# Texas Association of Blind Students

# And Texas Parents of Blind Children

# 

# Proud Divisions of the National Federation of the Blind of Texas April 08-09, 2016

**LIVE!!!**

**Loving Independence & Valuing Excellence**

Best Western Dallas Hotel

8051 Lyndon B Johnson Freeway

Dallas, TX 75251   
(972) 680-3000

## REGISTRATION

Conference registration will be open at the following times:

• Friday, April 08, 12:00 to 6:00 PM

• Saturday, April 09, 7:30 to 8:45 AM

Participants who preregistered can pick up conference materials at the registration table, in ballroom foyer. We will strictly adhere to the schedule in order for registration volunteers to attend all meetings on time. Registering with the conference:

* Adds you to the TABS and/or TPOBC network that is changing what it means to be blind
* Automatically includes you in the door prize drawing 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 formal luncheon.
* Gives you access to all conference sessions, presentations, and social activities.

## TWEET ABOUT THE CONFERENCE!

Include the hashtag #NFBTYC16 and your tweet just might be read to the conference during sessions.

Don’t forget to follow TABS (http://www.twitter.com/txtabsters) and the NFB of Texas (http://www.twitter.com/nfbtx) for real-time updates from the conference floor.

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS

### **PREMIER**

[**NFB Newsline®**](http://www.nfbtx.org/content/nfb-newsline%C2%AE) **Texas: GOOD NEWS!**

Now, using [NFB-NEWSLINE®](http://www.nfbnewsline.org), 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® 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 and read text-only versions of the publication on a secure website, or to listen to streamed content on their computer. Additionally, NFB-NEWSLINE® subscribers have access to their local TV listings, and can listen to information about statewide agencies and organizations.

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**Bronze**

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We would like to thank our sponsors for helping to make this year’s youth conference a success.

## WELCOME RECEPTION

On Friday, April 8th from 5:30 to 6:45 PM TABS and TPOBC welcome you with southern hospitality. Join us in the Garden Café to mix and mingle with conference attendees and enjoy a complimentary dinner courtesy of the NFB of Texas.

**AGENDA**

**Friday, April 8th, 2016**

**12:00-6:00: Check in and on-site registration**

Foyer (outside meeting rooms)

**1:00-5:00: Exhibitor seminars**

Each exhibitor will be hosting an approximately one hour seminar. Each seminar will repeat every hour so attendees can attend as many as you wish. Open discussion with exhibitors will begin at 4:00. Exhibits include:

**NFB-Newsline®**

**Dallas Room**

**Pearson Inc.**

**Mavericks Room**

**Hims Inc.**

**Rangers Room**

**Various IOS apps: featuring the KNFB Reader**

**Cowboys Room**

**5:45: Welcome Reception**

Garden Café

**7:00-8:00: 2016 TABS Open Board Meeting**

Cowboys Room

Bre Brown, President, TABS

Kim Cunningham, President, TPOBC

**8:00-10:00: Student and Family Social**

Rangers Room

Come join us for an ice cream sundae and some games.

**Saturday, April 9th, 2016**

**GENERAL SESSION**

Cowboys Room

**9:00: The Big Texas Howdy**

Bre Brown, President, Texas Association of Blind Students

Kim Cunningham, President, Texas Parents Organization of Blind Children

Norma Crosby, President, National Federation of the Blind of Texas

**9:20: Hot Off the Press: My Experience as a School Newspaper Reporter**

Nikki Lyssy, Freshman

University of North Texas

**9:35: Solve The Equation: Creating More Accessible Math Everyday with Pearson Inc.**

Su Park, Senior

McNeil High School, Austin, TX

Sam Dooley, Manager, software development, Pearson Inc.

