MEMO

TO: Family Trainee Applicants
FROM: Janet Willis, MPH, RD
TOPIC: Va-LEND Application Process – Family Trainees

Below is an application form for prospective Family Trainees in the Va-LEND Program at Virginia Commonwealth University. Va-LEND is an interdisciplinary, culturally-appreciative, family-centered training program for health and special education professionals and family members who want to better understand, appreciate, and serve children with disabilities and their families. For the next academic year, our trainee class will include the discipline of “Family.” For this Family Trainee position, we are looking for evidence of leadership experience as a parent or immediate family member of an individual with a disability. The expertise of the “Family Discipline” is the personal, lived experience of living with a family member who has a disability. The Va-LEND Program appreciates the crucial importance of families’ involvement in every aspect of their children’s lives, including medical, health, educational, and all other services. We look forward to enrolling a Family Trainee who will, through our curriculum, both learn new knowledge and skills for advocacy and share his/her perspective and experiences from the discipline of “Family.”

In addition to completing the application form, please submit the following:

1. original college/university transcript(s);
2. a resume/vitae (listing informal as well as formal employment, volunteer work, and training); and
3. two letters of reference from individuals who can speak to your leadership ability and/or potential in the area of serving and advocating for individuals with disabilities and their families.

The application deadline is June 1, for enrollment in August. Please return all application materials to me at the address below. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 804-828-0073, or contact Va-LEND’s Family Faculty members Elaine Ogburn (804-320-4514 or esogburn@vcu.edu) and Maureta Copeland (804-827-0423 or mcopeland@vcu.edu).

Thank you for your interest in Va-LEND’s Family Trainee opportunity.
Please send materials to:

Janet H. Willis, MPH, RD
Assistant Director
Va-LEND Program
PO Box 980405
Richmond, VA 23298-0405
jhorsley@vcu.edu
Virginia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Va-LEND)
Family Trainee (Long Term) Application Form
Due date: June 1

A. General Information.  

Date____________________

Name  

Daytime Phone Number

Street Address  

Evening Phone Number

City/State/Zip  

Fax Number

Email

Country of Citizenship

Are you (select all that apply):  

___ A parent of a person with a disability

___ An immediate family member of a person with a disability

Name of college or university in which you are currently enrolled (if applicable):

Current job title and employer (if applicable):

Languages Spoken:

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1 In order to receive federal funds (stipend) from the Virginia LEND program, a student much be a U.S. citizen, or admitted to the U.S. with a permanent resident visa.
B. **Responses to Target Questions.** On a separate piece of paper, please develop one or two paragraphs to respond to each of the following questions.

1. What life experiences have influenced your decision to apply to be a Family Trainee in the area of childhood disabilities?

2. What are the characteristics of effective leadership?

3. In terms of disability-related leadership, where do you see yourself 5-10 years from now?

C. **Supporting Documents.** Please submit the following documents as part of your application.

1. original college/university transcript(s);
2. a resume/vitae (listing informal as well as formal employment, volunteer work, and training); and
3. two letters of reference from individuals who can speak to your leadership ability and/or potential in the area of serving and advocating for individuals with disabilities and their families.