

MEDIA ALERT:
June 16, 2014



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Dallas Regional Employment Access Meet (DREAM) — providing real-world job experience for visually-impaired students

WHAT: Twenty North Texas students who are visually-impaired will live on the SMU campus for a month and will receive job training and coaching during the Dallas Regional Employment Access Meet (DREAM). Students will have the opportunity to travel to temporary work assignments at CVS, Albertsons or Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind to name a few. The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Division of Blind Services (DARS-DBS) and Easter Seals North Texas collaborate together for the third year to put on this experience for these students.

WHEN: Monday, June 16 – Friday, July, 18, 2014

WHERE: Southern Methodist University (SMU)
Peyton Hall
3325 Peyton Parkway
Dallas, Texas 75225

WHY: **Nearly 1 in 5 people have a disability in the U.S.** Dallas Regional Employment Access Meet (DREAM) is an opportunity for visually-impaired students to gain job experience and social interaction leading them toward independence and becoming successful members of the working world. "Employment is the most important thing for people with disabilities, because it makes them a part of the community," said Tempe Mays, director of employment services at Easter Seals North Texas.

VISUAL

OPPORTUNITIES:

- Students at SMU campus
- Students during job training and coaching sessions
- Students at their work sites such as CVS, Albertsons, Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind or the Division of Blind Services

INTERVIEW

OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Tempe Mays, Director of Employment Services** at Easter Seals North Texas – the students "temporary boss" and supervisor of the students' job coaches
- **Donna Dempsey, President & CEO** of Easter Seals North Texas

BACKGROUND:

As a nonprofit organization, Easter Seals North Texas is always ready to provide expert help, hope and answers for individuals with disabilities and their families. It's who we are, and what we have been doing for 75 years in North Texas. Each year, with our assistance, over 4,000 individuals of all abilities are able to live, learn, work and play in our communities. Services available at Easter Seals North Texas include an autism treatment program, child development center, outpatient rehabilitation, employment services, home care services, CLASS case management, North Texas Travels and Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) services. For more information about local services and to support children and adults with disabilities, visit www.ntx.easterseals.com, connect via ww.facebook.com/EasterSealsNorthTexas or call 1-888-617-7171.

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