



University of Connecticut
A.J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence
in Developmental Disabilities
Education, Research and Service

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (LEND)

Are you an emerging leader with a demonstrated interest in improving the quality of life for children and young adults who have neurodevelopmental or other disabilities?

What is the LEND Program?

The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) Program is an interdisciplinary leadership training program aimed at improving the health of infants, children and adolescents who have, or are at risk for developing, neurodevelopmental and other related disabilities, with an emphasis on autism spectrum disorders. The University of Connecticut A. J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education, Research, and Service provides training to community members, professionals, family members of individuals with disabilities, as well as master's and doctoral students seeking individualized interdisciplinary training experiences in disabilities each year. An interdisciplinary faculty, including family members and persons with disabilities, provides training and mentorship to the LEND Fellows.

What is the LEND Fellowship?

The LEND Long Term Trainees are required to make a minimum of a 300 hour commitment to the program by participating in weekly seminars in Farmington, Connecticut, as well as practica over the course of nine months. The seminar is a course designed for participants to attain competency in key areas. Examples of some of the topics are: leadership, neurodevelopment, risk, disability, individual and system supports, and emerging issues. Some of the core themes that run through the course are family-centered care, cultural competency, interdisciplinary practices, life course approach, and the use of medical homes. Stipends and partial tuition reimbursement are available for selected LEND trainees. Students may also participate as Medium Term Trainees for 40 to 299 hours, with stipends possible in some instances. We encourage applications from candidates reflecting diverse backgrounds (i.e., linguistically, culturally, racially, or ethnically).

Who is Eligible to Participate in LEND Training?

Doctoral and Masters level students from any university in Connecticut with a demonstrated commitment to the field of disabilities who are in one of the following disciplines are eligible to become LEND Fellows:

- Audiology
- Business
- Communication Disorders
- Dentistry
- Educational Psychology
- Human Development & Family Studies
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Public Health and Administration
- Social Work
- Special Education

Community members, professionals, and family members of persons with disabilities are also eligible to participate as Long Term (>300 hours), Medium Term (40-299 hours) and Short Term Trainees (< 40 hours).

Application Deadline

Applications for the 2011-2012 Cohort of LEND Trainees are due **May 6, 2011**. Decisions will be made in June.

Contact Information

Please contact Tierney Giannotti at tgiannotti@uchc.edu or 860.679.1516 for an application. Visit www.uconnucedd.org/lend for further information.