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Students with hearing impairments to prepare for college life

TROY – Fifteen high school juniors and seniors who are deaf or hard of hearing will get a glimpse of college life at a preparatory program taking place June 25-July 1 on the campus of Troy University.

Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), Camp Success is a week-long college preparatory camp that aims to provide supplemental training and information to benefit students with disabilities who desire to get the most out of their college experience.

“More students with disabilities are enrolling in college now than ever before, and these students are seeking ways to prepare for college and enhance their performance while there,” said Bedarius Bell, state coordinator of deaf and hard of hearing services for ADRS. “ADRS Camp Success assists students with hearing impairments by giving them information on things they need to know to ensure success, from making accommodations to using assistive technology and even taking better notes or studying more efficiently.”

Various topics covered throughout the week will reinforce positive behaviors typical of successful college students, including proper time management, good note- and test-taking strategies, and responsibly monitoring their social media presence.

In addition to classroom activities to prepare them for college success, the campers will also participate in a drunken driving simulation by wearing sensory-inhibiting goggles and navigating an obstacle course.

The students will also spend time in the campus computer lab to work on a presentation where they will research and think critically about how their hearing loss will affect work performance in the classroom and in their future careers.

ADRS Camp Success, currently in its fourth year, is a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services that is based on similar ADRS programs hosted during the summer months on different college campuses throughout the state.

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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