# **Dots and Dashes**

# **January 23, 2023**

# **Take Part in ACB’s 2023 Leadership Conference!**

ACB’s 2023 Leadership Conference will feature both a virtual and an in-person component. The ACB Presidents’ Meeting and Legislative Seminar will take place virtually from March 4-7, and will include a Fireside Chat on Sunday, March 5. Review ACB's 2023 Legislative Imperatives. The in-person portion of the Leadership Conference will take place at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town from March 9-12 in Alexandria, Virginia. During the in-person portion of the Leadership Conference, ACB will host an Accessible Currency Rally at the White House. Attendees will also have the opportunity to take part in multiple exciting and informative tours around the D.C. area. Tours include the White House Visitor Center, U.S. Botanical Gardens, Jefferson Memorial and U.S. Capitol, George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate, and several historic D.C. Monuments. ACB member-only registration for the 2023 Leadership Conference opens January 31, with registration access for all opening on February 7. The deadline to register is February 28. For more information, visit [**www.acb.org/2023-leadership-announcement**](http://www.acb.org/2023-leadership-announcement).

# **ACB Scholarships**

The American Council of the Blind (ACB) offers educational scholarships ranging from $2,000 to $7,500 for entering freshman, undergraduate and graduate students, and students attending technical college. This program awards students with scholarships to help with educational financial needs such as tuition, fees, room and board and assistive technology. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants need to be legally blind, maintain a 3.0 GPA to be eligible for most scholarships, be a full-time student or a part-time student who works at least 32 hours per week and attends college part-time, and be involved in their school and local community. Students must submit their application by February 14th, 2023. For more information about ACB’s scholarship program, visit: acb.org/scholarships. To learn more about ACB’s 2022 scholarship recipients, visit: **tinyurl.com/2022-ACB-scholarships**.

**Looking Back At 2022**

On the ACB Advocacy Update join ACB advocacy team Clark and Swatha, ACB President Dan Spoone, and ACB Executive Director Eric Bridges as they recap 2022 at the American Council of the Blind. Topics include ACB’s 10K community events, the 2022 hybrid convention, key legislation introduced by ACB in the 117th Congress, and the second annual Audio Description Awards Gala. Click here to listen to this podcast episode.

# **Help ACB & YouTube Improve the Experience of Audio Description**

In collaboration with the American Council of the Blind, the YouTube Accessibility Team would like your feedback about your experience with audio description on various media platforms. Your input will be used to explore solutions for improving the quality of audio description on YouTube.

About the survey:

* The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
* You will be asked to sign an Informed Consent form, which explains how your survey data will be used.
* Based on your answers to a couple brief demographic questions, you will be directed to a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), which will appear in a new tab or window. You will need to sign this before continuing with the survey.
* The survey is limited to 500 respondents and will be filled on a first come, first served basis.
* As a thank-you for completing the survey, you will be given the option to enter your email and receive a $25 gift card (adjusted to local currency) from Tremendous, which provides gift cards to a variety of retailers. Your email will not be shared except to provide your thank-you gift.

Share your insight using the survey link. If you experience issues accessing the survey, please email **yt-a11y-feedback@google.com**.

# **DKM First Timers & Leadership Fellows**

We’re honoring the Legacy of Durward K. McDaniel (DKM) as we announce that we are now accepting online applications for the Class of 2023 DKM First-Timers and Class of 2023 ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows. To be eligible for consideration, each applicant must be age 18 or older; blind or visually impaired; current on ACB membership dues, and never have attended an in-person ACB conference and convention. For full details on the DKM First Timers, visit www.acb.org/2023-first-timers. To learn more about the ACB/JPMorgan Chase Leadership Fellows, visit www.acb.org/2023-leadership-fellows. Access the 2023 Award Application by visiting

[**https://tinyurl.com/DKM2023**](https://tinyurl.com/DKM2023).

# **2023 Walk Theme Contest**

The ACB Walk Committee needs your help. Put on your thinking cap, power up your creativity, and provide your input on the theme for the 2023 ACB Brenda Dillon Memorial Walk. The person who proposes the theme for the 2023 Walk in which the ACB Walk Committee favorite will receive a$25 Amazon gift card. Send your ideas to **Donnambrown59@gmail.com** with “Walk Theme Suggestion” in the subject line. The walk theme contest will close on Tuesday, January 31.

# **Concept2 Holiday Challenge**

Each year, ACB’s partner Concept2 conducts a Holiday Challenge to raise money for charitable organizations. Late last year, ACB was one of five organizations selected due to the work of ACB members to make the Concept2 ErgData app more accessible for people who are blind and low vision. Participants of the challenge would row, ski or ride on the Concept2 RowErg, SkiErg or BikeErg to earn donations for ACB. Learn more about the donations ACB received at: [**https://www.concept2.com/news/23rd-annual-holiday-challenge-huge-success**](https://www.concept2.com/news/23rd-annual-holiday-challenge-huge-success).

