# **NABS Notes: October 2018**

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## **President’s Note**

As the weather decreases and flu season approaches all too quickly, the fall Convention time is coming and going with so many memories to cherish. The NABS Board traveled across the country welcoming new students into our family. During conventions, we focus on embracing new and young talent, while praising and appreciating our current members. As we reflect on leadership and commitment, I can’t stress the importance of self care enough. Whether that means taking a step back from priorities to focus on yourself, or taking a night off to read a book, make you the priority for once. All too often, we focus on others and neglect our needs. I encourage you to find you time amidst our busy lives. Mental health is essential to creating a happy and fruitful future, so, as Nike says, just do it!

## **Washington Seminar Funding Application is Live!**

NABS, with the support of President Riccobono, is launching the third annual Washington Seminar Funding Program! We need the student voice louder than ever at the 2019 Washington Seminar! If classes are a concern, talk to your professors beforehand. Tell them you will share your experience with the class in the form of writing or as a presentation. I encourage you to do whatever it takes to participate in this incredible opportunity. Your leadership skills will stretch more than anything during these days spent in DC! To apply for financial assistance, visit:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScy9KzkQGSNvmSBSSPdCobgPxtitBaR3NIax2zXhOWpv28OPA/viewform>

Applications close on Sunday, November 25! Don’t wait until then to apply!

## **New Resource – NABS Phone Number**

Our leadership wants to provide an outlet for students to voice concerns, seek advice, and learn about resources you may otherwise not be familiar with. With that, we launched our very own NABS phone number, where a NABS leader is on call to speak with blind students across the country. Please call 410-417-8360.

## **Follow NABS on Instagram**

NABS has an Insta account now, so follow us @NABSLink!

## K-12 and Higher Ed Technology Survey

The NFB is gathering information regarding the accessibility of educational technology used in our nation’s schools, kindergarten through graduate level. If you are a student, parent, teacher, or administrator who uses screen access software or other accommodations to participate non-visually in educational programs or services, or if you are the parent, teacher, or administrator of someone who does, please complete this survey once a semester: <https://nfb.org/edtechsurvey>.

## 2019 AAPD Summer Internship Program

Deadline to Apply: November 5, 2018 by 5pm Eastern Time

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is a convener, connector, and catalyst for change, increasing the political and economic power of people with disabilities.

Since 2002, the AAPD Summer Internship Program has developed the next generation of leaders with disabilities and offered host employers access to a talented, diverse workforce. Each summer, AAPD places college students, graduate students, law students, and recent graduates with all types of disabilities in summer internships with Congressional offices, federal agencies, non-profits, and for-profit organizations in the Washington, DC area. Each intern is matched with a mentor who will assist them with their career goals. AAPD provides the interns with a living stipend, transportation to and from Washington, DC, and fully-accessible housing.

At the beginning of the summer, interns participate in a 1-week orientation session to learn about AAPD and the disability rights movement, meet the other interns, and participate in a variety of engaging workshops and events. As part of the AAPD network, interns also receive opportunities to attend events on Capitol Hill, conferences, community events, briefings, and more.

Any undergraduate student, law student, graduate student, or recent graduate from a US college or university who self-identifies as an individual with any type of disability is invited to apply.

Apply today:

<https://www.aapd.com/summer-internship-program/>

## President Trump Signs Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act

President Trump signed the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act on October 10, 2018. The act makes modest changes to copyright law that will bring the United States into compliance with the terms of the Marrakesh Treaty. The United States House of Representatives passed the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act (S. 2559) at the end of September and the Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of the treaty and passed the implementing legislation on June 28.

Upon passage by the House of Representatives Mark Riccobono said, “For almost a decade now, the National Federation of the Blind, our partners, and other advocates have worked to bring the Marrakesh Treaty into being and into force. We are closer than ever to the day when blind Americans will have greater access to the world's knowledge, in many of its original languages, than we have ever had in human history."

We now urge the State Department to deposit the instrument of ratification with the World Intellectual Property Organization as soon as practicable.

To learn more about the Marrakesh Treaty, please check out the following blog post from Scott LaBar: <https://nfb.org/blog/article/3737>

## Math Usability Study

McGraw-Hill Education has been working on accessibility for a math software program called ALEKS and would like to gather feedback from college students or recent college graduates regarding the usability of the program. Specifically, McGraw-Hill is looking at the usability of its online graphing tools.

If you qualify for the study, here's what to expect.

Time Commitment: 1 hour

Date Options: November 12 through November 16, 2018

Offered Hours: 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern Time

Incentive: $100 Amazon gift card. The gift card will be emailed to you after you complete the feedback session.

If you are interested, please contact Stacie Dubnow at (410) 659-9314, Ext. 2442 or sdubnow@nfb.org<mailto:sdubnow@nfb.org and she will forward your contact information to McGraw-Hill Education.

## Paid Accessibility Testing

AnswerLab, a user experience research (UX) firm, is looking for blind and visually impaired people to do paid in-person accessibility testing for products like the Google suite, as well as popular websites. We are looking for testers across the entire spectrum of visual impairment, ranging from people who use only built-in Zoom on the computer, to those who are totally blind.

If you live in New York state (especially NYC), New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, or Massachusetts and want to be considered for paid accessibility testing, please fill out this quick survey at <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4589757/Sign-Up-for-Answer-Lab-User-Testing-Registry> and you will be contacted about specific studies later this year. We will keep your contact information confidential. Once you sign up for the database, you will be free to accept or decline invitations to participate in future studies depending on your preferences.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Arielle@disabilitywisdom.com.

## NABS Committee Updates

### Get involved!

* Legislative Advocacy Committee

When: third Sunday of the month | 8pm eastern

Chair: Justin Salisbury (president@alumni.ecu.edu)

We are launching our Student Advocate Program, as well as planning for Washington Seminar festivities. We need your voice with us in DC, so reach out and learn more!

* Fundraising Committee

When: Second and fourth Sunday of the month | 8pm eastern

Chair: Kathryn Webster (nabs.president@gmail.com)

Get ready for Giving Tuesday! Share our Text-to-Give phone number far and wide: anyone can text blindstudents to 855-202-2100 to donate! Help us help you!

* Outreach Committee

When: first Monday of the month | 9pm eastern

Chair: Janae Burgmeier (Janae.burgmeier@gmail.com)

Web Master: Dustin Cather (cather.dustin@gmail.com)

The outreach committee has been working to strengthen our pre-existing projects and adding a few new ones as well. The outreach committee prepares social media posts, blog entries, and NABS notes content. We will also be releasing a podcast called NABS Now. October's theme was meet the blind month. We heard from several speakers regarding how to get local communities involved in Meet the Blind month activities, as well as what living the lives they want means to them. To offer suggestions or get involved, please contact the outreach chair, Janae Burgmeier.

## NABS Facebook Group

Join our Facebook group by visiting:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/173482726798026>

The National Association of blind Students

A proud division of the National Federation of the Blind

Nfbstudents.org

(410) 417-8360