



For Immediate Release

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## **Monarch RISE Welcomes 80 Inspiring Leaders Ready to Make a Difference**

*Professionals will first incorporate the Monarch into their own practice, gaining hands-on experience before guiding, mentoring, or referring individuals pursuing competitive integrated employment.*

**Louisville, KY (August 7, 2025)** – American Printing House (APH) is pleased to announce the selection of the first group of professionals to demonstrate the use of the Monarch, a groundbreaking braille device that combines multiple lines of braille and tactile graphics, to improve employment opportunities for individuals who are blind, low vision or deafblind. Through the first phase of the Monarch RISE Project, the select group of professionals will learn how to navigate and utilize the Monarch’s key features, integrate it into their work, share their experiences with other participants, and provide feedback on using the Monarch in employment. In the next phase, these professionals will refer, train, and mentor individuals preparing for or seeking employment.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelming supportive of this project:

- “I look forward to learning how facets from this innovative assistive technology device can be incorporated into my professional identity as I continue my vocational pursuits in the vocational evaluation realm.” - Outreach Vocational Evaluator from Alabama
- “I am excited about the possibilities I can make available to my college student clients through the Monarch for accessing images and mathematical material. I am thrilled at the idea of demoing this device to local employers... and opening their eyes to the possible ways people who are blind can contribute to their enterprises.” - Assistive Technology Specialist from Oregon

The professionals in the first phase of the Monarch Rise project are drawn from 40 US states and territories. One group provides support to individuals in settings such as assistive technology training, vocational rehabilitation counseling, transition, and higher education services.

A second group includes professionals who are blind, low vision, or deafblind currently working in a variety of roles such as:

- Customer service
- Engineering
- Higher education and research
- K-12 education
- Law and policy
- Marketing
- Medical counselling
- Mental health counselling
- Technology accessibility

### **About Monarch RISE**

Monarch RISE Project will distribute over 275 Monarchs to employment and educational professionals and individuals preparing for, seeking, or maintaining competitive integrated employment who are blind, low vision, or deafblind across the United States. Learn about [Monarch RISE](#). Email questions to [RISE@aph.org](mailto:RISE@aph.org).

[Learn more about 84.421F: DIF - Creating a 21st Century Workforce of Youth and Adults with Disabilities Through the Transformation of Education, Career, and Competitive Integrated Employment](#)

### **About American Printing House for the Blind**

APH's goal is to break barriers and broaden access for employment and education for individuals who are blind or low vision. APH is working to create a 21st century workforce of people with disabilities through innovative applications of advanced braille technology like [the Monarch](#).

American Printing House for the Blind is a worldwide leader in designing innovative lifelong learning solutions for children and adults who are blind or low vision. In this fast-changing world, we believe in the power and necessity of learning to open the doors to educational success, satisfying employment, active citizenship, and personal well-being. We level the learning playing field by providing specialized technology, materials, products, and services that are essential for education and life. American Printing House for the Blind is headquartered at 1839 Frankfort Avenue in Louisville, Kentucky. For more information, please [visit the APH website](#).

### **Additional Information**

The contents of this release were developed under grant H21F240052 from the U.S. Department of Education (Department). The Department does not mandate or prescribe

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