



## HOW TO APPLY

- 1) Contact your discipline coordinator to discuss your interest in the program
- 2) Visit [illinoislend.org](http://illinoislend.org) to download an application packet
- 3) Submit a completed application packet to your discipline coordinator

For more information, visit [illinoislend.org](http://illinoislend.org) or contact Regina Meza at [rmeza3@uic.edu](mailto:rmeza3@uic.edu)

“LEND is the single best thing I have immersed myself in. It brings together all disciplines to look at a person holistically. There is no other program I know of that does that. In the realm of disabilities, it makes the impossible, possible.”

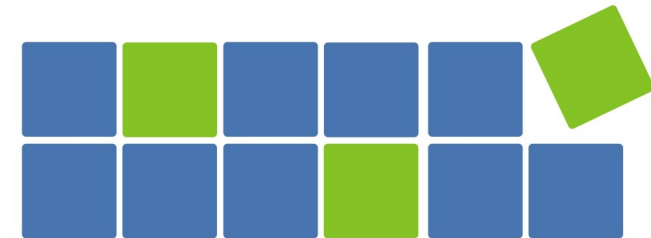
— Meg Swaback, Self-Advocate  
2013-2014 Social Work Trainee

## DISCIPLINE COORDINATORS

<b>Applied Behavior Analysis &amp; Therapy</b>	Mark Dixon, PhD: <a href="mailto:mdixon@siu.edu">mdixon@siu.edu</a>
<b>Disability Studies</b>	Sarah Parker Harris, PhD: <a href="mailto:skparker@uic.edu">skparker@uic.edu</a>
<b>Family</b>	Matie Ovalle: <a href="mailto:movalle@uic.edu">movalle@uic.edu</a>
<b>Nursing</b>	Teresa Savage, PhD, RN: <a href="mailto:tsavag2@uic.edu">tsavag2@uic.edu</a>
<b>Nutrition</b>	Sharon Donovan, PhD: <a href="mailto:sdonovan@illinois.edu">sdonovan@illinois.edu</a>
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	Ashley Stoffel, OTD, OTR/L: <a href="mailto:astoffel@uic.edu">astoffel@uic.edu</a>
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<b>Physical Therapy</b>	Michelle Bulanda: <a href="mailto:mbulanda@uic.edu">mbulanda@uic.edu</a>
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<b>Public Health</b>	Noel Chávez, PhD, RD, LDN: <a href="mailto:nchavez@uic.edu">nchavez@uic.edu</a>
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<b>Social Work</b>	Christine Escobar-Sawicki, LCSW: <a href="mailto:cescobar@illinois.edu">cescobar@illinois.edu</a>
<b>Special Education</b>	Lisa Cushing, PhD: <a href="mailto:lcushing@uic.edu">lcushing@uic.edu</a>
<b>Speech-Language</b>	Karen Tessler, PhD, CCC-SLP: <a href="mailto:karen_tessler@rush.edu">karen_tessler@rush.edu</a>



**Leadership and Education in  
Neurodevelopmental  
Disabilities**



## PROJECT TEAM

Kruti Acharya, MD, **Director**  
Karin Vander Ploeg Booth, MD, **Associate Director**  
Mark Dixon, PhD, **Associate Director**  
Ann T. Cutler, MD, **Clinical Training Director**  
Regina Meza, MPH, **Project Coordinator**

**DISABILITY AND  
HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
COLLEGE OF  
APPLIED HEALTH  
SCIENCES**



# The Illinois LEND Program is **SEEKING LEADERS**

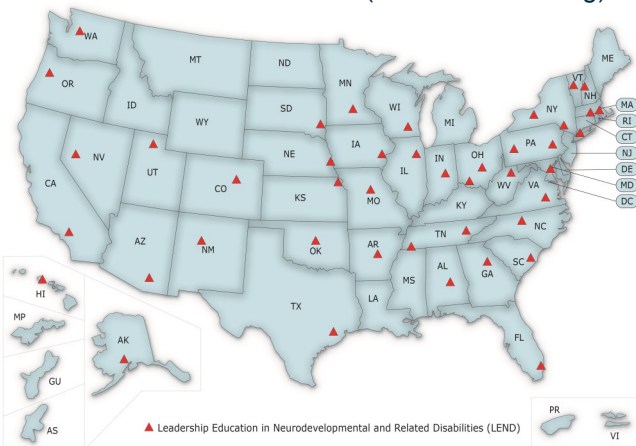
## WHAT DOES LEND PROVIDE?

The 1-year (2 semester) interdisciplinary training program incorporates both didactic and experiential learning in clinical and community settings. LEND prepares future leaders who will serve children with disabilities (with a focus on autism) and their families through coordinated, culturally competent, and family-centered care, as well as through public health services and policy systems change.

- Individual tailored mentorship
- Weekly didactic sessions
- Research or leadership projects
- Community outreach
- Policy and advocacy training
- Clinical training with a focus on Autism

## NATIONAL NETWORK

There are currently 52 LENDs in 44 states and DC. LENDs form a national network that work together to address national issues of importance to children with disabilities and their families. (See [www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org))



Illinois LEND receives grant funds through the Maternal and Child Health Branch, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Grant T73MC11047. The IDHD (UCEDD) is funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

Illinois LEND has a partnership between University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), University of Chicago, RUSH University, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Eastern Seals Central Illinois, and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

## IL LEND provides interdisciplinary leadership training each year in the following 15 disciplines:

Applied Behavior Analysis  
Developmental Pediatrics  
Disability Studies  
Family\*  
Nursing  
Nutrition  
Occupational Therapy  
Physical Therapy  
Psychology  
Psychiatry  
Public Health  
Self-advocacy\*\*  
Social Work  
Special Education  
Speech-Language Pathology

Family and Self-advocacy trainees provide an invaluable perspective to the IL LEND Program.

*\*Family trainees have a family member with a disability.*

*\*\*Self-advocacy trainees are people with disabilities.*

Priority is given to graduate students in the above disciplines and family/self-advocates; however, recent graduates working in the field may apply.



2015-2016 Illinois LEND Trainees

All trainees complete 300+ hours of leadership and discipline-specific didactic, clinical, and community training. Trainees who are eligible receive a stipend.

“LEND has also helped me to have a greater appreciation for my daughter as she is—disability and all... The LEND experience helps all trainees to see disability in a more positive light and to appreciate the unique and wonderful qualities of individuals with disabilities. At the same time, the LEND program gives its trainees insight into the struggles and needs of this population, needs that non-disabled people often take for granted.”

— Shannon O'Brien  
2011-2012 Nutrition Trainee

At UIC, Illinois LEND is housed within the Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD). IDHD, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) is dedicated to promoting the independence, productivity and inclusion of people with disabilities into all aspects of society.

