

INNOVATION IN BRAILLE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

National Braille Press

BOSTON, USA



Brian A. Mac Donald

President

www.nbp.org

+1 617 425 2416

bmacdonald@nbp.org



The panel of judges wanted to celebrate NBP's multi award-winning achievements; in an increasingly digital world, it is vital that the blind and partially sighted are included.

national  **braille**
press

National Braille Press (NBP) is a non-profit braille publisher and producer of braille products for the blind and visually impaired. Located in Boston, NBP is one of the oldest operating braille printing and publishing houses in the USA, with customers worldwide. Founded in 1927, NBP supports a lifetime of opportunity for blind children through braille literacy, and provides access to information for the blind community to maintain independence throughout their lives.

NBP is the only organisation in the USA that specialises in producing original braille books written by blind authors expressly for blind people, including recent technology publications *Getting Started with Android*, and *iOS 10 Without the Eye*.

NBP works tirelessly to ensure that blind people have the same access to information as sighted people. For that reason, Brian Mac Donald founded the Center for Braille Innovation, to provide access to the digital world through affordable e-braille technologies: *"We want blind and low vision people to have the same access to the IoT, so that they can be fully integrated into today's digital world, with affordable e-braille products that help them compete in school and the workplace."*

The team at Corporate LiveWire admired the work

of the NBP President, Brian Mac Donald, and the rest of the company to make braille more innovative. The panel of judges were particularly impressed by the array of inventive products that have been developed at the Center for Braille Innovation, and applauded NBP's notable list of partners and volunteers: organisations such as Google and IBM have contributed to these life-changing products. Corporate LiveWire applauded NBP's revolutionary full-page tablet device that started development in 2011; they are working alongside top universities such as M.I.T., Carnegie Mellon and the University of Michigan to create a full-page tactile graphic.

The panel of judges wanted to celebrate NBP's multi award-winning achievements; in an increasingly digital world, it is vital that the blind and partially sighted are included. With over 10 million people in the US reported as blind or partially sighted, NBP endeavours to empower those suffering with their sight to to actively engage in work, family, and community affairs.

In 2016 NBP launched the **b2g**[®] a portable, Android braille tablet for the blind. The **b2g**[®] costs thousands of dollars less than competitors, and it has more flexibility than traditional braille displays because of its open source design with a user interface that is intuitive and logical.