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.

Contact Us
Phone: 804-828-0073
Fax 804-828-0098
Email: valend@vcu.edu
Web: https://rampages.us/virginialend1/
Purpose

Va-LEND is part of the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Funded by a federal grant from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, it provides an interdisciplinary education program that prepares health professionals for leadership and advocacy roles. The program is a collaboration with VCU School of Education, Department of Pediatrics and the Title V Program, Virginia Department of Health. Va-LEND is committed to the preparation of health professionals, including post-graduate trainees, to assume leadership roles within health care systems that serve children with developmental disabilities and their families.

Curriculum

12 credit graduate interdisciplinary coursework, covered through two 4-credit seminar classes and a 4-credit practicum.
- Aspects of neurodevelopmental and related disabilities
- Social environment (including ethnic and cultural issues),
- Interactive seminars (systems of care), leadership (advocacy and public policy as well as administration), and research.
- Clinical and community-based practicum rotations
- Family mentorship experience

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 participants from the following discipliner:

- 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 have the opportunity to tailor their Va-LEND experiences to meet their individual needs.
- Faculty in their discipline mentor trainees.
- Trainees strengthen their understanding of working in interdisciplinary teams.
- Trainees connect to the larger LEND network that spans across 52 LEND programs across US.
- Limited funds are available for stipend/tuition assistance for qualified applicants.