



## Disabled students program planned

By Ben Penserga  
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SALISBURY -- Lower Shore Enterprises Inc. is introducing a program that will help high school students with disabilities have a chance to explore job opportunities or further their education in technology-related fields before they receive their diplomas.



The Salisbury nonprofit organization was one of only five groups selected to start up a High School/High Tech program in Maryland, said project director Tanya Stillman. The honor comes with a three-year grant that gives LSE -- which strives to help workers with disabilities maximize productivity in the work place -- about \$35,000 to use to begin the program.



Stillman said HS/HT will give students with disabilities who will graduate from high school the preparation to continue their education through college, trade schools or vocational training.

"We'll help set up internships, site tours, job shadowing to give some experience and inform (students)," she said.

Since the program is still new, Stillman said their goal this year is to recruit eight sophomores and eight junior students from Wicomico County's four public high schools and the program probably will be incorporated into regular school work as extracurricular activities.

But as the HS/HT program gains momentum, it will probably be expanded to Worcester and Somerset counties, Stillman said.

Bonnie Walston, special education coordinator for Wicomico County Public Schools, praised the program's effort.



"Any opportunity that allows students to connect with the real world and gain that experience is good," she said. "And it also helps that the focus is in technology, since we all know that's where job market is growing."



Anyone interested in the program should call Tanya Stillman at 410-749-6183.

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