

EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE SET FOR 1999

January 29, 1999

Program provides a taste of college for deaf teens The National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), a college of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), is hosting its 16th annual Explore Your Future (EYF), a week-long program designed to provide deaf and hard-of-hearing high school juniors an opportunity to better understand careers in the arts, sciences, computers, business, engineering and the helping professions.

Participants will enjoy hands-on experience in each of the six career areas, as well as learn the technical, professional and liberal arts preparation required. Career counselors will promote personal development and help students clarify their interests, values and enhance the student's decision-making abilities.

NTID faculty, staff and deaf professionals from the Rochester area present the program. Non-curricular and social activities promote confidence, leadership, independence, trust building, and self-awareness. Faculty members and residence advisors introduce EYF students to deaf culture and college life. They interact with others, while they learn to study, manage time, attend classes and adjust to being away from home.

"Most EYF participants are the only deaf student in their high schools," explained Jean Bondi-Wolcott, program coordinator at NTID. "The educational and social experience they gain while at EYF through meeting other deaf and hard-of-hearing students from around the country is very enlightening. They leave with more confidence to make decisions about their future."

In addition, a workshop is offered for parents that will teach strategies to help their child transition from high school to college or the workforce.

The increasing popularity of NTID's Explore Your Future has resulted in three 1999 sessions: July 10-16; July 17-23; July 31-Aug. 6. The cost is \$525 per student, which includes room, meals and all programming. Registration deadline is June 15. The \$25 application fee is waived if participants register before March 15. A limited number of scholarships are available to students who need financial assistance. To register, or for more information, contact Jean Bondi-Wolcott, JMB4646@rit.edu, (716) 475-6705 (voice/tty), or visit the EYF web site at: <http://www.rit.edu/~472www/eyf/>