



**Kay Ivey**  
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of  
**REHABILITATION SERVICES**



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COMMISSIONER

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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Youth Leadership Forum's Capital City visit to culminate with speech from Free UAB leader with disability*

MONTGOMERY – Timothy Alexander, the student-athlete with a disability who helped lead the push to reinstate the University of Alabama at Birmingham's football program, will return to speak at the Angeline Pinckard Mentor Luncheon on June 7 in downtown Montgomery.

The luncheon will serve as one of several highlights of the 19th Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). Sponsored by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) and hosted by Troy University, YLF is a five-day annual event to help shape high school students with disabilities through sessions on self-esteem, self-advocacy, career choice, independent living options and leadership.

The YLF delegates will begin the day at the Capitol building, where they will meet Gov. Kay Ivey, state officials, and lawmakers at the Alabama State House to discuss the various functions of the legislative process, said YLF Coordinator Karen Jenkins.

Following the Capitol tour, delegates will attend the mentor luncheon at the RSA Activity Center, and interact with Alexander and other successful adults with disabilities who will serve as mentors, said Jenkins.

Thirty-four students with disabilities will participate in this year's forum, which begins Sunday and concludes June 8. To be eligible, a student must be a junior or senior in high school, be between 17 and 21 years of age, and have a disability.

Forum delegates are chosen through a statewide search to identify students displaying leadership potential. Selected delegates represent the state's demographics in terms of geography, gender, ethnicity, and types of disabilities.

Delegates will arrive at the state Capitol at 9 a.m. The Angeline Pinckard Mentor Luncheon is slated to begin at 12:30 p.m.

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.

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