# **Citing Accessibility, State Department Phases Out Times New Roman for Calibri**

Last week, the United States Department of State said that it would stop using the Times New Roman typeface, replacing it with the sans serif typeface Calibri. Clean sans serif typefaces are more accessible for people who are low vision. This includes fonts such as Arial, Calibri, Helvetica, Lucida Sans, Tahoma, and Verdana. ACB commends the U.S. Department of State for selecting a font that will improve legibility for most people while reminding all federal government entities that individuals may require a reasonable accommodation of a different font or size due to their disability. Recently, the Board of Publications for the American Council of the Blind adopted a new large print standard for the publication of the Braille Forum, which consists of: 18-point Arial for body text, 22-point Arial bold for main headlines, and 20-point Arial bold for subheadings. [**Read more in this Washington Post article**](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/01/18/state-department-times-new-roman-calibri/).

# **LinkedIn to Release Accessibility Updates in 2023**

LinkedIn has recently announced three major accessibility updates due to roll out this year. For the first update, LinkedIn will now generate automatic captions for videos. Currently available only in English, you can also add or edit captions before uploading. This is in addition to the high contrast features already included in the app for users with low vision. Second, the site will standardize job titles for professionals in the accessibility field. This will help these professionals become more easily noticed and allow companies to search for those who meet their accessibility needs. Finally, LinkedIn’s Campaign Manager, an advertisement creation tool, will now allow users to add alt text explicitly to images in their ads. This will permit screen readers to describe these images to users who are blind or have low vision, although the alt text is not automatically generated. The effectiveness of the new functionality will, of course, depend on advertisers’ knowledge and conscientious use of it. [**Read more in this article**](https://www.searchenginejournal.com/linkedin-announces-7-updates-coming-in-2023/475504/) [**from Search Engine Journal**](https://www.searchenginejournal.com/linkedin-announces-7-updates-coming-in-2023/475504/).

# **New Corporate Partnership Advances Accessibility of Cereal Packaging**

The Kellogg Company recently announced a collaboration with NaviLens to make the packaging of Kellogg’s Corn Flakes, Special K Original, Rice Krispies and Crispix accessible to people with vision loss. These products will now feature a NaviLens optical smart code. The codes can be detected with the free NaviLens mobile app, allowing users to navigate to them from a distance, such as in a grocery store, and obtain product information comparable to what is displayed on the cereal box. By the end of 2023, NaviLens technology will also be implemented fully in Kellogg’s U.S. corporate facilities for the benefit of employees who are blind and low vision. You can read more about the collaboration in this press release.

# **Generic Hetlioz Available at Accessible Pharmacy Services**

Accessible Pharmacy Services is now providing generic Hetlioz (Tasimelteon) to patients. Hetlioz is the first remedy for NON-24. Non-24-Hour Sleep-Wake Disorder (N24) is a circadian rhythm sleep disorder in which an individual's biological clock fails to synchronize to a 24-hour day. Now Hetlioz users can get a less expensive version of the exact same medication along with free accessible packaging free labeling solutions. Medication is delivered for free to patient's homes. Accessible Pharmacy Services may have access to 3rd-party funding for patient co-pays. Contact Accessible Pharmacy Services at 1-888-633-7007 and they will work with your insurance company, medication funding organizations and various state agencies help to pay for your medication.

# **Jump-Start Your Job Search with NRTC**

Researchers at the National Research & Training Center on Blindness & Low Vision are recruiting for a remote job search skills training study. No travel is required. Participants will take four online surveys over 20 months, submit a resume with the first two surveys and be randomly assigned to receive resources or attend group training. Participation may include learning job-seeking strategies for today’s job market, getting job search information and resources by email, attending a 5-day group training program through Zoom, and providing feedback about the training.

Participants must be age 18+, blind or have low vision, live in the United [States, and not working but ready to work. To find out if you qualify, **click**](https://msstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0JaVC6pPm8gY4Fo?source=17) [**here** to complete the online survey. Space is limited! If you have any](https://msstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0JaVC6pPm8gY4Fo?source=17) questions, please contact Katerina Sergi at **ksergi@colled.msstate.edu**or

662-325-8231.

# **Miami Ibero American Film Festival**

During the fifth Miami Ibero American Film Festival (IAFFM), there will be two sessions in which films in Spanish with Spanish audio description, closed captions, and ASL will be screened. These screenings will take place Saturday, January 28 at 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm in Room 9 of the Silverspot Cinema, Downtown Miami, 300 SE 3rd St #100, Miami, Florida. Admission is free. In addition to the screening of the films, Dicapta will hold a panel for the audiovisual industry on Saturday, January 28, at 11:30 am, where they want the public to experience the impact of accessibility in [cinema. See details of the screenings following this link: **Accessible**](https://mailchi.mp/fcdeee1669a4/ven-a-nuestra-funcin-especial-del-iaffm-9078933?e=0fae505bff)[**screenings**. About the Festival: **Making the IAFF Accessible for**](https://www.dicapta.com/ver2022/en/blog/15-blog-news/410-making-the-iaffm-accessible-for-people-with-sensory-disabilities)

[**People with Sensory Disabilities (dicapta.com)**](https://www.dicapta.com/ver2022/en/blog/15-blog-news/410-making-the-iaffm-accessible-for-people-with-sensory-disabilities)