# **Dots and Dashes**

# **April 3, 2023**

# **Last Day to Apply for DKM First Timers, ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows**

We’re honoring the legacy of Durward K. McDaniel (DKM) through our 2023 DKM First-Timers and 2023 ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows programs. To be eligible for consideration, each applicant must be age 18 or older, blind or low vision, and current on ACB membership dues. Additionally, DKM First-Timer applicants must never have attended an in-person ACB convention. For full details on the DKM First-Timers program, visit [**https://acb.org/2023-first-timers**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001mQ5ZqfpjHtSgXtzKHgVI2JyKcWaopxdu708zXYgdhRTdxnlBfZhrjK6V_WFRSrIWIJ8_WDyhGcBpYLE3tjn6i-Ju9C-t7LT-xKmJCVUVLwwafKD7860TqSIowj3y7ajWOuvvKeva5J2M74slABcilA5Sx0SSj7dT&c=IPkPSviybUt5yvRldpgWo8-lo5xrLeN5G2nnjTikTAjQ72sj6iMzBQ==&ch=gQSJ0ZGNsJlj1hjxwizVmuSPR-rTAkq73eSYy9n5Eev1r9l1PtmlfQ==). To learn more about the ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows program, visit [**https://acb.org/2023-leadership-fellows**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001mQ5ZqfpjHtSgXtzKHgVI2JyKcWaopxdu708zXYgdhRTdxnlBfZhrjK6V_WFRSrIW_9hriOBk0CyfrRGZAoBo2C23afWmjE6ba6i0jN4_N2ZV3qDjp4R3mQyrYiNivSutmv-buZooZOTWNumereFdF2RwHvh8ZT92bgW3fX5IQO4=&c=IPkPSviybUt5yvRldpgWo8-lo5xrLeN5G2nnjTikTAjQ72sj6iMzBQ==&ch=gQSJ0ZGNsJlj1hjxwizVmuSPR-rTAkq73eSYy9n5Eev1r9l1PtmlfQ==). Access the 2023 Award Application by visiting [**https://tinyurl.com/DKM2023**](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001mQ5ZqfpjHtSgXtzKHgVI2JyKcWaopxdu708zXYgdhRTdxnlBfZhrjK6V_WFRSrIWfUZdyv971vurusDV4zOiIB1zbhEEqcVbEDNryBlmTDi6D70lKfFIJvVXG2NoC8k61WdSPXRjaI32dmNtk9HbVg==&c=IPkPSviybUt5yvRldpgWo8-lo5xrLeN5G2nnjTikTAjQ72sj6iMzBQ==&ch=gQSJ0ZGNsJlj1hjxwizVmuSPR-rTAkq73eSYy9n5Eev1r9l1PtmlfQ==). The application deadline is **today!**

# **Tell Us What You Think about the ADP Website**

The Audio Description Project team wants to know what you love and what you’d change about our website and social media. We’re here for you, so let us know how we’re doing by taking a short survey at [**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADP-Digital-Engagement**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADP-Digital-Engagement). Thanks in advance – we can’t wait to hear from you as we continue to make the ADP even better!

# **Sponsoring an ACB Angel?**

Just a friendly reminder if you’re planning on sponsoring an ACB Angel this year: the deadline to get your $500 in to Nancy Becker in the Minnesota office is **April 30th.** Contributors can be individuals or affiliates. Nancy will also need a picture and a bio of the recipient. In return, the ACB Angel will receive their own webpage with their picture and their bio, and a plaque with their name and date of passing, to be placed on the ACB Angel Wall in raised lettering and in braille.

