**Work To Independence 2013 tri-fold text**

**OUTSIDE**

**Cover**

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

Work to Independence 2013

June 22nd to August 10,th 2013

For Blind and Low Vision High School Students

(A photo of a female student working)

“We positively change people’s attitudes about blindness”

**Mailing Label**

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

3345 Washington Boulevard

 Baltimore, MD 21227

**Work To Independence 2013 Logo in Purple**

For more Information about BISM Youth programs

Please contact: Dan Wenzel

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Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

Work to Independence 2013

June 22nd to August 10,th 2013

For Blind and Low Vision High School Students

High School students who are blind or have low vision, with priority given to juniors, seniors & 2013 graduates:

· Learn non-visual techniques in Braille, cane travel, independent living, and the use of technology

· Participate in age-appropriate social recreational activities & travel to Washington DC and New York City

· Engage in structured discussions & listen to presentations by successful blind adults to learn how to optimize your success

· Live in apartments with blind peers & responsible blind adults

· Attend the National Federation of the Blind Convention in Orlando, Florida

· Work 20 hours per week in a paid work experience with a Baltimore area business agency during the last four weeks of the program

Join us for an action-packed, enriching summer!

**INSIDE**

**Left**

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

**Work to Independence 2013**

Blind high school students can

“Work to Independence”

(a photo of a student with sleep shades on cutting a tomato)

For students summer represents many things: a chance to earn some extra money, hanging out with friends at the pool or mall, learning a skill, taking a trip, exploring familiar & unfamiliar places. . .

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland (BISM) “Work to Independence 2013” offers all those things and much more during this seven-week comprehensive residential employment skills program for high school students who are blind or have low vision. Those are entering their junior or senior year or will graduate in June 2013 will have priority for admission to the program.

**Center**

Just as their sighted peers are gaining valuable work experience while earning extra money over the summer, program participants will learn the skills needed to become independent and to find a job. Students will then put those skills to practice working 20 hours per week for four weeks.

In addition to the work experience, students will travel to Orlando, Florida to attend the National Federation of the Blind Convention where they will meet successful blind adult role-models. They will also rock-climb, sail and visit New York, & Washington DC.

Other activities include: visiting points of interest in Baltimore, attending recreational events and just hanging out at the mall. Students will improve their skills & increase their confidence while making new friends!

Participants will live with competent blind adults, learning the non-visual techniques their instructors use on a daily basis. As their confidence grows, students will understand that their personal, professional and scholastic success is not dependent on their residual vision. Students will interact with successful blind adults develop long-lasting friendships with other participants in the program.

Blind Industries and Services of Maryland

Work to Independence 2013 Logo in Purple

**Right**

(A photo of a male student rock climbing up a wall with i2013 underneath it)

At BISM we have high expectations for students who are blind or have low vision! This summer you can build a foundation of skills and experience which will help you to achieve your future goals!

We use an online application. To apply: Go to [www.bism.org/youth](http://www.bism.org/youth) and complete the on-line “Work to Independence” application by **April 1, 2013**. Applications will be considered on a first come, first serve basis. Applications received after April 1 will be considered as space permits. All applicants will be interviewed prior to acceptance to the program. If you need assistance with the application or have any questions, please contact Dan Wenzel at (410) 737-2642.

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