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NEWS RELEASE

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Lighthouse Jarrett Gist named to NIB Advocates Program

Jarrett Gist, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, was named an Advocate for Leadership and Employment through National Industries for the Blind. The Advocates for Leadership and Employment are NIB associated agency employees who are blind and have an interest in learning about the public policy process and sharing the NIB story with legislators. Over a two-year period, Advocates receive formal training and focus on effective communications, advocacy strategies and grassroots initiatives to advance national issues affecting employment in the blindness community. The Advocates program benefits NIB associated agencies by providing a trained advocate working on behalf of our shared mission to increase employment of people who are blind. This is important because 70% of working-age Americans who are blind are unemployed.

Jarrett Gist is the Orientation and Mobility Specialist at the East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind in Tyler, TX. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Blind Rehabilitation, and recently an M.Ed. degree in Special Education from Stephen F. Austin State University,

Nacogdoches, Texas. He received his Orientation and Mobility Certification through the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals and is a member of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Jarrett has over 10 years of experience as a blind rehabilitation professional. Jarrett says what he enjoys most about working at The Lighthouse is helping others and changing lives. In his spare time, Jarrett enjoys spending time with his family, running, weight lifting, gardening and coaching youth soccer.