The Georgia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (GaLEND) program is a one-year interdisciplinary training experience that prepares tomorrow’s leaders to provide coordinated, culturally competent, and family-centered care to children and their families. The GaLEND program incorporates didactic and experiential learning in classroom, clinical, and community settings to further develop the skills of participants within their own disciplinary backgrounds, as well as to work together toward the greater goal of improved public health policy and systems.

WHO IS A GaLEND TRAINEE?

LEND trainees must have a demonstrated interest in improving the lives of individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities and their families, as well as a commitment to pursuing leadership roles in advocacy, policy, direct support, clinical practice, education, and research. Most GaLEND trainees are advanced master’s, doctoral, or post-doctoral. GaLEND trainees also include individuals with developmental disabilities and family members, early career professionals, and community practitioners.
OBJECTIVES

1. Advance the knowledge and skills of all child health professionals to improve health and health care for children with developmental disabilities

2. Provide high-quality interdisciplinary education that emphasizes the integration of services from state and local agencies and organizations, private providers, and communities

3. Promote innovative and effective practices to enhance cultural competency, family-centered care, and interdisciplinary partnerships

4. Provide health professionals with skills that foster community-based partnerships

WHY LEND’s RIGHT FOR YOU

- You want to promote positive change for people with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.
- You believe that your training is preparing you with the tools to build a better world for children with disabilities and their families.
- You realize that you can’t create the change that is needed on your own and want to join with people from other disciplines to do it.
- You relish the chance to hear from prominent researchers, policy makers, and advocates.
- You want to be a part of interdisciplinary teams that promote practices that improve the lives of children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.
- You have a desire to work alongside researchers who are breaking new ground in understanding disability issues.
- You want to learn more about policy making and how it affects the lives of children with disabilities and their families.
- You want to promote eliminating health disparities for people who have historically been unserved or underserved.
- You value the voices and experiences of people with disabilities and their ability to inform policy and practice.
- You want to build relationships that contribute to your career development and connect to national networks of change agents through AUCD and the LEND programs.

DISCIPLINES