

# Students with disabilities to participate in Governor's Youth Leadership Forum

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TROY – About 30 high school students with disabilities will take part in leadership exercises and get lessons in how state government works as a part of the Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) at Troy University, June 1 - 5.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and Troy's Institute of Leadership Development with support from agencies including the Alabama Department of Education, the Alabama Department of Mental Health, the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.

This year's YLF will feature sessions on career exploration and technology available to assist people with disabilities, as well as "Living on My Own," a panel discussion led by successful Alabamians with disabilities. Other sessions will look at self-advocacy, team building, and life goals.

Students will also tour the state Capitol beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 4, and attend a mentor luncheon at 12:30 p.m. at the RSA Activity Center in Montgomery.

A closing ceremony and graduation will be held Thursday, June 5, beginning at 12:45 p.m. in the Trojan Student Center on the Troy Campus.

"Witnessing the transformation these delegates undergo in a matter of days is such a positive experience," said Karen Jenkins, who coordinates YLF for the state.

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