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**REHABILITATION SERVICES**



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mobile area students who are deaf and blind gain summer work experience**

MOBILE - Ten Mobile-area students who are deaf, blind or have hearing or visual impairments are gaining summer work experience as part of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) Summer Employment Program.

The program places high school students with disabilities from ages 16 to 21 at job sites in the area. The students can work for up to 40 hours a week for up to 10 weeks. They are paid \$7.25 an hour, which is well above minimum wage.

"Work experience is an important part of a young person's education," said Lorinda Day, an employer development coordinator with ADRS. "This program allows students who are visually or hearing impaired to gain the work experience they normally would not have. A lack of knowledge about work and the workplace can diminish a person's employment readiness."

Students are provided transportation, interpreters, job coaches and accommodations. Everything is funded through a grant awarded to ADRS by Mobile Works.

Participating employers include Bay Chevrolet, Mobile Public Libraries, the City of Prichard, Irby-Overton Veterinary Clinic, Fred's Discount Store, MARC, Mobile Public School System Maintenance Department, and Golden Corral. The worksites are selected based on availability, as well as the student's age, interests, skills and ability.

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.