**TRAINEE APPLICATION**

**CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES**

**AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY**

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH**

**LEADERSHIP EDUCATION IN NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (LEND)**

Position Description: **L**eadership **E**ducation in **N**eurodevelopmental and Related **D**isabilities (LEND) programs provide long-term, 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. They accomplish this by preparing trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields and by insuring high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence.

LEND programs operate within a university system, usually as part of a University Center for Excellence (UCEDD) or other larger entity, and collaborate with local university hospitals and/or health care centers. This set-up gives them the expert faculty, facilities, and other resources necessary to provide exceptional interdisciplinary training and services.

There are currently 43 LENDs in 37 states. Collectively, they form a national network that shares information and resources and maximizes their impact. They work together to address national issues of importance to children with special health care needs and their families, exchange best practices and develop shared products. They also come together regionally to address specific issues and concerns.

While each LEND program is unique, with its own focus and expertise, they all provide interdisciplinary training, have faculty and trainees in a wide range of disciplines, and include parents or family members as paid program participants. They also share the following objectives:

1. advancing the knowledge and skills of all child health professionals to improve health care delivery systems for children with developmental disabilities;
2. providing high-quality interdisciplinary education that emphasizes the integration of services from state and local agencies and organizations, private providers, and communities;
3. providing health professionals with skills that foster community-based partnerships; and
4. promoting innovative practices to enhance cultural competency, family-centered care, and interdisciplinary partnerships.

The LENDs grew from the 1950s efforts of the Children's Bureau (now the Maternal and Child Health Bureau) to identify children with disabilities as a Title V program priority. They are funded under the 2006 Combating Autism Act and are administered by the Health Resources and Service's Administration's (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB).

Please answer the following questions in essay form using about 3 to 5 pages. Return to Diane Williams at awilliams@hsc.wvu.edu or by mail to the Center for Excellence in Disabilities at West Virginia University, 959 Hartman Run Rd., Morgantown, WV 26505. Include the names of three references. Applications will be accepted until ???

1. Describe activities or events during which you have demonstrated leadership potential or skill. For example, counselor at a children’s camp, membership in civic organization, etc.

2. What skills do you hope to develop as a trainee in the LEND Program?

3. Why would you like to be a LEND Trainee?

4. What are your professional goals and interests?

5. What experience have you had with developmental or acquired disabilities?