



HORIZONS

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Pictured from left to right: Michelle Tibbits, Tony Jorgensen, Dan Porter, Mike Scheschy, Nathan Greenwood, Mike Beeksma, Constance Engelstad, Kirk Adams, Pat O'Hara, and Michael Leifson at the 2014 AJAC Graduation Ceremony at the Boeing Museum of Flight (photo by Deb McCarroll)

Lighthouse Machinists Soar with AJAC Program

On Friday, June 19th the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC) hosted a celebration and ceremony for 39 of its graduating apprentices who are employed across 24 aerospace and advanced manufacturing companies in Washington State, including three machinists from The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc: Mike Beeksma, Nathan Greenwood, and Dan Porter. The graduates were awarded a nationally recognized journey-level certificate for completing AJAC's four-year Machining or two-year Precision Metal Fabrication program.

Founded in 2008, AJAC is a statewide, nonprofit 501(c)(3) aerospace and advanced manufacturing registered

apprenticeship program. The Lighthouse was one of the first companies to sign up and be a part of the AJAC program, which was in its infancy at that time, and thus allowed Mike, Nathan, and Dan to take

"[The AJAC Program] helped me be more efficient in my job, and more involved in what's happening on the shop floor."

– Dan Porter, AJAC Program Graduate –

the apprenticeship courses for free. Mike Scheschy, Machine Shop Manager at our Seattle facility, noted "the [AJAC] program has allowed our employee graduates to increase their salaries and advance their careers at the Lighthouse."

The program involved four hours a week of in-class training, machining workshops, as well as several hours of homework, covering almost everything from basic terminology and tools all the way through programming. When asked about the content of the course, Dan Porter mentioned "we learned a lot of applied math skills, algebra, trigonometry, machine shop terminology, safety, best machine shop practices, LEAN manufacturing, and its terms to better improve workflow in the shop. I spent a lot of time on the weekends studying and getting prepared for class. We also learned programming, hand programming, and using MASTERCAM software and how to edit programs."

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JOBS. INDEPENDENCE. EMPOWERMENT.

Our Mission: To create and enhance opportunities for independence and self-sufficiency of people who are blind, Deaf-Blind, and blind with other disabilities.

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– Mike Scheschy, Machine Shop Manager –



Lighthouse machinist and AJAC Program Graduate Nathan Greenwood

AJAC Program continued from front page:

Mike Beeksma added, “Taking the program has allowed me to advance to the Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines. Overall it touched base on a lot of aspects of the machining industry, and we were able to learn a lot of new things as well as review a lot of what we knew already.”

Dan also remarked that “the training has allowed us to become mentors, and we are now able to mentor other machinists at the Lighthouse to the industry standard. It helped me be more efficient in my job, and more involved in what’s happening on the shop floor.”

Congratulations to Mike Beeksma, Dan Porter, and Nathan Greenwood for completing this important training program and helping to set the stage for future Lighthouse machinists to advance their knowledge and careers in machining!

INL Donor Spotlight: Reed Caudle, Baker Construction

In fiscal year 2014, Inland Northwest Lighthouse (INL) was honored to receive a \$40 thousand charitable gift from Baker Construction & Development, the construction company selected to build the expansion of our INL facility. We recently spoke to Reed Caudle, Senior Vice President of Baker Construction, about the project and his experience working with INL.

During the construction process weekly meetings were held to update progress and address any potential safety or accessibility concerns that might arise as a result of construction. While this extra communication helped build a strong relationship between Baker Construction and INL, Reed credited the dedication of INL staff and employees. “Everyone at the Lighthouse is passionate about the work that they do and you can’t help but become passionate yourself.”



Founded in 1951, Baker Construction has been family-owned and operated for three generations. Baker employs 50 individuals as part of their commercial construction business. Their philosophy is, “Do the right thing and help people succeed with the knowledge and services we provide.”

Reed said, “The relationship between INL and Baker is more than just a business relationship.” INL is grateful for the support of Baker Construction and we look forward to future opportunities to work together to increase the number of accessible jobs we provide for people who are blind, Deaf-Blind, and blind with other disabilities.



Message from President & CEO Kirk Adams

In order to compete in today's global economy and increase the number of livable wage jobs we provide for people who are blind, Deaf-Blind, and blind with other disabilities, The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. offers a variety of training programs to our employees.

