston Texas! TABS was proud to welcome members of the NFB of Georgia and the GEMS Mentoring Program this year, in addition, Pam and Roland Allen and Eric and Krystal Guillory joined us representing the national office and the Louisiana Center for the blind respectively. Attendance records were shattered for the second year in a row, with over 100 students, parents, and related professionals in attendance. The weekend was fun, informational, interactive, and inspiring. Student, parent, and community leaders shared with us their personal stories, advice for secondary and post-secondary success, and who challenged us to strive to truly change what it means to be blind. TABS was also proud to host a Bone Marrow Drive in support of our friend and fellow TABS Board Member, Harley Fetterman, who currently is in need of a donor.

All in all the weekend was a memorable one; the Texas student division is poised to do it bigger and better in 2015, and we invite students across the country to come experience good southern hospitality next year!