

Warm Greetings from BLIND, Incorporated



It is once again time to start making plans for your summer. This year the PREP, **P**ost-secondary **R**eadiness **E**mpowerment **P**rogram, our eight-week program for blind high school students, will run from June 9 to August 1, 2014.

This exciting summer program is for blind high school students and is designed to prepare them for academic, employment, and social success. The PREP curriculum is designed to empower blind youth with the alternative techniques of blindness they will need to be successful in the college and the career fields they choose, and to give them the confidence and belief in themselves they need to find and keep a job.



The core classes include Braille reading and writing, independent cane travel, adaptive technology, Career Exploration, and home/dormitory management as well as daily seminars where they have the opportunity to discuss various issues related to blindness and develop positive attitudes about themselves as blind people.

PREP students live in apartments with fellow students and adult counselors. These 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 in career exploration they learn about note taking, accessible accommodations, and disability services on college campuses. They begin to learn how to live independently while still in a supportive environment. They develop problem-solving skills and come to realize that they will be able to take care of themselves and take responsibility for their own futures.



This program is based on a positive view of blindness, that if blind people are given proper training and opportunity, they can be successful in education, find meaningful employment, and live full and productive lives.



Traveling to Orlando Florida

In 2014, PREP students will enjoy the exciting opportunity of accompanying BLIND, Incorporated staff and adult students when we travel to Orlando, Florida to attend the weeklong national convention of the National Federation of the Blind, the largest annual gathering of blind teenagers and adults in the world. 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 seminar and participate in other meetings and seminars and learn about new ground-breaking technology. This annual convention is packed full of fun and great learning opportunities and experiences.



Throughout the summer the PREP students will also participate in a variety of fun activities from Wild Mountain Water Park and camping, to rock climbing, and shopping at the Mall of America.

For more information or to complete an application, you can visit our website at www.blindinc.org or call 612-872-0100 (ext. 251), or toll free 800-597-9558, or e-mail cguggisberg@blindinc.org

Sincerely,

Charlene Guggisberg

Coordinator for Youth and Special programs

