# **Dots and Dashes**

# **December 5, 2022**

# **Join the Sight Tech Global Virtual Conference**

On this episode of the ACB Advocacy Update, Clark speaks with ACB member and Vista Center Board Chair, John Glass, and Sight Tech Global Executive Producer, Ned Desmond, regarding this year’s virtual event. A Vista Center production, Sight Tech Global is the first global, virtual conference dedicated to fostering discussion among technology pioneers on how rapid advances in AI and related technologies will fundamentally alter the landscape of assistive technology and accessibility. This year’s virtual conference will take place Dec. 7 & 8. To learn more, or to register, visit [www.sighttechglobal.com](http://www.sighttechglobal.com). Listen to the podcast at <https://tinyurl.com/mnbv9u52>.

# **ACB Salutes Audio Description Award Winners**

The 2022 Audio Description Awards Gala premiered on November 29th on [www.AdAwardsGala.org](http://www.adawardsgala.org/), YouTube, ACB Media, and [Pluto TV](https://pluto.tv/). ACB thanks host Thomas Reid and Audio Description Voice Talent Nefertiti Matos Olivares as well as our special guests who lent their talent to the event and support for accessible media for all, including Stevie Wonder, Ewan McGregor, Nesta Cooper, Camryn Manheim, Shayla Brown, and the cast of iCarly! Learn more about the award winners by visiting [http://acb.org/2022-AD-Gala](https://t.co/gCsFG47DAH). The full event video is available at: [https://youtu.be/wSxioMDVG48](https://t.co/SwebJlLyIX).

# **Request from the Membership Committee**

The membership committee has a couple of requests:

* We want to update the membership email list, where membership chairs and the ACB membership committee can share information. If your affiliate has had a change in membership chairs or vice chairs in the past three years, please pass on the name of your state or special-interest affiliate, chair and vice chair names and email addresses.
* We are planning two membership focus calls in February and March on state affiliates with spring conventions so they can share details about the conferences. If your affiliate is planning a convention in the spring (March through June), let us know. Later, we’ll plan calls to focus on fall conventions.

Send your responses to [abazyn@bazyncommunications.com](mailto:abazyn@bazyncommunications.com).

**Convention Corner**

In 2023, ACB’s national convention will be in Schaumburg, Illinois.

Room rates at the Renaissance Schaumburg are $98 per night double occupancy (with an additional $10 charge for up to four people), plus tax which is currently 15%.

To make reservations online, visit

<https://book.passkey.com/go/AmericanCounciloftheBlind2023>. For telephone reservations, call 1-800-468-3571. This is a central reservations number, so please indicate that you are with the American Council of the Blind 2023 conference and convention at the Renaissance Hotel in Schaumburg, IL. Rooms must be reserved by June 8, 2023 to guarantee the convention rate.

# **Concept2 Holiday Challenge**

Each year, ACB’s partner Concept2 conducts a Holiday Challenge to raise money for charitable organizations. This year, ACB is 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. To participate, register for a free Concept2 Logbook account and sign up for the Holiday Challenge so you can row, ski or ride on the Concept2 RowErg, SkiErg or BikeErg to earn donations for ACB. For more details, visit [tinyurl.com/Concept2-Challenge22](https://tinyurl.com/Concept2-Challenge22?fbclid=IwAR0YEZh6vqJKCDKycL1YKWBWv8uJm5xVvWAHrIfTHPg7VJr-xvCJWoCCxxA). To learn more about ACB’s work with Concept2, visit [acb.org/ergdata-app](http://acb.org/ergdata-app?fbclid=IwAR3IeurXyjufAWS_VF9tV9Nxwg2jltLrikoLh-x8dc_ozTTWTxOl7_9OYz8).

# **Justice Department Secures Agreement with UC Berkeley Regarding Online Content**

The Justice Department announced today that it has filed a proposed consent decree in federal court to resolve allegations that the Regents of the University of California on behalf of the University of California, Berkeley (collectively, UC Berkeley) violated Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) because much of UC Berkeley’s free online content is inaccessible to individuals with hearing, vision, and manual disabilities. The proposed consent decree was filed together with a complaint setting forth the allegations of discrimination.

Under the three-and-a-half-year long consent decree, which requires court approval, UC Berkeley will make all future and the vast majority of its existing online content accessible to people with disabilities. This includes BerkeleyX courses, university websites and video and podcast content on its YouTube, Apple Podcasts and other third-party platforms. UC Berkeley will also revise its policies, train relevant personnel, designate a web accessibility coordinator, conduct accessibility testing of its online content and hire an independent auditor to evaluate the accessibility of its content.

For more information, visit <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-secures-agreement-university-california-berkeley-make-online-content>.

# **Medical Bills Remain Inaccessible for Many Visually Impaired Americans**

Across the U.S., health insurers and health care systems are breaking disability rights laws by sending inaccessible medical bills and notices, a Kaiser Health News investigation has found. The practice hinders the ability of blind Americans to know what they owe, effectively creating a disability tax on their time and finances. Read the full article: <https://tinyurl.com/3dm98tz9>.

# **MSU Job Search Study**

Researchers at the National Research & Training Center on Blindness & Low Vision at Mississippi State University are recruiting for a remote job search skills training study. Learn job-seeking strategies for today’s job market and get job search information and resources by email! If you are selected to participate in the study, you 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.To participate, you must be 18 years or older, be blind or have low vision, live in the United States, and not working but ready to work. To find out if you qualify, [click here](https://msstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0JaVC6pPm8gY4Fo?source=17) to complete the online survey. Space is limited! If you have questions, contact Katerina Sergi at [ksergi@colled.msstate.edu](mailto:ksergi@colled.msstate.edu) or (662) 325-8231.

# **NRTC Info Now Available through Online Portal**

Information provided by the 4to24app, created by the National Research & Training Center on Blindness & Low Vision, is now available through an online portal for professionals!

This portal is available through the NRTC’s web-based learning management system, and provides access to the 4to24 app’s content and topic areas. The app modules include information, activities, and links to resources about the skills and experiences that will be helpful to blind or low vision (B/LV) youth as they grow.

To register for the 4to24 online portal, you must be a professional working with people who are B/LV. To apply for access, please visit our [4to24 Portal for Professionals page](https://www.ntac.blind.msstate.edu/service-providers/resources/4to24-app-portal-for-professionals). For more information about 4to24, [visit our website](https://www.blind.msstate.edu/our-products/transition-resources).