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GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free UAB leader to speak to students with disabilities as part of Youth Leadership Forum's Capital City visit

MONTGOMERY – Timothy Alexander, the student-athlete with a disability who helped lead the push to reinstate the University of Alabama at Birmingham's football program, will serve as guest mentor speaker at the Angeline Pinckard Mentor Luncheon on June 8 in the Capital City.

The luncheon will serve as one of many highlights of the 18th annual Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) and hosted by Troy University, YLF is a five-day forum to shape high school students with disabilities through sessions on self-esteem, self-advocacy, career choice, independent living options, and leadership.

The YLF delegates will begin the day at the Capitol building, where they will meet Gov. Bentley, state officials, and lawmakers at the Alabama State House to discuss the various functions of the legislative process, said YLF Coordinator Karen Jenkins.

Following the Capitol tour, delegates will attend the mentor luncheon at the RSA Activity Center, and interact with Alexander and other successful adults with disabilities who will serve as mentors, said Jenkins.

Thirty-eight students with disabilities are expected to participate in this year's forum, which begins Sunday and concludes June 9. To be eligible to participate in the event, students must be a junior or senior in high school, be between 17 and 21 years of age, and have a disability.

Forum delegates are carefully selected through a statewide competition that seeks students with disabilities who display leadership potential. Chosen delegates represent the state's demographics in terms of geography, gender, ethnicity, and types of disabilities.

Delegates will arrive at the state Capitol at 9 a.m. The Angeline Pinckard Mentor Luncheon is slated to begin at 12:30 p.m.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

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PROVIDING SERVICES TO ALABAMIANS WITH DISABILITIES