

## What is a LEND Program?

The Georgia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Program (GaLEND) is a one-year interdisciplinary training experience that incorporates both *didactic* and *experiential* learning in clinical and community settings. This program prepares future leaders to enhance the lives of children and families through culturally competent and family-centered services, more coordinated systems of care, and responsive social policies.

GaLEND is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). GaLEND operates as part of the Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD) at Georgia State University (GSU), in collaboration with the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). GaLEND also collaborates with a number of community partners, including the Center for Excellence in Maternal Child Health (MCH CoE) at Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These partners offer expert faculty and experiences that distinguish the GaLEND Program.

GaLEND is one of 52 LEND programs from across the United State. Together they form a network that addresses regional and national issues of importance to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and a specific focus on children with autism and related disorders. All LEND programs have faculty and trainees from a wide range of disciplines, provide interdisciplinary training, and include parents or family members as faculty and paid program participants. They also share the following objectives:

1. To advance the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to improve health and educational systems for children with autism and related developmental disabilities;
2. To provide interdisciplinary education that emphasizes the integration of services across state and local agencies, private providers, and communities;
3. To promote innovative and effective practices that enhance cultural competency, family-centered care, and interdisciplinary partnerships;
4. To prepare future leaders from diverse backgrounds to improve health care access, quality of care, and outcomes for children, especially those from historically underserved racial and ethnic groups.

## Who is a LEND Trainee?

A LEND trainee is someone who wants to make the world a better place – and understands the importance of gaining the leadership skills and perspectives to make that happen. Applicants for GaLEND have generally already demonstrated an interest in improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities *and* a commitment to pursuing leadership roles in policy, direct supports, education, and advocacy. Most GaLEND trainees are advanced master's, doctoral, or post-doctoral students from GSU and MSM. GaLEND trainees also include individuals with developmental disabilities and family members as advocacy trainees, as well as early career professionals from CDC and community practitioners -- *these individuals are not required to be enrolled as graduate students*. An annual stipend is available for eligible trainees (stipends amounts vary by discipline, level of training, and whether the trainee is otherwise employed); stipend recipients must be US citizens or permanent residents.

## Training Activities

GaLEND develops competencies in seven domains: (1) leadership; (2) public health; (3) cultural competence; (4) interdisciplinary clinical practice; (5) family-centered care; (6) emerging issues in policy and practice related to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities; and (7) research. Learning experiences include weekly didactic seminars (Friday from 1pm-4pm), leadership seminars (alternating Wednesday evenings from 5pm-8pm), workshops and interdisciplinary group activities, clinical care coordination, a research practicum, and family mentoring. The program takes place over two semesters starting **August 15, 2017 and ending April 23, 2018**.

## LEND Disciplines and Coordinators for the 2017-2018 Academic Year

|   |                                  |                         |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Youth Self-Advocacy</b>                            | Mark Crenshaw, MTS               | mcrenshaw@gsu.edu       |
| <b>Audiology</b>                                      | Akilah Heggs, MA/CCC/A (Interim) | akilah.heggs@gmail.com  |
| <b>Education- Early Childhood</b>                     | Barbara Meyers, PhD              | barbara@gsu.edu         |
| <b>Family Advocacy</b>                                | Stacey Ramirez                   | sramirez@theARC.org     |
| <b>Health Administration</b>                          | William Custer, PhD              | wcuster@gsu.edu         |
| <b>Law</b>  | Wendy Hensel, JD                 | whensel@gsu.edu         |
| <b>Medicine – Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics</b> | David O'Banion, MD               | david.obanion@emory.edu |
| <b>Medicine – Family Medicine</b>                     | Harry Heiman, MD, MPH            | hheiman@msm.edu         |
| <b>Medicine- Pediatrics</b>                           | Jennifer Zubler, MD              | schzub@gmail.com        |
| <b>Nursing</b>  | Jiwon Lee, PhD, RN, MPH          | Jlee242@gsu.edu         |
| <b>Nutrition</b>                                      | Anita Nucci, PhD, RD, LD         | anucci@gsu.edu          |
| <b>Occupational Therapy</b>                           | Carolyn Podolski, OTR/L, MA      | cpodolski@gsu.edu       |
| <b>Physical Therapy</b>                               | Yu-Ping Chen, ScD, PT            | ypchen@gsu.edu          |
| <b>Psychology – Clinical</b>                          | Erin Tone, PhD                   | etone@gsu.edu           |
| <b>Psychology – School</b>                            | Andy Roach, PhD                  | aroach@gsu.edu          |
| <b>Public Health</b>                                  | Daniel Crimmins, PhD             | dcrimmins@gsu.edu       |
| <b>Social Work</b>                                    | Terri Lewinson, PhD              | tlewinson@gsu.edu       |
| <b>Special Education</b>                              | Eliseo Jimenez, PhD              | Ejimenez7@gsu.edu       |
| <b>Speech and Language Pathology</b>                  | Julie Washington, PhD, CCC/SP    | jwashington@gsu.edu     |

