



Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Cary F. Boswell
COMMISSIONER

Thursday, June 04, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kathleen McGehee
334-293-7500 or 1-800-441-7607

Students participate in Governor's Youth Leadership Forum

TROY – The 11th annual Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) will take place from June 7 to 11 on the campus of Troy University next week. Students will visit Montgomery on Wednesday, June 10, to tour the Capitol, and take pictures with Gov. Bob Riley on the Capitol steps.

More than 35 students from around the state are expected to participate in the forum. Students had to have a disability, be a junior or senior in high school, and be between 17 to 21 years old to apply.

The forum seeks to equip high school students with disabilities with valuable leadership skills for their future.

"Young people with disabilities have both more opportunities and more challenges than at any other time in our nation's history," said Becky Fields, interim YLF coordinator. "We want to empower our young people to be involved in all aspects of society."

During the forum, delegates will learn about self-esteem, self-advocacy, career choices, independent living, and assistive technology, Fields said. They will write a Personal Leadership Plan (PLP) to assist them in becoming leaders.

While in Montgomery on Wednesday, delegates will also attend a Mentors Luncheon at the RSA Activity Center and interact with and get advice from other people with disabilities.

The Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum is a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.