Waisman Center Opportunities for Self-Advocates

Advocate Positions with the Wisconsin Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (WI LEND) Program

The WI LEND program is a 9-month (late August - early May) academic training program for individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, graduate students and professionals. LEND aims to improve systems of care and access to services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through:

- Leadership Development
- Education
- Skill building in interdisciplinary and family-centered practice

The WI LEND program recognizes that people with developmental disabilities are the experts on their experiences and needs. To improve systems of care, we need the perspectives of disabled advocates. Advocate participation is important to the LEND program too. Self-advocates with disabilities have multiple opportunities to learn, lead, and contribute to improving systems.

WI LEND offers different ways for advocates to be involved:



Disability Advocacy Trainee

Disability Advocacy Trainees participate in the 320+ hour academic leadership program throughout the academic year.

Expectations:
Trainees should be prepared to engage in learning seminars, small group discussions, and clinical observations, attend research and policy events, and create projects and reflections about what they have learned.

Time:
12:00-4:30pm every Friday
Additional scheduled activities
Plus 1-4 hours of individual work each week

Location:
The Waisman Center and other locations. A virtual team may be offered, see LEND website for details.



Panel Presenter

Self-advocates participate on panels to help trainees learn about the lived experience of self-advocates as it relates to a particular curriculum topic.

Expectations:
Panelists should be prepared to respond to planned questions about their perspective on the topic and, if able, to answer questions from the audience.

Time:
1:00-3:00pm one Friday during the academic year

Location:
Waisman Center
1500 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53705

*** Each opportunity includes a stipend, if eligible.*

WI LEND

For more information about the WI LEND program, please see https://wilend.waisman.wisc.edu/ or contact Helen Rottier at helen.rottier@wisc.edu.

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities