Perkins Reaches Nearly 2 Million Individuals Every Year
Leading since 1829 to foster access and inclusion through education

A School of Firsts
• The first school for people who are blind in the United States
• First school in the world to formally educate a person who is deafblind (Laura Bridgman, 1837)
• Both Helen Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan, were educated at Perkins
• The first kindergarten for children who are blind (1887)
• The first to introduce education for families of babies who are blind in Massachusetts

We Are Global
• Annually, Perkins International impacts the lives of more than 80,000 children, families, caregivers and educators through hundreds of programs all over the world.
• Thousands of education professionals have been trained in their home countries.
• Perkins International Academy aims to train 1 million teachers to educate 6 million children with impaired vision and additional disabilities by 2030 in support of U.N. goals.
• Each year, educators from a dozen or more nations attend the Perkins Educational Leadership Program on our Watertown, Mass., campus.
• The Perkins Brailler®, the worldwide standard braille-writing machine, is used in 170 countries.
• More than 1.4 million people use Perkins.org online resources every year

We Are Local
• Approximately 500 Massachusetts babies receive early education services from Perkins.
• Roughly 200 students from preschool through high school attend Perkins School for the Blind in our on-campus day and residential programs.
• Hundreds of public school students are taught by Perkins professionals in their community schools or attend Perkins weekend, week-long and summer courses.
• Perkins trains more than 6,000 professionals from New England and beyond each year.
• More than 1,300 individuals volunteer their time and services each year.
• Close to 30,000 Perkins Library patrons access more than 100,000 books in digital audio format, in braille or online

The Need is Great
• Worldwide, WHO estimates 285 million people are blind, deafblind or have low vision. Roughly 19 million are young children.
• A UNESCO study of 65 countries finds that students with severe disabilities are often excluded from schools. Children with multiple disabilities are the least likely to receive an education
• In the U.S., nearly three-quarters of a million students are visually impaired.
• Less than half of working-age Americans with impaired vision participate in the workforce.

Perkins.org
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