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## Introducing APH ABIDE: Accessibility, Belonging, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity

For 163 years, APH has worked to level the playing field for students who are blind and visually impaired. In 2021, APH renewed its commitment to equity by establishing the department of Accessibility, Belonging, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity, known as ABIDE.

ABIDE enhances APH's efforts to welcome everyone - both internally for employees, as well as externally to serve as a resource to the field of education for the blind and visually impaired, and for all professionals in public, private, and non-profit sectors.

ABIDE's goal is to amplify underrepresented voices and empower marginalized groups through equitable educational experiences. To provide those equitable experiences, professionals in the field of education must come to understand the lived experiences and perspectives of people whose voices have not been heard.

The ABIDE program is just getting off the ground, but has already provided valuable training and guidance in the areas of:

- Universal design
- Website design and accessibility
- Document accessibility
- Accessibility in marketing/advertising
- Inclusive residential programming
- Software development

Blindness/disability 1Ø1

Inclusive language

Trainings highlight intersectional identities and help attendees develop empathy and an understanding that we have more commonalities than differences. ABIDE looks forward to customizing trainings to meet your needs and the needs of your students and clients.

To learn more or request a training, please email us at <u>abide@aph.org</u>.



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