

EYF AT NTID: DEAF HEALTH PANEL DISCUSSIONS

July 21 & 28, 2011



Thursday July 21st and July 28th, NCDHR attended Explore You Future (EYF) at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. EYF is an organization that invites high school students from around the country to explore the different possible career options in preparation for college. At EYF, NCDHR organized two educational panels for individuals interested in entering into the health field. The first panel represented current students with hopes of entering into a variety of health fields. The students discussed their individual backgrounds, which majors they are pursuing, what they are currently doing, and some of the struggles/challenges they encountered in exploring future health careers.

The second panel consisted of Deaf professionals in the medical field. They discussed their backgrounds and experiences in the field as well as different topics raised by the audience members. Some of the questions that were asked were in regards to malpractice and challenges encountered in the field.

After the first day of panel discussions,

the second day of panel discussions switched their focus from medical careers to a broader category: Science. EYF students were informed that health careers consisted of more programs than just doctors, dentists, and veterinarians. The students were also encouraged to have confidence in themselves and whatever they put their minds to, they could achieve. One student asked if Deaf students could become doctors and how the deaf professionals overcame negative stereotypes that deaf people cannot become doctors, etc.? This part of the discussion was key in helping high school students realize there is nothing they cannot do when they put their mind to it. With years of oppression, Deaf students need to be aware that the sky is the limit!

While only an hour long, the panel discussion proved to be very informative. Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks to Tiffany Panko and Scott Smith for facilitating the event, as well as NTID for inviting NCDHR to participate in their EYF program.