## Program Requirements

GaLEND program trainees are required to complete a minimum of 300 hours (10 to 12 hours per week on average) or more of didactic, advanced clinical, community, and interdisciplinary leadership training. To the extent possible, we work with individual trainees to accommodate family needs and program requirements. Expectations are:

- Attend GaLEND Orientation on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- Attend evening Leadership Seminars from 5PM to 8PM on alternating Wednesdays
- Attend weekly courses on Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, Systems of Care and Health Policy that meet on Friday afternoons from 1PM-4PM
- Attend occasional all-day Friday sessions for community experiences and site visits
- Attend one two-to-three-day conference to advance leadership skills (travel stipend is provided)
- Participate in clinical and community training and document hours in setting.
- Attend regular meetings of assigned project team (usually weekly or bi-weekly)
- Complete independent assignments on family and self-advocacy mentoring, developing informational resources for families, providing technical assistance, and delivering community education programs
- Demonstrate disciplinary and interdisciplinary competencies in community practice sites
- Meet regularly with assigned GaLEND Mentor
- Develop and present a collaborative research/leadership project related to GaLEND and MCH goals

## Admission Guidelines and Application

If you are interested in applying to be a GaLEND trainee, **please contact GaLEND Project Coordinator, Mark Crenshaw** at 404.413.1385 or email [mcrenshaw@gsu.edu](mailto:mcrenshaw@gsu.edu). The application form should be completed following your discussion with Mr. Crenshaw and your discipline coordinator regarding your qualifications and goals.

## GaLEND Program Leadership

**Daniel Crimmins, PhD**, Director

**Mark Crenshaw, MTS**, Director of Interdisciplinary Training and Project Coordinator

**Emily Graybill, PhD**, Course Director for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Course

**Harry Heiman, MD, MPH** Co-Course Director for Systems of Care Course

**Akilah Heggs, MA, CCC/A** Co-Course Director for Systems of Care Course

**Stacey Ramirez**, Family Faculty

**Andrew Roach, PhD, NCSP**, Course Director Leadership Course

**Jennifer Zubler, MD**, Co-Course Director for Systems of Care Course

# Georgia LEND Program Application Packet

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## Directions for Applicants

1. Include this page with your signature at the bottom to affirm that you understand the goals of the GaLEND Program and that you agree to meet all program requirements.
2. Attach the following: (a) current curriculum vitae or resume, and (b) typed, narrative responses to the questions below.
3. Submit names and contact information for two faculty members or supervisors who would be willing to speak to your qualifications for and fit with the goals of the GaLEND Program. This information may be included on the page with the narrative responses.
4. E-mail one copy of your application material to Mark Crenshaw, Project Coordinator at [mcrenshaw@gsu.edu](mailto:mcrenshaw@gsu.edu) AND a second copy to the faculty member from your discipline (listed on p. 3) by **Friday, February 24, 2017 for Georgia State University student applicants or Friday, March 31, 2017 if you are a community applicant\***. If you represent a discipline that is not included on the current list, please contact Mark Crenshaw. We observe a rolling admissions process for GaLEND applicants. We will contact all Georgia State student applicants regarding admission decisions prior to April 15, 2016. Community applicant admission decisions will be communicated prior to June 1, 2016.

## Narrative Questions

Please address each of the following in one or two paragraphs. Please type your responses and attach the pages to the application packet. (Limit 1 page total)

1. The GaLEND Program focuses on family-centered, culturally competent practices in providing supports and services to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. What experiences have you had with individuals with disabilities and their families?
2. What are your career goals related to children with disabilities, family members, and community health services?
3. What are your goals for participation in the GaLEND Program?

## Declaration of Intent to Participate in the GaLEND Program

By signing below, you acknowledge 1) your understanding that the purpose of the GaLEND Program is to prepare trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields, 2) your commitment to the goal of improving the health of individuals with disabilities and the responsiveness of the systems that support them, 3) your interest in developing your own competence in policy, advocacy, research, and clinical skills needed to affect positive change, and 4) your understanding and commitment to completing all program requirements and fulfilling all leadership competencies of the GaLEND Program.

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_