



NJDOE News

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Mercer Area Students Participate in National Disability Mentoring Day

In conjunction with National Disability Mentoring Day, students from the Katzenbach School for the Deaf will be treated to a special opportunity to spend the day with professionals working in careers the students are interested in pursuing.

The event is being sponsored in part by Allies New Jersey, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Hamilton that focuses in providing innovative residential, employment and advocacy programs for individuals with disabilities.

Approximately 70 high school students will visit area businesses to learn what it means to work in particular field, which skills are critical to job success and how to find prospects for employment or internships.

Companies in the Trenton area planning to participate in the event include Sovereign Bank Arena, Shop Rite, Mercer County Community College, Staples, Red Lobster, YMCA, Catholic Youth Association, Branning Auto Body, Alterra and DiMaggio's.

On Oct. 27, 1999, the White House administration sponsored the first Disability Mentoring Day which included the participation of only a few federal agencies. It now includes participation from all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 14 other countries. Nationally, the event is expected to host more than 10,000 people with disabilities this year.

Katzenbach School for the Deaf, an affiliate of the state Department of Education also known as the New Jersey School for the Deaf, is a learning community committed to ensuring the lifelong success of people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Working together and with families, school districts, the deaf community, and its other partners, the school creates conditions which optimize learning for students statewide, from birth to high school graduation.

For information on National Disability Mentoring Day, contact Alyse Besto of Allies, Inc. at (609) 689-0136 ext. 147, or visit www.alliesnj.org.

For more information on the Katzenbach School for the Deaf, contact Allwyn Baskin at (609) 530-3104 or visit www.mkdsd.org.