**10:00: All Blind Students Deserve Equal Access: How Can We Make That Happen?**

Gabe Cazares, Governmental affairs specialist

National Federation of the Blind

**10:25: Unlocking the Door to Success in the Classroom: The Importance of Communication with Your Professors**

Kendal Lyssy, Freshman,

University of North Texas

**10:40: Moving Blind and Visually Impaired Students Through the Stem Education Pipeline**

Nell Wackwitz, Doctoral candidate

Texas State University

**10:55: Discovering the Unknown: What a Difference a Year Can Make**

Michael Ausbun, Board member, National Association of Blind Students

Senior, University of Nevada

**11:05: A Life Changing Experience: My Journey Into the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children**

Kim Cunningham, President, National Organization of Parents of Blind Children

**11:20: The Transition from a Social Services Model of Rehabilitation to a Workforce Investment Model**

Norma Crosby, President, National Federation of the Blind of Texas

**11:40: Building the Next Generation of the Federation: Mentoring Success**

Daniel Martinez, First Vice President, Texas Association of Blind Students

Sal Villa, Board Member, Texas Association of Blind Students

**11:55: Announcements and Adjournment**

Bre Brown, President, Texas Association of Blind Students

**12:15-1:30: NFBT Youth Conference Luncheon**

Mavericks Room

**Mistress of Ceremonies:** Bre Brown President, Texas Association of Blind Students

Senior, Texas State University

**Keynote:** Jeannie Massay, Treasurer, National Federation of the Blind & President, NFB of Oklahoma

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

**PARENT WORKSHOPS**

Dallas Room

**2:00-2:10: Welcome to the TABS/TOPBC Youth Conference**

Kim Cunningham, President, Texas Parents of Blind Children (TPOBC)

**2:10-2:15: Welcome and Updates from the NFB of Texas**

Norma Crosby, President, National Federation of the Blind of Texas (NFBTX)

**2:15-2:25: The Texas Association of Blind Students and Why Your Child Should Join!**

Bre Brown, President, Texas Association of Blind Students (TABS)

**2:25-2:55: Is Your Child Ready for College? The Skills They Need and Tips from Blind and Low Vision College Students**

Michael Ausbun, Kendall Lyssy, and Amelia Pellicciotti - College Student Panel

**2:55-3:10: Why the NFB? Why Should Families Join?**

Jeannie Massey – NFB Oklahoma President

**3:10-3:30: NFB BELL and How Your Student Can Get Involved**

Kayleigh Joiner, BELL Instructor

**3:30-3:50: The NFB/NOPBC National Convention Orlando, FL, and Updates on Jernigan Institute Programs**

Kim Cunningham, President TPOBC and NOPBC

**3:50-4:00: NFB Newsline and How This Service Can Benefit Students**

Liz Wisecarver, NFB Newsline Coordinator

**4:00-4:15: Long White Canes and the Structured Discovery Method of Cane Travel**

Liz Wisecarver, NOMC

**4:15-4:30: NFB Training Centers: What Programs are Available? When Should My Child Attend Rehabilitation Training?**

Gabe Cazares and Bre Brown, Louisiana Center for the Blind Alumni

**4:30-4:45: Learn About Blind Sports and How to Get Your Child Moving!**

Faith Penn, Member of the Austin Blackhawks

Beep Baseball National Champions

**4:45-5:00: Open Q&A**

**STUDENT WORKSHOPS**

**2:00-5:00**

Cowboys, Mavericks & Rangers Rooms

**2:00: Welcome**

Bre Brown President, Texas Association of Blind Students

**2:05: What Would You Do?: Skits for Mentoring Pairs**

Moderator: Kayleigh Joiner, Second Vice President, Texas Association of Blind Students

**2:40: Team Building: I’ve Got the Tower.**

**3:20: Break**

**3:30: From School to Work: How I Got the Job**

Gabe Cazares, Governmental affairs specialist

National Federation of the Blind

Daniel Martinez, Children’s Counselor

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Jeannie Massay: Licensed Professional Counselor

**4:00 Breakouts (rotate every 15 minutes)**

1. Tips and tricks about getting involved on your campus
2. Educating the educators: my blindness does not define me
3. The hottest apps on the market

**4:45: Announcements and adjournment**

**6:00-10:00: Karaoke and Dinner**

Come join us to sing some tunes, to have free pizza and soda, and to have some big Texas fun. We look forward to having everyone there. Location to be announced.  
  
**End Notes**  
  
**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.  
  
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.