**2017 National Federation of the Blind of Kentucky (NFBK) Technology and Business Symposium**



**When:** September 22, 2017

**Where:** Hilton Inn Garden Northeast Louisville, KY (9 A.M. to 4 P.M., Registration starts at 8 A.M.)

**Cost:** $20 and free for Pre-Employment Transitions Students who have pre-registered (includes box lunch)

The NFBK Technology Assistance Division (TAD) is pleased to announce that the [TAD staff](http://www.nfbkentuckytad.org/biographies.html) will join with two new partners to bring our Fifth annual technology symposium to you and for you at the NFB of Kentucky State Convention!

Todd Stephens, President of the NFB of Kentucky Technology Assistance Division (TAD), Michael Freholm, President of the Entrepreneur Division and Angela Dehart, Presidnt of the National Association Promoting the Use of Braille (NAPUB) are extending an invitation to you, to join us on Friday, September 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn Northeast, 9850 Park Plaza Ave., Louisville, KY 40241.

Assistive technology education and training is essential in maximizing the learning potential for the blind/visually impaired, because this specialized equipment levels the playing field for opportunities in education and for opportunities in employment.

In extracting a couple important facts from the article found on the NFB website written in 2015 by Edward C. Bell, Ph.D.and Natalia M. Mino, entitled [Employment Outcomes for Blind and Visually Impaired Adults](https://nfb.org/images/nfb/publications/jbir/jbir15/jbir050202.html), the employment rate among the blind and visually impaired is 37%. Conversely, the unemployment rate is a whopping 63%! There is a direct correlation between employment and education/training. The higher the level of education and rehabilitation training (technology, orientation and mobility and Braille), the greater the outcome for employment. Individuals who read Braille on a weekly basis and use a white cane experienced greater opportunities for employment and receive higher earnings as compared with those who did not use these tools.

How can you put yourself in the best position to market yourself effectively? These questions will be answered an more as we explore the solutions to maximizing our marketability and skillsets. We are going to hear from some of our favorite blindness and visual impairment Technologist like Larry Skutchan and Joe Hodge from APH, Dave Wilkinson from HIMS Technologies, and Greg Blackman and Ron Dukes from Freedom Scientific.

You will have the opportunity to experience this assistive technology. You can visit with these vendors and others in our display room from 11:35 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. You can visit with and ask questions of technologists as well as other professionals representing: APH, HIMS Technology., Freedom Scientific, Kentucky Talking Books, and Bluegrass Council of the Blind. Questions may be asked of specialists with a focus in: Android technology, Apple technology, and NFB-NEWSLINE and KNFB Reader technology. We will also have Bill Brooks, Blind entrepreneur and owner of Your Travel More Store, Cesar Vallecillo from Vanda Pharmaceuticals, and maybe, just maybe a few more in attendance!

**Come one, come all… Be sure to mark your calendars today!**