A Tradition of Innovation

The first school for the blind in the U.S., Perkins School for the Blind has been innovating to prepare students for the world and the world for our students since 1829. Perkins founder Dr. Howe pioneered techniques still used today to teach Laura Bridgman in 1837. She was the first known deafblind person in the world to be formally educated.

Perkins’ continues to lead the way in fostering access and inclusion worldwide with the goal that every person can learn to be as independent as possible and fulfill their unique potential.

Teaching the teachers – From pathfinding methods to teach braille to students who are blind and dyslexic, to breakthroughs in teaching children with Cortical Visual Impairment, Perkins eLearning offers a wide range of online and on-site teacher training resources.

On a global scale, Perkins International Academy was launched in 2017 to train one million teachers by 2030, bridging the education gap for millions of children with impaired vision and additional disabilities, all in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Technology – Perkins offers a rich environment for finding new solutions to old problems. Taking a hands-on approach, Perkins redesigned the Perkins Brailler® for the 21st century, and transformed its brailler business into Perkins Solutions, a technology development and consulting services firm that released its first mobile app, BlindWays, in 2016.

Home to the Grousbeck Center for Students & Technology, the Perkins campus has been a proving ground for future-focused assistive devices, digital literacy, and even autonomous vehicles.

Accessibility – Perkins Solutions provides top quality devices and services for children and adults with visual impairments.

Perkins Access suite of services from Perkins Solutions helps public and private employers comply with the newest federal website standards while they create more accessible digital spaces that foster greater opportunities for independence for people who are blind.

BlindWays is a crowdsourced micronavigation iPhone app to assist riders – both sighted and blind – to accurately locate bus stops and hold potential for widening access to independent use of public transit.

Perkins Hacks, spring of 2018, invites innovators and students from multiple disciplines to join together in knocking down barriers in accessibility for individuals who are blind or have low vision.
**Inclusion** – Beyond delivering a top-notch curriculum, products and services, Perkins is committed to opening doors for people who are visually impaired. That means forging innovative partnerships with local communities, state and national government agencies, businesses and worldwide organizations.

Through the [Perkins Business Partnership](https://www.perkins.org/business-partnership) business leaders are engaged in breaking down barriers to employment. Perkins works with the Harvard Extension School to offer [Introduction to Inclusive Talent Acquisition](https://www.perkins.org/introduction-to-inclusive-talent-acquisition) online for employers anywhere in the world who seek to diversify their workforce.

Perkins is an instrumental partner in breaking down copyright restrictions to the exchange of accessible reading material across international borders through implementation of the [Marrakesh Treaty](https://www.perkins.org/marrakesh-treaty).

[BlindNewWorld](https://www.perkins.org/blindnewworld) is an online social change campaign challenges individuals to “Change the Way You See” in everyday life and create a more welcoming, inclusive social environment for people with visual impairments.