MNLEND Program
Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities

The Program
MNLEND is an interdisciplinary leadership training program that prepares future leaders who will serve children with autism, other neurodevelopmental (NDD) and related disabilities and their families. MNLEND is a partnership between the University of Minnesota’s Institute on Community Integration, College of Education and Human Development, College of Liberal Arts, and School of Medicine. The program spans 18+ disciplines.

The Curriculum
MNLEND curriculum incorporates didactic, clinical, research, and practicum experiences using a combination of activities. Learning experiences include:

• Coordinated interdisciplinary training
• Leadership skill development
• Promotion of cultural competence and family-centered care
• Community outreach and continuing education
• Policy development
• Translation of research into practice
• Facilitation of collaborative processes and skill development
• Resource development and dissemination

Training
MNLEND training is:

• Intended to have real-world impact on the lives of the 3.8 million children with developmental disabilities in the U.S.
• Well-qualified to address many of today’s health equity issues and healthcare shortages with interdisciplinary training of professionals
• Inclusive of parents, siblings, and people with disabilities

Disciplines and Contacts

Audiology Sarah Angerman, PhD, erick147@umn.edu
ASD Screening and Prevalence Jen Hall Lande, PhD, LP, NCSP, hall0440@umn.edu
Community Anab Gulaid, gula0021@umn.edu; Beth Fondell, fond0030@umn.edu; Ellie Wilson, wils1348@umn.edu
Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics Andy Barnes, MN, drbarnes@umn.edu and Michael Reiff, MN, reiff001@umn.edu
Genetic Counseling Heather Zierhut, zier0034@umn.edu
Family Barb Kleist, kleis041@umn.edu
Nursing Barbara Beacham, PhD, RN, CNP, bbeacham@umn.edu
Nutrition Aida Miles, MMSc, LD, RD, miles081@umn.edu
Occupational Therapy Peggy Martin, PhD, marti370@umn.edu
Pediatric Dentistry Soraya Beiraghi, DDS, beira001@umn.edu
Neuropsychology Amy Esler, PhD, LP, esl0007@umn.edu; Rebekah Hudock, PhD, LP, NSCP, kale0040@umn.edu; Suma Jacob, sjacob@umn.edu; and Robin Rumsey, PhD, LP, rumse002@umn.edu
Policy and Advocacy Beth Fondell, fond0030@umn.edu
Public Health Leadership James Begun, PhD, begun001@umn.edu
Physical Therapy (determined by Gillette residency selection committee)
Self-Advocacy TBD
Social Work and Child Welfare Amy Hewitt, PhD, MSW, hewit005@umn.edu and Tracy Laliberte, PhD, MSW, lal10017@umn.edu
Special Education Joe Reichle, PhD, reich001@umn.edu and Frank Symons, PhD, symon007@umn.edu
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Joe Reichle, PhD, reich001@umn.edu
Other

LEND programs train future leaders in maternal and child health to have a real world impact on the lives of children and families with neurodevelopmental (NDD) and related disabilities.

LEND programs foster opportunities that help ensure children, youth, and families are served by a quality workforce who promotes positive attitudes and takes equity-minded actions to partner with people with disabilities and their families.

LEND invites all applicants interested and committed to improving the quality of life for children with NDDs and their families.
A University of Minnesota student status is NOT required to be a MNLEND Fellow. MNLEND is committed to creating diverse Fellowship cohorts to enhance the learning experiences for all.

People from underserved and/or underrepresented communities and backgrounds are encouraged to apply!

The Fellows
MNLEND Fellows come from all walks of life. They could be University of Minnesota-based graduate and postgraduate students, community members, parents, self-advocates, and/or professionals in the field selected for their outstanding skills, potential leadership, and commitment to improving the quality of life for children with autism spectrum disorders, neurodevelopmental and related disabilities. In partnership with academic departments across the University, MNLEND offers about 30 fellowships each year. The fellowship year runs from late August until the end of June.

Benefits
There are many benefits to being a LEND Fellow, including:

- The opportunity to participate in a state-of-the-art clinical, research, policy-related, and community training with one-to-one faculty mentoring
- The unique chance to learn with a group of trainees across disciplines
- Generous paid stipend
- Focused training on leadership skills and competencies
- Connections to other Fellows across the U.S. with similar interests in neurodevelopmental disabilities (NDD)

Requirements
Predoctoral and community-based Fellows complete a total of 320 hours of training/learning activities from a range of possible experiences identified and designed with a LEND faculty-mentor in an individual leadership learning plan (ILLP).

Full-time post doctoral LEND Fellows are required to engage in 46 weeks of full-time training, research, and professional development (a total of 1,788 hours), or they can join for a part-time appointment.

All LEND Fellows are required to complete:

- Weekly sessions (Thursdays 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)
- Families as Teachers experience
- ASD-NDD clinic site visits and at 8+ other optional sites
- Customized individual leadership learning plan (ILLP)
- Team building and leadership activities
- Community, research, policy, or clinical project
- Disability policy and services course (OLPD 5356)

Requirements
- Increased understanding of autism and other neurodevelopmental and related disabilities
- Application of a public health approach that is person-, family-, and community-centered
- Participation in interdisciplinary training and practice
- Development of cultural and linguistic competencies
- Increased knowledge of health disparities
- Exposure to an ecological view of health
- Utilization of technology-based communication and teaching
- Promotion of developmental potential
- Facilitation of transitions to adult life
- Promotion of self-advocacy and self-efficacy
- Translation of research to practice
- Engagement with policy development and dissemination

The application process
MNLEND 2018-19 cohort application can be completed online at lend.umn.edu. Contact dosch018@umn.edu for alternative formats. Applications require two letters of recommendation, a statement of intent, a CV/résumé (and transcripts, if a student). Applications for the 2018-19 cohort open on November 1, 2017 and close on March 1, 2018.

Early Admission Consideration Deadline: Dec. 1, 2017
General Admission Consideration Deadline: Mar. 1, 2018

Application Details
http://lend.umn.edu/fellowapp/appinformation.asp

Contact/Questions:
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