This conference is the 3rd in a series of conferences focusing on low vision. This year’s event will address children with progressive vision loss. Progressive vision losses occur for a variety of reasons, but are often associated with specific syndromes or occurs as a result of medical conditions.

A visual impairment that is a progressive condition brings an unpredictable factor to picturing the days and years ahead and planning to address what the loss of vision will mean. Questions related to literacy, orientation and mobility, social and emotional issues are among the many challenges faced by the student, family and the professionals supporting them. This conference will provide information about various causes of progressive vision loss, new treatment and research, support for families and strategies and solutions for TVIs and COMS. The sessions outlined below are developed for factual content as well as recognizing the very poignant nature of discussing progressive conditions, including those with additional health concerns.

### Agenda

8:00-8:45  **Sign-in**

8:45-9:15  **One Family’s Story**

One family (parent, young adult experiencing vision loss) will share their story of receiving this medical diagnosis and reflect on the path they have traveled in both personal and educational needs.

9:30-10:30  **An Overview of Progressive Eye Conditions**

An optometrist provides an overview of progressive eye conditions, including explanation of changes in the eye, anticipated pattern of progression considering stage of development, and examples of optometric treatment.

10:45-11:45  **An Overview of Treatment and Current Research**

An ophthalmologist provides an overview of treatment and current research, including examples of ongoing clinical trials, direction of scientific and technological investigation, and outcomes of published work.
11:45-12:45  **Working Lunch**
A box lunch will be provided followed by a virtual tour of internet resources focusing on conditions or progressive vision loss. These resources include medical information, support networks for the person with the visual impairment and their family, and strategies for adjusting to continuing changes in vision.

12:45-2:00  **1st breakout session**
The afternoon program provides parent or educator focused sessions.

**Parents:**
Q & A with the Doctors

**VI Professionals:**
Discussion on VI services such as decisions on LMA and moving to braille or initiating instruction and use of the cane (this session will be led by a TVI and a COMS)

2:15-3:30  **2nd breakout session**

**Parents:**
Discussion on VI services such as decisions on LMA and moving to braille or initiating instruction and use of the cane. A session will also be available on progressive vision loss with additional medical condition (this session will be led by a counselor and a parent specialist).

**VI Professionals:**
Discussion of educational program decisions in the face of progressive vision loss with additional medical condition (this session will be led by a TVI).

**Registration**

Registration fee: $25 if registered before April 1, 2017 and $35 beginning April 1, 2017.

Assistance is available to help adult family members with registration and travel costs including transportation, lodging and meals upon request.

**Questions?**
For more information, please contact Dr. Cindy Bachofer at 512-206-9434 or email [bachoferc@tsbvi.edu](mailto:bachoferc@tsbvi.edu).