



**DIVISION OF EQUITY,
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

Camp Catch Them Young
Gallaudet University
July 12-25, 2020

Dear Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf/Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor:

Next summer, Gallaudet University, through the Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), will host the inaugural Camp Catch Them Young for deaf and hard of hearing high school students of color up to the age of 19. The camp is scheduled for July 12-25, 2020 on our campus in Washington, D.C.

Camp Catch Them Young will provide stimulating summer learning and experiential opportunities that blend education, excitement, and enjoyment in a bilingual environment, rich in cultural diversity, which is located just minutes from the U.S. Capitol.

Gallaudet University is the world's only university designed to be barrier-free for deaf and hard of hearing students. For more than 150 years, Gallaudet has led advances in education for deaf and hard of hearing students and deaf rights worldwide. Today, students from across the United States and the world over, diverse in perspective, backgrounds, interests, and communication styles, form an exciting learning community as they prepare for dynamic careers and lifetimes of growth.

Camp Catch Them Young provides fantastic opportunities to college-bound deaf and hard of hearing high school students of color within this environment. Campers will, while experiencing what it is like to be a student on the Gallaudet University campus, develop their transition plans; identify their interests and skills, and explore different potential careers during career classes, leadership seminars, and educational field trips.

Camp Catch Them Young will benefit campers in learning more about themselves and preparing them for professional success in the 21st century. They will return to school equipped with additional skills, knowledge, and abilities that they can apply to their future career development. We have developed activities to support these personal and professional preparation goals:

- Take career-related assessments, with support from our Career Center advisors and EDI staff.
- Interpret assessment results to help narrow down career interest(s) and preference of work environment.
- Engage in self-discovery career related activities designed to better understand their strengths, areas of improvement, personality, style, interests, and values.

- Create a transition portfolio with a timeline to help campers develop their Individual Plan for Employment with their families and Vocational Rehabilitation/Department of Rehabilitation (VR/DOR) counselors.
- Meet with successful Deaf professionals during leadership seminars and learn how they prepared for their career successes.
- Participate in outdoor activities, including a Personal Discovery ropes course, to develop leadership, teamwork, self-confidence, and communication skills.
- Learn about self-advocacy, youth leadership, and disability rights with camp staff leading workshops and activities.
- Attend fun and educational field trips to explore Washington, D.C. attractions, including the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Smithsonian museums, The National African American Museum, Union Station, and many other world-famous sights.

Camp Catch Them Young meets the goals of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS/PETS) program in the following areas:

- Campers receive career guidance and exploration.
- Campers receive information on post-secondary educational opportunities.
- Campers understand the importance of self-advocacy through career classes, leadership seminars, educational field trips, team-building activities, workshops, and group discussions.

The camp fee of \$750 covers room, board and various transportation expenses during the camp itself. Campers are responsible for their own transportation costs to and from Washington D.C./Gallaudet University, but we will provide round trip transportation to and from Union Station or Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Campers are encouraged to bring their own spending money as well.

We look forward to collaborating with you to support deaf and hard of hearing youth with their transition plans, and to start early in preparing for their future.

For more information about our Summer Youth Programs, please see <https://www.gallaudet.edu/multicultural-student-development-and-mentoring/camp-catch-them-young>. Also, feel free to contact me at Olugbenga.Aina@gallaudet.edu if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion