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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Lighthouse employee joins Advocacy Program**

Lighthouse employee, Megan Dodd, joins the 2016-2017 class of Advocates for Leadership and Employment for the NIB/NAEPB Public Policy Forum. This class of individuals from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) associated nonprofit agencies will join the 2015-2016 class to bring their stories to Capitol Hill with Forum participants.

“This is an opportunity to connect with blind individuals from all over the United States, and gain a better understanding of what their employment, education, and general life experiences.” said Megan Dodd, Community Outreach Specialist at The Lighthouse. “I am looking forward to gaining a better understanding of our legislative process and how to get involved to make an impact locally and nationally.”

The NIB public policy team and external subject matter experts will work with the Advocates to enhance their communication and relationship skills, and provide training on topics such as advocacy rules and grassroots strategies. Advocates will complete the program with a better understanding of the public policy process and how it affects the National Industries for the Blind mission, and how to develop relationships with lawmakers and other stakeholders.

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## **About East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind**

Created in 1976 to serve the needs of the blind and visually impaired the mission of The Lighthouse is to empower blind Americans through rehabilitation, education, training, and employment leading to a fully independent lifestyle. To accomplish that, The Lighthouse offers a wide range of programs and services through Client Services and Horizon Industries. For more information, visit [www.tylerlighthouse.org](http://www.tylerlighthouse.org)

## **About National Industries for the Blind**

Since 1938, National Industries for the Blind (NIB) has focused on enhancing the opportunities for economic and personal independence of people who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining and improving employment. NIB and its network of associated nonprofit agencies are the nation's largest employer of people who are blind through the sale of SKILCRAFT and other products and services provided by the AbilityOne Program, established by the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act. For more information about NIB, visit [www.nib.org](http://www.nib.org)