# **Stepping Out With ACB: 2023 ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk**

It’s time to get ready for the 15th annual ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk! Our goal is to raise at least $62,000 for ACB and its affiliates this year in celebration of ACB’s 62nd anniversary. The Walk will take place during ACB’s 2023 convention, but you can still participate in the Walk even if you are unable to attend in person. ACB walk participants have many opportunities to win gift cards! Gift cards will be distributed to the 62nd person to register for the Walk, the first team to reach $6,200 in donations, and the first person to receive 62 donations. [**Register for the Walk, create or join a team, or make a donation**](https://secure.qgiv.com/event/acbwalk2023). If you need assistance registering or making a donation, call ACB’s Minnesota office at (612) 332-3242. As in previous years, affiliate and committee teams can designate up to 50% of their Walk donations to be contributed to their treasuries. For questions, contact Walk committee chair Donna Brown by phone at (304) 940-0292 or by email at [**donnambrown59@gmail.com**](mailto:donnambrown59@gmail.com).

# **Acadia National Park Internship**

Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, Maine wants young people who identify as having a disability to apply for a YES (Youth Empowerment Stewards) internship opportunity to make the park more accessible, equitable and inclusive for all visitors. This 20-week internship through Conservation Legacy includes on-site housing, professional development opportunities and an AmeriCorps Education Award upon completion. [**Learn more and apply here**](https://jobs.silkroad.com/ConservationLegacy/Careers/jobs/4158?fbclid=IwAR1MCClHLnEYieLI6zNf5VIpHA1hPGfSxLcoaBZYJzfNiXD2FreF-uOZKy8).

# **Research Study on Cognition**

The Neuroplasticity and Development Lab at Johns Hopkins University is seeking participants for an MRI research study on cognition. We study how the brain adapts in the absence of vision and supports audition, touch, Braille reading and language. To answer this question we use neuroimaging to compare the brains of individuals with different life histories: adults who grew up with vision, those who were born blind, and those who became blind later in life.

To qualify, you must be a healthy totally blind adult with at most minimal light perception who has been blind from birth, and is currently between 18 and 70 years of age and with no neurological disabilities. Participants must complete a pre-screening interview to see whether they qualify. To learn more, call the lab at (410) 870-9895, or send an email to [**plasticity\_lab@jhu.edu**](mailto:plasticity_lab@jhu.edu).

# **HumanWare Braille Displays Now Part of Microsoft’s Designed for Surface Program**

HumanWare recently announced that its braille displays are now recognized as an inclusive technology in the Designed for Surface (DFS) program. Enhancements to the Windows 11 Narrator now support a wider range of braille displays, including three 20-cell and 40-cell braille displays from HumanWare designed for Surface. For more information, visit [**www.humanware.com**](http://www.humanware.com).

# **TD Accessibility Tool Now Online**

TD Bank Group recently launched a new innovative accessibility tool to create more inclusive and accessible user experiences. The new tool, designed as a browser plug-in, gives accommodation controls back to the user – enabling them to personalize their online experience without using overlays that can impact usability.

Some of the accessibility preferences users will be able to choose from include reading guides, adjustable font size, dark mode, a dyslexia-friendly font, bionic reading and monochrome mode. The tool is explicitly designed to co-exist with other assistive technologies, such as standalone screen magnification software – a feature not currently prioritized by other online accessibility tools in the market. Read the full press release at [**https://tinyurl.com/jnanasmt**](https://tinyurl.com/jnanasmt).

# **AV Study**

Transportation is a huge barrier for people with physical and developmental disabilities. Widespread availability of autonomous vehicles (AVs) could boost the U.S. economy by hundreds of billions of dollars by bringing more people with disabilities into the workforce, according to a new study. [Learn more in this Axios.com article](https://www.axios.com/2023/03/17/autonomous-cars-disabled-americans-jobs?fbclid=IwAR0FmdraHVmtwaIDjztJlV0501DY0gaGQGSCcaJI_8PIeCdYrFE0R5D7_3I).

# **Help Shape the Future of Accessible VR Music Concerts for Individuals with Visual Impairments!**

The Department of Informatics at the New Jersey Institute of Technology is conducting a research study on making virtual reality (VR) music concerts accessible for people with visual impairments. If you are over 18 and visually impaired, we invite you to participate in our online survey and share your thoughts, needs, and experiences. Your insights will help us design and develop a prototype to make VR music concerts more accessible in the future. To take the survey, visit [**https://8ere.short.gy/VRconcerts**](https://8ere.short.gy/VRconcerts).