

# **Blindness: Learning In New Dimensions (BLIND), Inc.**

**Post-secondary Readiness Empowerment Program (PREP) 2018**

**Learning+Recreation+Friends+Job=A Great Summer**

Apply today to PREP 2018, a summer program for all blind/low vision high school students!

**When:** June 16, 2018-August 11, 2018!

**Where:** BLIND, Inc.: 100 East 22nd St., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55404.

**Application Deadline:** March 30, 2018.



Photo: Male student unloading a box.



Photo: Female student slating braille.

**What:** This exciting 8-week summer program is designed to prepare students to reach their personal, academic, and professional goals as they transition to adulthood. The PREP curriculum empowers blind youth as they learn the alternative techniques of blindness and develop the self-confidence needed to become successful adults!

**Instruction:** The core classes include Braille reading and writing, independent cane travel, adaptive technology, career exploration, and home management, which includes cooking, cleaning, personal care, and daily living skills. Students also participate in regularly-scheduled discussion groups designed to build confidence and learn from blind peers and adults. PREP students live with fellow students and adult counselors in modern apartments with free wifi. Counselors and instructors serve as successful and positive role models. Students shop for groceries, prepare meals, and clean their apartments as part of their home and personal management training, while using public transportation on a daily basis. They begin to learn how to live independently while still in a supportive environment. Students develop problem-solving skills needed to take care of themselves and determine their own future!

**Getting A Job:** This program includes a three-week paid internship experience. Students will utilize the skills they have developed while earning minimum wage, working approximately 20 hours per week in local businesses and agencies.



Photo: Female student riding an alpine slide.

**National Convention:** In July, PREP 2018 students will enjoy the exciting opportunity to accompanying BLIND, Inc., staff and adult students as we travel to Orlando, Florida to attend the week-long National Federation of the Blind convention. During this convention, our PREP students will join hundreds of other high school and college students from around the country when attending the National Association of Blind Students meeting. Students will also attend other meetings and seminars, learn about new ground-breaking technology, and get involved in social and recreational activities. This annual convention is packed full of great learning opportunities and fun experiences.

**Other Activities:** Throughout the summer, the PREP students will also participate in a variety of fun activities, including going to Wild Mountain Water Park, camping, rock climbing, shopping at various malls, and much more. Don't worry; there will be plenty of time to hang out with old and new friends!

Contact Michell Gip, Youth Services Coordinator, at 612-872-0100, Ext. 231, or [mgip@blindinc.org](mailto:mgip@blindinc.org) for more information or an application. We can assist you to work with your local vocational rehabilitation agency to attend the program.

**Apply today to ensure your space in this program! Applications are due March 30, 2018. Applications received after this date will be on a first come first serve basis.**