

Texas Association of Blind Students



And

Texas Parents of Blind Children



Proud Divisions of the National Federation of the  
Blind of Texas

April 10-11, 2015

**DRIVE: Dream the Real Independent Vision for  
Excellence!**

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams. You can live the life you want; blindness is not what holds you back.

## HOST SITE

Holiday Inn Austin Midtown Hotel  
6000 Middle Fiskville Road  
Austin, TX 78752  
(512) 451-5757

## REGISTRATION

Conference preregistration will be available through April 5 at: <https://www.nfbtx.org/tabs/-nfbt-youth-conference-registration>.

The conference registration fee is \$50 and must be paid by check, cash, or credit card upon arrival on Friday, April 10. DARS purchase orders for preregistration fees must be received at our office no later than Monday, April 6, 2015. In order to receive the group rates for the hotel, you must register with the Conference. Registration will be open at the following times:

- Friday, April 10th, 1:00 to 5:30 PM
- Saturday, April 11th, 7:45 to 8:45 AM

Participants who preregistered can pick up conference materials including your Conference Badge which is your all-

access pass to convention sessions, activities, and meals. We will strictly adhere to the schedule so registration volunteers can attend all meetings on time. Registering with the conference:

- Adds you to the TABS and/or TPOBC network that is advocating for those who are blind to live the life they want.
- Automatically includes you in the door prize drawings that will occur periodically throughout our sessions and luncheon. You must be present in the room when your name is called in order to win.
- Includes all conference meals including the NFBT Youth Conference business luncheon.
- Gives you access to all conference activities and functions.

### TWEET ABOUT THE CONFERENCE!

Include the hashtag #NFBTYC15 and your tweet just might be read to the conference during sessions.

Don't forget to follow [TABS](#) and the [NFB of Texas](#) for real-time updates from the conference floor.

### ATTENTION TRAINING CENTER GRADUATES

During the morning session Saturday, a special presentation will require your assistance. If you have graduated an adjustment to blindness training center such as Blindness: Learning in New Dimensions, the Colorado Center for the Blind,

or the Louisiana Center for the Blind please bring your freedom bell with you to the session.

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

### PREMIER

#### [NFB Newslines](#)<sup>®</sup> Texas: GOOD NEWS!

Now, using [NFB-NEWSLINE](#)<sup>®</sup>, the blind and the print-disabled have unprecedented access to hundreds of newspapers and magazines for FREE, just by picking up a phone or by visiting a secure website. Using this innovative service, people who would otherwise not be able to read a newspaper can access, at any time and any place, the same essential and entertaining news that their neighbors, classmates, and colleagues enjoy. Subscribers to NFB-NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup> have unlimited access to over 300 newspapers and magazines (some of which are Spanish-language). Subscribers have many choices when accessing the news. They can have their favorite publications downloaded onto a digital talking-book player or other MP3-playing device. They may also choose to visit [www.nfbnewslineonline.org](http://www.nfbnewslineonline.org) and read text-only versions of the publication on a secure website, or to listen to streamed content on their computer.

Additionally, NFB-NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup> subscribers have access to their local TV listings, and can listen to information about statewide agencies and organizations. To be eligible, you must be legally blind or have a physical or a learning disability that prevents you from reading the paper independently. Your eligibility is

not dependent on, or restricted to, affiliation with any particular consumer or support organization; the only thing that matters is that you cannot read the newspaper. If you are signed up for the [National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped](#), you already qualify for NFB-NEWSLINE®! To learn more about, or sign up for NFB-NEWSLINE®, please contact Steve Tompkins by phone at 512-323-5444 or by e-mail at [stompkins@nfbtx.org](mailto:stompkins@nfbtx.org). Learn more about NFB-NEWSLINE® by visiting [www.nfbnewsline.org](http://www.nfbnewsline.org).

## EQUALITY

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J.J. Meddaugh: [support@atguys.com](mailto:support@atguys.com)

321 S Kalamazoo Mall, Ste 211, Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
269-216-4798

## WELCOME RECEPTION

On Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:45 PM TABS and TPOBC welcome you with southern hospitality in the Elm Room. Join us to mix and mingle with conference attendees and enjoy a complimentary dinner courtesy of the NFB of Texas.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

# **DRIVE: Dream the Real Independent Vision for Excellence!**

Friday, April 10

1:00-5:30 PM The Blind Ignition! Conference Preregistration  
Check In and On-Site Registration  
Hill Country A & B Foyer

5:30-6:45 PM The Food DRIVE: TABS & TPOBC Welcome  
Reception  
Elm Room

7:00-8:00 pm Meeting at the starting line! 2015 TABS Open  
Board Meeting  
Hill Country B  
Gabe Cazares; President, TABS  
Kim Cunningham; President, TPOBC

8:00 PM We Game to Drive: Family Game Night Sponsored by  
64 Ounce Games  
[www.64ouncegames.com](http://www.64ouncegames.com)  
Elm/Magnolia/Oak/Pecan/Sycamore

Join us for a night of family friendly competition and team building. Various table-top games will be available for you

to enjoy, challenge a group of friends, or come make new ones.

Saturday, April 11

7:30-8:45 AM The Food DRIVE #2: Breakfast  
Hospitality Suite RM 920

Fuel up for the day, and help us avoid traffic jams! (Due to limited space, please pick up your breakfast from the hospitality suite and take it to-go.)

