**BLINDNESS: Learning In New Dimensions (BLIND) Inc.**

**Cane Travel Instructor Job Posting**

For 30 years, Blindness: Learning In New Dimensions (BLIND, Inc.) has provided small group instruction in the alternative techniques of blindness. Our programs are based on a positive attitude toward blindness and a belief in the normality and competency of blind people. We know that with proper training and opportunity, blind people can live full, happy, and successful lives. We work hard to create an environment that promotes active learning and collegiality where adult students can empower themselves and exceed their expectations. We are one of three training centers rooted in the philosophy of the National Federation of the Blind, and are located just blocks south of downtown Minneapolis.

Successful applicants will be skilled in teaching and versed in the skills of cane travel, sometimes referred to as orientation and mobility, should believe in the capabilities of blind people. Successful applicants should be passionate about teaching, excited by new challenges, and interested in working as part of a small but energetic team.

Instructors undergo staff training in order to ensure that they are fully competent to teach in their subject areas, understand the experiences of students in training, and build a solid foundation in the beliefs of blind people. Therefore, we are willing to work with sighted applicants who have a solid background in specific areas, and are willing to learn and practice nonvisual skills using a blindfold. Please read on to see what fields are preferred.

Both staff and student instruction are performed non-visually, with students who have any degree of remaining sight wearing blindfolds (sleepshades).

**Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Provide individualized instruction in nonvisual alternative techniques to blind adults in all areas of cane travel using the Structured Discovery approach, including but not limited to:
* Basic cane travel techniques indoors and outdoors
* Analyzing and crossing streets
* Mental mapping and route planning
* Use of GPS and Smartphone applications
* Use of other mobility devices such as support canes and wheelchairs
* Travel in all weather conditions
1. Develop individualized lesson plans while working within the curriculum, and update it as needed.
2. Maintain daily attendance records and write comprehensive monthly reports on each student describing progress made and goals for the next month.
3. Participate and assist in all center confidence building activities, including white water rafting, dogsledding, camping and other challenge recreation activities. Some activities are off-site and require overnight travel.
4. Promote the organization's progressive philosophy of blindness and positive attitudes to students, co-workers and others, and provide support and guidance to students throughout their program.
5. Serve as a representative at community events as assigned by management.
6. Other duties as assigned.

**Requirements**

* Advanced skills in the area of cane travel using the Structured Discovery model
* Willingness to undergo and successfully complete a period of paid staff blindfold training in order to learn or further develop alternative skills of blindness
* Ability to plan, organize and develop lessons
* Effective written and verbal communication skills and ability to work as part of a team
* Be proficient in the use of Microsoft Office and Google Suites
* Ability to work with a variety of students, including those with multiple disabilities, ethnic background, or negative attitude

**Preferred Qualifications**

* National Orientation and Mobility Certification (NOMC) holder, or within 3 months of sitting for certification
* Experience working with the blind in an instructional setting using the structure discovery teaching model, or
* College degree – Preference to candidates with field of study in a field of blindness

**Position Benefits**

* Medical benefits
* Employer-contributed 403B retirement program
* Greater Minneapolis monthly transit pass
* paid attendance (including transportation, lodging and stipend) at National Federation of the Blind, state and/or national conventions
* Paid holiday leave totaling 19 days annually on average
* Accrued additional paid leave based on hours worked

Interested applicants should submit a resume, cover letter, and contact information for 3 professional references, to Jennifer Kennedy, Executive Director, at jkennedy@blindinc.org. We are looking to interview candidates before the end of 2020. Please be sure to include all materials as incomplete applications will not be considered.

Contact Jennifer Kennedy via email at jkennedy@blindinc.org, or at 612-872-0100 with any questions regarding this position.