You are probably familiar with many of our mission-related training programs such as braille literacy, computer and technology training, and American Sign Language (ASL) instruction. Not only do these vital programs teach the necessary skills for people who are blind to be successful in a sighted world, the training itself helps our employees gain the confidence and independence to live more enriched lives throughout their community as well as in the workplace.

These programs and the accessible technology required to support our employees learning are made possible by the generous support of community members who understand and believe in our mission. Because of your commitment, each employee is eligible to take three hours of paid time for training per week.

We also offer many opportunities for employees to learn new job-related skills that enhance their overall efficiency and job satisfaction.

In this issue you will read about several employees who recently completed the journey-level machinist certification program from the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC). With this high-level training they are able to take on new projects and train fellow employees to operate complex machinery.

The Lighthouse believes in supporting all employees in their personal and professional development. To strengthen our inter-departmental communication and empower each employee to take initiative and support their teammates, we've recently begun offering Leadership Training to all employees. Classes are being taught by retired Navy Admiral Bill Center, member of the Lighthouse's Board of Trustees, who has also taught a similar course at the University of Washington.

With a better trained workforce, we can grow our business capabilities and compete with other manufacturing facilities, while meeting our mission of creating and enhancing opportunities for independence and self-sufficiency for people who are blind, Deaf-Blind, and blind with other disabilities.

Sincerely,

Kirk Adams
President & CEO

To learn more about ways you can support our mission, please visit:
seattlelighthouse.org/ways-to-give

2014 Redefining Vision Holiday Breakfast & Donor Recognition Reception

When: Tuesday December 2nd, 2014

Where: Sunset Club | 1021 University St | Seattle, WA 98101

Each year we host this event to honor and thank our generous community supporters, Board members, and Lighthouse Legacy Society. Please make plans to join us on Tuesday, December 2nd, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Sunset Club, 1021 University Street in Seattle. Watch your mail for a full invitation or contact Andrea Travis at (206) 436-2253 or atravis@seattlelh.org for more information.

2015 Redefining Vision Luncheon

When: Tuesday March 31st, 2015

Where: Westin Seattle Hotel | 1900 Fifth Avenue | Seattle, WA 98101

Save the date for our annual *Redefining Vision* Luncheon on Tuesday, March 31st, 2015 from noon to 1:00 p.m. at The Westin Seattle Hotel. Share in our mission and help us celebrate jobs, independence, and empowerment. If you are interested in volunteering or table captaining, please contact Andrea Travis at atravis@seattlelh.org or by phone at 206-436-2253. Watch for more information in early 2015!

Deaf-Blind Retreat – Another Successful Year of Camp!

Now in its 36th year, The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.'s Deaf-Blind Retreat continues to play an important role in the lives of many Deaf-Blind individuals. During the last week of August at the Seabeck Conference Center on the shores of Hood Canal, the annual Retreat hosted 60 Deaf-Blind participants and 120 volunteer interpreter/guides for a week of networking, connection, leadership, and empowerment in an accessible environment.

Each year the Retreat offers a variety of recreational and educational activities. Some activities are a favorite year after year such as wax hand molding, tandem biking, a shopping trip to the mall, and boat rides provided by Seattle Lighthouse for the Blind Foundation Board Chairman Howie Dickerman.

Although most Deaf-Blind participants don't typically attend consecutive years, part of the Retreat's mission is to offer new activities and experiences that are otherwise inaccessible in daily life. This year we were excited to have a giant waterslide built of blue tarp material and construction cone barriers!

Along with some incredible outdoor adventures, Retreat participants had plenty of time to connect and socialize with fellow participants while relaxing in the hot tub, lounging in hammocks and rocking chairs, or learning how to infuse their own olive oil. The opportunity to build and strengthen lifelong friendships not only enhances the camp experience, but provides peer support throughout the year.

The Retreat is also known worldwide for its workshops about the latest research on Usher's syndrome (a common cause of Deaf-Blindness), the latest innovations in tactile communication, and new assistive technologies that are providing breakthroughs in communication and information access for Deaf-Blind people.



Deaf-Blind Retreat participants engage in a dance class lead by Chris Daigre (center left)

The retreat is an essential part of the Lighthouse's nationally recognized Deaf-Blind program that has provided employment, services, and support to Deaf-Blind individuals for thirty-seven years. The Lighthouse is proud of the continued success of the Deaf-Blind Retreat and the transformative experience we are able to provide to participants. We are grateful for the community's consistent support and the dedication of the hundreds of volunteers for making all this possible.

