Virginia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Va-LEND) is an advanced-level interdisciplinary leadership-training program for health professionals and related disciplines in the field of childhood neurodevelopmental disabilities, including people with disabilities and family members.

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Purpose

Va-LEND program is committed to preparing professionals, family members, and people with disabilities to be leaders in the field of childhood neurodevelopmental disabilities. The interdisciplinary program provides 12-24 months of interactive seminars, clinical and community-based practice, community and systems level policy activities, and a family mentorship experience. The curriculum emphasizes aspects of neurodevelopment and related disabilities, social and family environments across the life course, interdisciplinary process, leadership and research. Va-LEND is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau and is a collaboration with VCU School of Education, VCU Department of Pediatrics, and the Title V program, Virginia Department of Health.

Va-LEND Experience

- Tailor your experiences to meet your individual needs and leadership goals.
- Choose from a program that is 150 or 300 hours.
- Have the option to earn a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Disability Leadership.
- Available across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Who can be a LEND trainee?

Va-LEND faculty represent 16 disciplines from 6 Schools at VCU and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Longwood University. Va-LEND accepts graduate students and professionals, as well as family members and self-advocates without college degrees, from the following disciplines:

- Audiology
- Education/Special Education
- Family Member
- Genetic Counseling
- Law
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Pediatric Dentistry
- People with Disabilities
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Social Work
- Speech-Language Pathology

- Trainees receive mentorship by faculty in their discipline.
- Trainees strengthen their role in interdisciplinary teams.
- Trainees connect to the larger LEND network that spans across 52 LEND programs across US, and 3 territories.
- Limited funds are available for stipend/tuition assistance for qualified applicants.