7:45-8:45 AM Registration  
Hill Country A & B Foyer

General Session

Hill Country B

9:00 AM We Dream to Drive!  
Gabe Cazares; President, TABS  
Kim Cunningham; President, TPOBC  
Norma Crosby; President, NFB of Texas

9:20 AM Steering the Advocacy Route: On Finding the  
Federation, Law School, and Drafting Policy  
Derek Manners; Board Member, National Association of  
Blind Students, 2L, Harvard Law School

9:35 AM Steering the Sunset Wheel: Dreaming up new ideas  
for rehabilitation in Texas NFBT  
Mentoring Program Pair: Gabe Cazares; President, TABS &  
Harley Fetterman; Board Member I, TABS

9:45 AM NFB Drives for Access in Higher Education!  
Bre Brown; Secretary, TABS  
Junior, Texas State University

Candice Chapman; Treasurer, National Association of  
Blind Students, Graduate Student, the University of  
Minnesota

9:55 AM Steering Innovation through Research: The  
Intersection of Blindness and Mathematics  
Nell Wackwitz, Doctoral Teaching Assistant  
Department of Mathematics, Texas State University

10:00 AM Driving Literacy: The Real Rob Lowe Reads Newslines  
NFBT Mentoring Program Students: Harley Fetterman &  
Salvador Villa

10:05 AM Hands on the Wheel: The Opportunities Blindness  
Rehabilitation Offers Kevin  
Markel, Transition Coordinator  
Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services  
Ted Doezema, Assistant Principal



John Rose, TVI Special Projects  
Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Eric Guillory, Director of Youth Service  
Louisiana Center for the Blind

10:25 AM Taking the Wheel: On the Rehabilitation Road  
Moderators: Salvador Villa & Merlynn Hileman  
High School Students

Kathryn Hurd; Current Student, Criss Cole Rehabilitation  
Center

Jillian Dagle; Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center Graduate  
2012, Senior, Stephen F. Austin State University

Kayla Sturgill; Current Student, Louisiana Center for the  
Blind

Kayleigh Joiner; Louisiana Center for the Blind graduate  
2010, Second Vice President, TABS, Senior, Stephen F.  
Austin State University

10:40 AM Drive it Home: A Rock & Roll Reminder! Daniel  
Martinez; First Vice President, TABS

10:45 AM NFB-Newsline® is Driving Innovation: About our new  
programs just for you! NFB-Newsline® @ School & Work  
Steve Tompkins; Coordinator, NFB-Newsline® Texas

10:55 AM Driving CHANGE: A Word from the Mentoring Program-Connections Helping Another Navigate and Gain Excellence

Kevan Pulis; Protégé, NFBT Mentoring Program, Northwest Vista College

Merlyn Hileman; Protégé, NFBT Mentoring Program, McNeil High School

Jeanine Lineback & Nevzat Adil; Mentors, NFBT Mentoring Program

11:05 AM Taking the Driver Seat at Work: Driving the Working Route

J. J. Meddaugh; CEO, A T Guys, LLC

11:15 AM Drive to Work: the Search, the Beginning, and the Goal!

Kimberly Flores; Research Assistant, Institute for Health Policy, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

11:25 AM CREWSing to Work: Resources to Support Your Educational and Vocational Goals

Ruben Garcia; Manager, Automated Student and Adult Learner Follow-Up, Labor Market and Career Information, Texas Workforce Commission

11:40 AM Steering the Literacy Wheel: How Bookshare is  
Leading the Way  
Marlene Limon & Matt Sauthoff, Outreach Coordinators,  
Accessible Books for Texas

11:50 AM Announcements & Adjournment

12:15-1:15 PM NFBT Youth Conference Lunch & Learn  
Elm Room

Master of Ceremonies: Gabe Cazares; President, Texas  
Association of Blind Students, Senior, Texas State  
University

Recognizing our Partners: Larry Temple; Executive  
Director, Texas Workforce Commission

Keynote: James Brown; Board Member, National  
Federation of the Blind & President, NFB of Tennessee

Lunch will be provided and is included in the conference  
fee. Please be sure to have your conference badge in  
order to receive a meal.

1:45-5:00 PM Afternoon TABS and TPOBC breakout sessions &  
The 2015 NFBT Youth Conference Braille Carnival

1:45-2:45 PM TPOBC: Acquiring the Necessary Tools to Help  
Our Kids to be Drivers in Life

## Learning Center

1:45-2:45 PM TABS: Driving Reality, Helping You Get the Tools You Need to Succeed  
Magnolia/Oak/Pecan/Sycamore Rooms

3:00-5:00 PM the 2015 NFBT Youth Conference Braille Carnival  
Hill Country A

Get ready to put the pedal to the metal! This fast-pace activity will feature fun games for all ages, interactive technology demonstrations, stations emphasizing the importance of choosing a college major, finding an internship, and landing that first job. Prizes will be awarded, so you won't want to miss it!

6:00-10:00 PM Driving Fun for Blindness: Blind Bowlers Out on the Town

Shuttles to the bowling alley will leave promptly at 6:15 PM. Please have your conference badge with you. You will not be able to board the bus without it. Limit 55, first come, first served.

Thank You

In order to organize an event of this magnitude, it takes the time, energy, creativity, and commitment of many dedicated individuals. Thank you for your time, hard work, and dedication

to the Federation and blind Texans. This conference would not be possible without your contributions and talents.