



To Whom It May Concern:

Stacey Holcomb has been accepted as a member of the 2023-2024 National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Teachers of Tomorrow program. Our NFB Teachers of Tomorrow program is an immersive, professional development program that connects teachers of blind and low-vision students to the lived experiences of blind people. This program will equip participants with knowledge of the skills and attitudes that can help blind students thrive in school and beyond. We focus on the perspective of the blind community, drawing on the expertise of blind mentors and teachers experienced in integrating this perspective into their work with students and families.

The program will begin in the fall of 2023 and continue throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Participants will attend four in-person events as outlined below and seven virtual sessions one Saturday a month. The sessions will address: Braille literacy, orientation and mobility, access technology, accessible STEM instruction, advocacy, diversity, and other topics that participants wish to explore.

Our in-person events will occur on the following dates:

- **September 21-24, 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland.** Participants will learn how the blind have organized to instill self-agency and mobilize for collective action. They will listen to tell-all educational accounts from blind adults and parents of blind children. They will create a philosophical framework that will aid their teaching career in promoting positive identity development with the blind youth they serve.
- **January 28-31, 2024 in Washington, District of Columbia.** Participants will interact with NFB members during the organization's annual legislative program (Washington Seminar), witnessing firsthand the power of consumer advocacy to advance opportunities for blind people. Through formal and informal interactions with a wide variety of blind people, participants will expand their knowledge based on blindness, which will support them in educating blind youth.
- **April 4-7, 2024 in Ruston, Louisiana.** Participants will engage with professionals at the Louisiana Center for the Blind and the Professional Development and Research on Blindness at Louisiana Tech University. Topics will include hands-on demonstrations focusing on Braille, access technology, and cane travel skills for students. Participants will explore the benefits and controversies of using blindfolds as teaching tools.
- **July 2-9, 2024 in Orlando, Florida.** Participants will attend the NFB's national convention, the largest gathering of blind people in the world. They will participate in a variety of sessions, particularly those focused on education. The teachers will observe, and where appropriate, help facilitate activities for blind youth designed to foster positive attitudes

about blindness. With access to thousands of blind people, parents of blind children, and teachers of the blind, members of the cohort will continue to build their professional learning networks.

Members of the cohort will also be encouraged to participate in an NFB affiliate convention in their state or a neighboring state. These events typically occur over a Friday and Saturday and will provide teachers with further opportunities to learn about blindness from blind people, observe blind mentors work with blind youth, and make invaluable connections with local community members and resources.

The in-person experiences are a significant part of the NFB Teachers of Tomorrow program that provides opportunities to obtain tangible examples of strategies, a real-time exchange of ideas and concepts, and opportunities to develop personal/professional relationships. All of our sessions are a required component of our program. Participants who successfully attend all of the in-person and virtual sessions will receive a certificate of attendance awarding 112.5 hours of professional development.

The NFB Teachers of Tomorrow program is at no cost to participants. The NFB covers travel, food and lodging to our events. We strongly encourage school districts to support their teachers learning by granting professional leave as applicable in the dates described above.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the program further or if you have any additional questions.

Thank you,



Anil Lewis
Executive Director
National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute
200 East Wells Street, Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 659-9314, extension 2374 | alewis@nfb.org

The National Federation of the Blind is a community of members and friends who believe in the hopes and dreams of the nation's blind. Every day we work together to help blind people live the lives they want.

National Federation of the Blind Teachers of Tomorrow

Calendar of Events

- September 21-24, 2023 – In-person event in Baltimore, Maryland
- October 28, 2023 – Virtual session
- November 11, 2023 – Virtual session
- December 9, 2023 – Virtual session
- January 13, 2024 – Virtual session
- January 28-31, 2024 – In-person event in Washington, DC
- March 9, 2024 – Virtual session
- April 4-7, 2024 – In-person event in Ruston, Louisiana
- May 11, 2024 – Virtual session
- June 8, 2024 – Virtual session
- July 2-9, 2024 – In-person event in Orlando, Florida

Please note all of the virtual sessions will occur from 12:00-2:00 p.m. eastern time. The dates listed for the in-person events include the days of travel.

Time Zones

- 12:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern
- 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Central
- 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Mountain
- 9:00-11:00 a.m. Pacific
- 8:00-10:00 a.m. Alaska

Zoom Info

<https://nfb-org.zoom.us/j/98821438515?pwd=U2FHUUltV1hNVnlkYittbXRUTUd1dz09>

Meeting ID: 988 2143 8515

Passcode: 938542

Dial in by phone: 305-224-1968