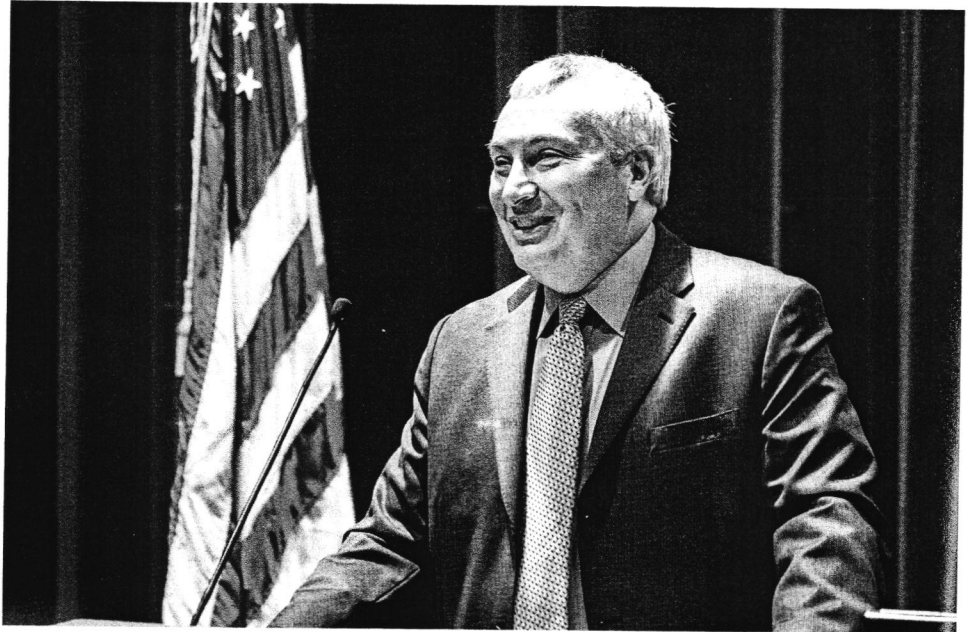


A Vision of Serving Others



Dr. Dennis Atkins has logged over 88,000 miles on his way to a 100,000-mile goal.

Dr. Dennis Atkins shares his compelling story, filled with uplifting anecdotes about living a full life with a disability. Dennis is blind. At age 23, he was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic vision disorder. Dennis says, "We're born with a specific number of photosensory cells in our eyes. Since these don't reproduce, there's no cure right now."

Dennis believes everyone faces disabilities of some sort—loss of loved ones, financial devastation, life-threatening illness—and views his disability no different. The difference is how Dennis uses his God-given gifts to challenge himself to lead an enriched life. He's led by his heart, his mind and God. "Life is filled with choices," he says. "So, our own decisions bring the happiness and success we want for ourselves." Each day Dennis inspires and encourages others to face life's challenges by overcoming fears.

Dennis is a motivational speaker, fundraiser and marathon runner. Yes, he's a runner. His vision limits his activities, so Dennis runs, an activity he began in his early 20s. "Every time I put

on my tennis shoes, I overcome the fear of 'what I might encounter on my run today?' I run unassisted, so my legs and my feet are my guides. Yes, there have been broken bones and bruises over the years."

Dennis emphasizes, "Life's successes are more gratifying when sharing them with family, friends and coworkers. We all need designated drivers to help us overcome life's obstacles. Build your world with people you trust and love." In closing, he quoted Maya Angelou, "... people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Dennis' advocacy has the attention of Missouri's legislative body. His appointment to various state boards has allowed him to be a resolute voice for Missourians with disabilities and the agencies who serve them.

Dennis is available for speaking engagements and enjoys inspiring others and creating awareness about living with disabilities. Visit the website www.DCAI.us to learn more.