



Council on  
Developmental Disabilities

April 18, 2018

Dear Colleague,

Empower Tennessee center for independent living and The Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities are collaborating to provide a unique and exciting opportunity for students with disabilities to further develop the skills needed to make the most out of the wide range of services and resources available to support their transition to adulthood.

We are putting together a Youth Leadership Academy called, "I Am Who I Am (and that's pretty cool)". This two-day event on June 27 and 28 will bring together eligible students with facilitators and peer speakers that will empower them to open doors to the transition process. The goal for I am Who I Am is to teach self-advocacy to transition-aged youth to prepare them for post-secondary training, education, employment, and living more independently, with a grander vision of building a core of youth advocates to teach these skills to their peers.

We are seeking 20-30 students between the ages of 14-24 that would benefit from an experience that would address:

- Individual Identity as a Person with a Disability
- Self-Advocacy and Empowerment
- Finding and Using Your Voice
- The Opportunities and Responsibilities of Choice
- Contributing to the Community

We are asking for your assistance in helping us identify these individuals. Students will need to apply to participate. The application process will ensure that the chosen students want to participate, will value the training, and that we have all the necessary accommodations in place for a successful event.

Thank you for your support of this collaborative effort that could help shape and identify tomorrow's leaders today.

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