Do you meet clinical, system and/or policy barriers you would like to change?

Are you interested in developing your leadership skills?

Would you like to take two UVM courses, earning 6 graduate credit hours and have them paid for as part of participating in our program?

What is VT LEND?
VT-LEND is a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program which provides one academic year of graduate level interdisciplinary training as well as interdisciplinary services and care. The purpose of the LEND training program is to improve the health of infants, children, and adolescents with disabilities. This is accomplished by preparing trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields and by insuring high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence.

There are currently 43 LEND programs in 37 states creating a national network, Association of University Centers on Disabilities (www.aucd.org), that shares information on issues important to children with special health care needs and their families.

Who can apply?
- You have a vision for leadership
- You wish to gain understanding, experience and skill in influencing policies impacting children, families and service providers.
- You are interested in the field of neurodevelopmental disabilities including autism.
- You are a graduate student, community professional, and/or family member of a child with a disability.

VT LEND Trainees and Fellows 2014-2015
VT LEND Core Curriculum

**Orientation:** Introduction to MCH & LEND vision & networks; self-assessment & focused trainings.

**Graduate Seminars:** Interdisciplinary Seminar in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, I (Fall) & II (Spring), - 3 credits each.*

**Leadership Discussion:** Interdisciplinary faculty, T/Fs meet monthly as a learning community to discuss MCH clinical, leadership, and/or policy & systems issues.

**Legislative & Policy Training:** Knowledge and skill building on legislative process and advocacy with a day at the state house & visits to US Congress member’s local offices

**Leadership Goal Plan:** T/Fs create and implement plan focused on their leadership goal. Interdisciplinary faculty provides guidance and support.

**Mentorship meetings:** Mentorship is provided by a core faculty to guide T/F through LEND training & engage in a reflective process focused on who they are as a leader & their leadership goals.

**Disability Policy Seminar:** 3 days in Washington DC focused on policy and current legislative issues culminating in a visit to meet with legislators on Capitol Hill (optional).

*Graduate Seminars can be applied toward a Certificate of Graduate Studies (CAGS) in the Interdisciplinary Study of Disabilities. Information about the CAGS is available at: http://www.uvm.edu/~cdci/cgsisd/

**Required Internship Experience**

In addition to the core curriculum, T/F spend 50-60 hours in an internship experience. These activities include:

**Family Connection:** A guided interview with a family focused on understanding the family experience of raising a child with special needs

**Interdisciplinary Consultation:** Current Fellows bring a challenging leadership or clinical situation to the interdisciplinary team

**Internship Opportunities** (this is not an inclusive list; individual decisions made based on learning needs & site availability)

- VT Health Dept. Children with Special Health Needs (CSHN) and Child Development Clinic
- VT I-Team
- Pediatric Medical Homes
- Children’s Integrated Services (CIS) teams
- VT Children’s Hospital clinics
- VT State Autism Consultant
- Policy internships
- 1:1 matching with LEND faculty, field experts and/or consultants

**NOTE:** Core Curriculum and internships are refined annually; some activities may change.

Testimonial from an Early Childhood Special Education trainee:

“The opportunity to work with an interdisciplinary team and share expertise and challenges has been a huge benefit. I’m excited to be learning so many new skills, which I’m bringing back to our students with ASD and their families. “

Visit our website for more information. If interested in applying, please contact our Program Coordinator, Esther Doh at ndoh@uvm.edu.

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