(photos this page courtesy of Celia Berk)



Be Our Guest

Our Contact Center Team would be pleased to schedule your group for a Lighthouse tour. Just email contactcenter@seattlelh.org, or call 206-436-2127 with at least three weeks advance notice.

Upcoming Seattle Lighthouse Tour Dates

November

Tuesday	11/18	1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday	11/19	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Thursday	11/20	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

December

Tuesday	12/2	1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday	12/3	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Thursday	12/4	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday	12/16	1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday	12/17	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Thursday	12/18	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.



Thanks for Supporting our Summer Celebration Events in Seattle and Spokane

During the summer, The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc. hosted three very unique events at our Seattle and Spokane locations. These events were held as a special thank you to the community for your continued support of our mission and vital training programs.

To those of you who attended one of these events, we really enjoyed catching up with you and sharing our stories of successful opportunities for employment, empowerment, and independence for people who are blind, Deaf-Blind, and blind with other disabilities.

Redefining Vision: In Bloom

We kicked off our summer festivities with Redefining Vision In Bloom on Saturday, July 26th. Guests enjoyed a delicious brunch buffet of pastries, fruit, and tea sandwiches followed by a guided tour of Ethel L. Dupar's Fragrant Garden by our King County Master Gardener Helen Weber.

Kirk Adams, President and CEO, shared some of the Lighthouse's history of community support including the generous donation and passion from Ms. Dupar in 1973 that created the beautiful sensory garden. Our employee speaker, Malissa Hudson, described how, while working at the Lighthouse, she has gained the necessary confidence and skills to pursue her passion for radio broadcasting. Guest speakers Doug Hildie and Karen Johnson honored us with their presence and honest conversation about their decision to join the Lighthouse Legacy Society by making a planned estate gift. We encourage everyone to be sure and visit Ethel L. Dupar's Fragrant Garden next year!

Redefining Vision: Summer Evening Out

In true Seattle style, the nearly 100 event attendees and volunteers appreciated the warm afternoon at our August 14th Redefining Vision Summer Evening Out. Thanks to our in-kind sponsors, Georgetown Brewing Company and Davenport Cellars, we offered beer and wine, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and a fun and relaxing atmosphere for socializing with old friends and new acquaintances. Guests also had plenty of opportunities to learn about The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.'s mission and training programs by taking a tour of our Machine Shop or participating in a hands-on technology, Braille Literacy Program, or Orientation and Mobility Program demonstration.

A big thank you to our employee speaker Salvador Huizar for sharing his story of upward mobility and leadership training as one of our 2013 Employees of the Year. As always, we were delighted to hear from President and CEO Kirk Adams as he thanked our community for its continued support and shared a little about the Lighthouse's recent accomplishments.

Thank you also to our premier event sponsor, Amber Janitorial Inc., and Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos for attending.

We look forward to hosting a similar evening garden event next year!

Discover more news, employee stories, read our blog, and learn about upcoming events by visiting us online: thelighthousefortheblindinc.org

You can also follow us on Twitter @Lighthouse_Inc and become a fan on Facebook!

Inland Northwest Lighthouse (INL) Java and Jobs

Inland Northwest Lighthouse (INL) would like to thank the 20 Spokane community members who joined us on Wednesday, August 20th for Java and Jobs. Guests enjoyed a complimentary breakfast, technology demonstration, and tour of our newly expanded facility.

Our guest speaker Brett Lewis, who is a Software Engineer for Freedom Scientific, demonstrated several different types of assistive and adaptive technology including JAWS (Job Access With Speech) screen reading software, a refreshable braille display, and the iPhone. Event participants had the opportunity to learn about the important role that technology plays in helping people who are blind achieve independence both in their personal lives and in the workplace.

After the technology demonstration many people took part in a tour of INL where they could observe our employees who are blind manufacturing many products including aerospace parts, easels, and wallboards.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make these three summer events a successful celebration of jobs, independence, and opportunity!

If you couldn't make it to one of these events, you can still make a charitable contribution today by returning the enclosed donation envelope or making a gift online at thelighthousefortheblindinc.org. Be sure to stay in touch and watch your mail for future event invitations. We hope to see you all again soon!



The Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.
P.O. Box 14959
Seattle, WA 98114

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Congratulations to our AJAC Program Graduates Dan Porter, Nathan Greenwood, and Mike Beeksmaj

