

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (YLF)

July 10 July 15, 2011

## WHAT IS THE YLF?

- Five day leadership training program for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students with disabilities
- Model program sponsored by the U.S Department of Labor Office National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability and developed locally by a collaboration of state and private agencies.

## WHY HAVE THE FORUM?

- Young people with disabilities have more opportunities and more challenges than at any other time in our nation's history.
- With the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), they have unprecedented opportunities to fully develop as constructive, contributing members of our society.

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM?

Young People Who Have Disabilities and Who...

- Demonstrate the desire to increase their leadership potential
- Demonstrate involvement in the community or extra-curricular activities
- Demonstrate the ability to interact effectively with other students
- Are representative of Iowa in terms of geographic region, gender, ethnicity and disability

## OUTCOMES

Student Delegates will...

- learn about "developing self esteem", "choosing a career", "the history of disability as a culture", "available resources" and "Assistive technology";
- identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to deal with those barriers;
- be introduced to professionals with disabilities as possible mentor's and role models to encourage youth to realize their ability, rights, and obligation to pursue meaningful employment and community leadership;
- develop a "Personal Leadership Plan" which will include specific action plans for the students for their return to their communities; and
- be empowered to reach goals in education, employment and community.

**WHO:** At least 30 high school students will be selected to attend through a competitive selection process.

**WHEN:** July 10 – July 15, 2011

**WHERE:** **Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa**

**COST:** **Students/participant will not be charged to attend this forum.** Funding for this project is supported by the **Office of Persons with Disabilities, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services**, and the **Iowa Department for the Blind.**

***For more information contact: Office of Persons with Disabilities  
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