



Louisiana LEND

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND)

A nine-month interdisciplinary training program preparing future leaders to prioritize the needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities through advocacy, family engagement, and Maternal and Child Health principles.

LEND improves your knowledge and skills related to:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Social determinants of health
- Life course theory
- Interdisciplinary thinking and practice
- Family and person-centered care
- Leadership and Advocacy Skills

Who participates in Louisiana LEND?

Self-Advocates

Family Members

Graduate Students*

Practicing Professionals*

*In fields related to:
Healthcare
Special education
ASD/NDD/DD
Other related areas



"Too often professionals and parents do things to just get by, thereby perpetuating the status quo. If we are going to move the disability community forward, it's imperative that we do so with the highest standards and I believe LEND supports that."

Nicole DeJean, 2021 LEND scholar

LEND Training Components

- Week-long introduction to the history and theory of Maternal and Child Health, called "MCH Foundations"
- Didactic seminars in MCH topics and leadership development
- Family mentoring experience
- Clinical and field experiences
- Policy and advocacy education
- Paid travel to Association for University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Conference



Criteria for Self-Advocate Scholars

- Has Autism Spectrum Disorder, neurodevelopmental disability, and/or other disability status
- Completed postsecondary or has some experience with higher education
- Would not be a full-time student during the program year

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www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu/lendl