



Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 8, 2011

For More Information Contact

A.J. Hostetler, Director, Public Relations
aj.hostetler@drs.virginia.gov, 804-662-7372

FORUM HELPS YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES PREPARE FOR LIFE BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

- WHAT:** **Virginia Transition Forum**, attended by nearly 1,000 students, families, advocates and service providers, presents sessions on topics ranging from safe driving, autism, employment and assistive technology to help students with disabilities prepare for a successful transition from school to adulthood. View the 2011 program detailing session schedules online at www.virginiatransitionforum.org.
- WHO:** **Commissioner Lynnae Ruttledge**, Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education; students with disabilities; parents; advocates; and service providers including educators and rehabilitation professionals
- WHEN:** **March 14-16.** On March 15, the forum will feature a daylong technology fair with demonstrations of a wide range of low-tech to high-tech devices. Sessions that morning will cover lessons learned on computer accessibility features as well as the use of the iPad, iPod Touch and “smart phones” as devices to assist those with disabilities overcome barriers and gain independence.
- WHERE:** **Norfolk Waterside Marriott**, 235 E. Main St., Norfolk
- WHY:** **Each year, about 28,000 students with disabilities in Virginia receive services that prepare them for transitioning to work or postsecondary education and greater independence.** The annual Virginia Transition Forum provides information and guidance in addressing the complex issues facing these young adults as they prepare for life beyond high school.

###