# **National Federation of the Blind National Association of Blind Students**

**2025 Midwest Student Seminar Agenda**
**Location:** Holiday Inn Chicago O’Hare Area

5615 N. Cumberland Ave.

Chicago, IL 60631
**Date:** March 7 – March 9, 2025

## **Friday Evening: Teamwork & Creativity**

### 6:00 PM – **Breaking the Ice (Activity)**

• Interactive networking activities to foster new and old relationships, encouraging students to get acclimated with fellow participants.

### 7:00 PM – **A Slice of Socialization (Activity)**

• A pizza dinner providing an opportunity to network with other leaders.

### 8:30 PM – **Life After School: Career Field Exploration (Presentation)**

• Insights from professionals across fields about career opportunities and essential skills for success.

### 9:00 PM – **Stand Up & Speak Up (Activity)**

• Advocacy skill-building through small group skits about requesting accommodations in school and work settings.

### 9:30 PM – **Disclosure Life-Hacks (Presentation)**

• Discuss when and how to disclose your disability in professional and academic settings.

### 10:00 PM – **Adjourn**

## **Saturday Morning: Professionalism & Job Readiness**

### 7:30 AM – **Breakfast**

• Fuel up for the day’s events.

### 9:00 AM – **Welcoming Remarks & Overview (Presentation)**

• Introduction by seminar leaders and an overview of the weekend's activities.

### 9:15 AM – **How to Search Job Boards (Presentation)**

• Strategies for navigating online job boards and using technology to find employment opportunities.

### 10:00 AM – **AI and Recruitment (Presentation)**

• Discussion on how AI is transforming recruitment and how to leverage it in your job search.

### 11:45 AM – **Break for Lunch**

### 12:00 PM – **Lunch & Networking**

• Informal networking during lunch.

## **Saturday Afternoon: Independence & Advocacy**

### 1:00 PM – **Panel Debrief: Best Practices for Traveling (Discussion)**

• Tips for navigating public transportation to and from work, especially for those with disabilities.

### 1:45 PM – **Mock Interviews (Activity)**

• Students participate in mock interviews to practice and refine their skills in a professional setting.

### 2:30 PM – **Panel: Post-secondary Education Options (Panel Discussion)**

• Learn about various post-secondary paths such as business, STEM, and others. VR counselors will be present to provide guidance.

### 3:30 PM – **How to Network (Presentation)**

• Learn strategies for effective networking, both in-person and online, with a focus on professional growth.

### 4:15 PM – **Advocating for Workplace and School Accommodations (Activity)**

• Learn how to advocate for yourself when requesting accommodations in educational and professional settings.

## **Saturday Evening: Networking & Gala**

### 5:30 PM – **Panel of Potential Employers (Panel Discussion)**

• Representatives from various companies will discuss job opportunities, workplace culture, and what they look for in candidates.

### 7:00 PM – **Formal Gala (Dinner & Presentation)**

• A formal dinner with keynote speeches from industry leaders, sharing insights and personal experiences in their career journeys.

## **Sunday Morning: Opportunity & Action**

### 7:30 AM – **Breakfast**

• Prepare for the final day of programming.

### 9:00 AM – **Educational Presentation on VR Services (Presentation)**

• A VR counselor discusses how VR can support your educational and career goals.

### 9:45 AM – **Final Panel: Post-Secondary Options (Panel Discussion)**

• A deep dive into various educational paths, featuring experts and current students.

### 10:30 AM – **Keeping Connections Alive (Presentation)**

• Discuss strategies for maintaining professional relationships and leveraging them for future opportunities.

### 11:00 AM – **What Did I Learn? (Discussion)**

• Reflection session to share key takeaways and offer feedback for future events.

### 12:00 PM – **Adjourn**