



For Immediate Release

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APH Monarch Named One of TIME's Best Inventions of 2025

The Monarch allows students who are blind or low vision to learn alongside their sighted peers.

Louisville, KY (October 10, 2025) - The American Printing House for the Blind (APH) is pleased to announce that the Monarch has been recognized by TIME as one of the *Best Inventions of the Year* in the Accessibility category.

The Monarch is a groundbreaking multiline braille device that renders tactile graphics integrated with braille on a first-of-its-kind 10-line by 32-cell refreshable braille display. The Monarch's cutting-edge technology eliminates barriers and provides instant access to textbooks and graphics in mere seconds.

"As a blind adult who once struggled to access timely, accessible materials in school, I now see students facing the same barriers. The Monarch is helping rectify that issue," said Greg Stilson, APH Vice President, Digital Transformation. "We're honored and humbled for the Monarch to win this award as it helps ensure equal access to education."

The Monarch was developed in partnership with HumanWare and National Federation of the Blind (NFB), two leading organizations in the blindness and low vision community. The partnership with HumanWare helped develop the technology for the Monarch, while the partnership with NFB provided regular feedback, testing, and advocacy support.

The Monarch is more than just a braille display, it's a graphing calculator, a digital library, a braille, and a powerful educational tool. Monarch comes preloaded with applications powered by HumanWare's KeySoft accessibility suite, offering users an unprecedented tactile and digital experience.

"Monarch represents a shift to breaking down barriers and paving the way for a future where every individual who is blind or low vision can enjoy equal access to information," said Anne Lancaster, APH Vice President, Strategy and Innovation. "With access to over 2,000 graphics in the [APH Tactile Graphics Image Library](#) and connection to a variety of online libraries, students can take control of their learning journey, exploring concepts and ideas with newfound freedom."

This is the second time APH has been honored by TIME. In 2022, Polly, an electronic Wi-Fi-enabled braille learning device, also made the prestigious list, underscoring APH's continued innovation in accessible technology.

[Learn more about Monarch.](#)

[See TIME's list of 200 Best Inventions of 2025](#)

About American Printing House for the Blind

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.

Thoughts from our partners and friends

“It is a great honor for our Monarch to be named a TIME Best Invention. The Monarch is a one-of-a-kind product that has already proven to be instrumental to a blind child’s education. It helps facilitate braille literacy, access to graphics, and social inclusion inside and outside of the classroom. This is the epitome of transformative technology for our field,” said Craig Meador, Ed. D, APH President.

“The Monarch represents not only the latest in braille and tactile graphics capabilities, but also a true collaboration with blind people to design and build technology that meets our high expectations and needs. We are pleased that this game-changing device is in the hands of so many already and look forward to its continued enhancement and wider distribution,” said Mark Riccobono, President of the National Federation of the Blind.

“We are deeply honored that the Monarch has been named one of TIME’s Best Inventions of 2025. In collaboration with our strong partners at APH, we’ve transformed the braille experience for students, professionals, and lifelong learners around the world. With our breakthrough braille computing platform, the first to seamlessly integrate braille with tactile graphics, we’ve challenged the status quo and opened new possibilities in access and inclusion,” said Bruce Miles, General Manager, Professional Solutions at EssilorLuxottica and Head of HumanWare.

“APH is honored to receive this award as it affirms our long-standing commitment to innovation, focused initially on the needs of our blind and low vision community, but often applicable to the broader population. The Monarch is not only an “iPad” for those who are blind or low vision, but it improves the teaching and learning of braille. I know the Monarch’s impact on education will be significant. We are grateful for this recognition,” said Phoebe Wood, APH Board Chair.