My name is Adam Graves and I am a doctoral student from the College of Education Texas Tech University. I am seeking college students who identify as congenitally deafblind, and their family members, to participate in a research study about the early educational experiences of students who are congenitally deafblind.

This study will consist of interviews with students who identify as congenitally deafblind and are enrolled in community college, 4 year college or university or graduate school as well as one member of their family (parent, grandparent, sibling). Family members who participate in this study should be familiar with the history of educational services provided to their family member who is deafblind.

Participants in the study will first be asked to complete a brief background survey before being interviewed via a video conferencing platform such as Zoom or Google Meet. Each participant will be emailed a list of the interview questions prior to the video conference and interviews will be between 1 to 2 hours in length. Each interview will be recorded and transcribed and interpreters or captioning will be provided if needed. Once the interviews are completed, participants will be emailed a copy of the transcript of their interview to confirm the accuracy of the transcription as well as to provide additional comments or clarification of statements included in the interview transcript. Some participants may be asked to participate in second 1-2 hour interview and transcription review to obtain additional information. Participants may expect to spend 1 to 2 hours of time answering questions during each interview and 1 to 2 hours of time reviewing the transcript of each interview for a total time commitment of 4-8 hours. However, each interview and transcript review will take place over the course of 2-3 months to ensure that participants are asked to spend a total of no more than 4 hours a month contributing to this project.

Participation in this study voluntary. Individuals may choose to withdraw their participation and information from the study at any time and for any reason. If you'd like to participate or have any questions about the study, please email me at adam.graves@ttu.edu. You may also contact my advisor, Dr. Rona Pogrund at rona.pogrund@ttu.edu.

In addition, Texas Tech has an Institutional Review Board that protects the rights of research participants. You can reach them to ask questions at 806-742-2064. The board may also be reached by mail or email at:

Institutional Review Board of Human Subjects

Office of the Vice President of Research

Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409

hrpp@ttu.edu

Thank you very much.

-Adam Graves