



## MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Students with disabilities gather to gain leadership skills at 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Youth Leadership Forum**

**TALLAHASSEE** - High school students from all over the state with wide-ranging disabilities are convening in Tallahassee and the Capitol this week for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). Hosted by the Able Trust, students will spend the week learning about career options, workforce skills, and educational opportunities.

A highlight of the week will be the Mentor's Luncheon with guest speaker Richard Salem **on Friday, July 22 at the FSU University Center Club**. Salem, an influential lawyer and disabilities advocate who is also blind, will share his remarkable story to inspire this year's delegates.

YLF is a four-day forum designed to teach students with disabilities about career planning and leadership through workshops, social gatherings and mentoring opportunities. High school students with disabilities from across the state participate in the annual event co-sponsored by The Able Trust and the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council.

Florida Youth Leadership Forum  
Career Fair and Mentors' Luncheon  
Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>; 12:00 p.m.  
University Center Club Ballroom at  
Doak Campbell Stadium, FSU  
Tallahassee

-more-

**Additional YLF Photo/Interview Opportunities:**

Friday, July 22, 2011

**YLF Career Fair**

**University Center Club at Doak Campbell Stadium**

10:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Students will meet with **more than 20** business professionals and industry leaders to learn about career choices in a variety of fields

**Mentors' Luncheon/Sponsor Awards**

**University Center Club Ballroom**

**Keynote Speaker: Richard Salem, J.D.**

*Founder of Enable America and Salem Law Group*

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

**Meeting with FSU Athletes**

**University Center Club Ballroom**

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 23, 2011

**“The Importance of an Active Lifestyle”**

**Optimist Park**

9:30 a.m.-12:00

Outdoor health and fitness activities

**“The Empowerment of Music”**

**FSU Southgate Campus Center**

**675 West Jefferson Street**

2:00 p.m.

YLF participants will discuss how music can be used as a tool of empowerment. There will be instruments available for participants to use and learn about.

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**About The Able Trust:**

*The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, is a 501c(3) public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Its mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities successful opportunities for employment. Since its establishment, The Able Trust has awarded over \$27 million to individuals with disabilities and nonprofit agencies throughout Florida for employment-related purposes, enabling thousands Florida citizens with disabilities to enter the workforce each year. The Able Trust youth programs provide career development and transition to thousands of students with disabilities annually, helping to reduce the dropout rate and prepare young adults for life beyond high school. For more information about The Able Trust, visit [www.abletrust.org](http://www.abletrust.org) or call 850-224-4493.*