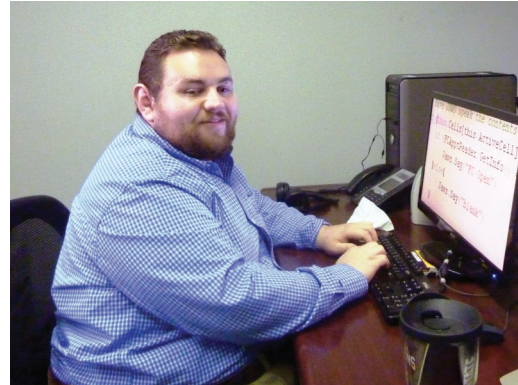


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LIGHTHOUSE WORKS EMPLOYEE TO PRESENT AT PREMIERE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

ORLANDO, FL, FEBRUARY 3, 2016 — Mike Fox, a software developer at Lighthouse Works, who is visually impaired, will today make a presentation at the annual Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) conference, on his innovations to streamline digital workflows for Lighthouse call center agents who are visually impaired.

Held here this year at the Caribe Royale All-Suites resort & Convention Center, the ATIA conference is the largest international conference showcasing the best in assistive technology tools and services. Attendees gather from across the world to hear from the biggest names in assistive technology (AT) about the latest trends and methods, as well as view state-of-the-art AT tools and services in the ATIA exhibit Hall. They also network with and learn from fellow professionals and peers.

“Being selected to present at this year’s ATIA conference is a huge honor, a little intimidating, but more exciting than anything else,” said Fox, who is 35 years old, legally blind and has worked with Lighthouse for the past two years. “It’s like being a minor league pitcher who just found out he’s going to the big leagues! I just hope to hit it out of the park.”

The title of Fox’s presentation is, “A New Approach to Web Accessibility” and it focuses on his work using browser extensions—also known as “add-ons”—to make web pages more accessible.

“When our call center secured a contract for medical appointment setting, the web based softphone application utilized by the client was not accessible (i.e. screen readers)—meaning it was almost impossible for persons who are visually impaired to use,” said Kaleb Stunkard, I.T. Director, Lighthouse Central Florida & Lighthouse Works. “The main advantages of Mike’s innovative approach are that these add-ons work for everybody, regardless of what assistive technology is used, and it offers greater control over how web content is presented on the page. We are extremely proud of Mike for what he does every day at Lighthouse.”

(more)

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Lighthouse Works is one of 93 nonprofit agencies associated with National Industries for the Blind (NIB), which produces SKILCRAFT® products and provides services for federal and military customers through the federal government's AbilityOne® Program. NIB and its associated agencies serve as the largest employer of people who are blind in the United States, employing more than 5,500 people who are blind.

According to the American Foundation for the Blind, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that in November of 2015, 70 percent of the 2.2 million working-age adults in the U.S. who are completely blind or partially sighted were unemployed or not in the labor force; furthermore, as a disability group, students with blindness or visual impairments have one of the highest rates of educational achievement; however, they are less likely than their peers, with or without disabilities, to be employed once they graduate.

Championing the mission of living, learning and earning with vision loss, Lighthouse Central Florida and its subsidiary, Lighthouse Works, have worked tirelessly to correct this injustice and help create employment opportunities for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Both Lighthouse and Lighthouse Works currently employ 43 people who are blind or visually impaired—approximately 53 percent of our total staff. These talented individuals deliver a variety of services, including call center and supply chain operations. Both organizations have trained countless others for positions in integrated workplaces among sighted co-workers, in multiple industries.

For more information on ATIA, please visit: www.atia.org.

ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE WORKS!

Lighthouse Works is a social enterprise non-profit, which means its businesses exist to forward and fund our mission of living, learning and earning with vision loss. Through our wide range of businesses, we are able to provide job training, employment and career opportunities for the advancement of people who are visually impaired. Lighthouse Works operates as a subsidiary of Lighthouse Central Florida—Central Florida's only private, non-profit agency offering a comprehensive range of services to people living with sight impairment in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties. Established in 1976, Lighthouse has served generations with comprehensive vision rehabilitation and employment services. Lighthouse Works is affiliated with the National Industries for the Blind (NIB)—the nation's largest employment resource for people who are blind. Additionally, Lighthouse Works operates in partnership with the AbilityOne Program to secure quality product services to the federal government at fair market prices. To learn more, please visit: www.lighthouseworks.org.

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