

Stony Brook University

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other related Disabilities (LEND)

Information Sheet on Stony Brook University LEND for Short-Term Trainees (STTs)

Program Overview: The Stony Brook University LEND program is an undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate level, interdisciplinary leadership and service training program federally funded through the U.S. Human Resources and Services Administration Maternal Child Health Bureau. This is accomplished by preparing trainees from a range of professional disciplines to be leaders in their fields, by ensuring the delivery of high-quality evidence-based care, by maximizing inclusion of traditionally underrepresented groups, and by ensuring high levels of interdisciplinary clinical competence. LEND focuses training on the policy, advocacy, research and clinical skills necessary to affect positive change on all levels, from the individual to systems.

Mission: The Stony Brook University LEND’s mission is:

- 1) to improve the training of providers, individuals, and families in understanding all aspects of care for the autism spectrum disorder and neurodevelopmental disabilities (ASD/ND) community, and thereby lead their disciplines in supporting this community;
- 2) to support excellence in culturally-responsive, person-centered care;
- 3) to facilitate cutting-edge research aimed at improving the lives of individuals with ASD/ND;
- 4) to foster community, inclusion, and acceptance of individuals with ASD/ND and their families through dissemination of current knowledge and offering a regional “hub” for the provider community.

Who can be a Stony Brook University LEND STT? Stony Brook University LEND Core Faculty represent 12 disciplines. We accept STTs from these, as well as all of the following designated Maternal Child Health Bureau disciplines:

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| • Applied Behavior Analysis | • Nursing | • School Psychology/School Counseling |
| • Audiology | • Nutrition | • Self-Advocates/Individuals with Disabilities |
| • Adult Medicine | • Occupational Therapy | • Social Work |
| • Disability Studies | • Pediatric Medicine | • Speech-Language Pathology |
| • Family Member | • Pediatric and Adult Dentistry | • Education/Special Education |
| • Human Genetics/Genetic Counseling | • Physical Therapy | |
| • Health Administration | • Psychology | |
| | • Public Health/Policy | |

Short-Term Trainees (STTs): Individuals selected as Stony Brook University LEND STTs will be part-time/full-time undergraduate or graduate students, have graduate level/post-graduate level education, be practicing professionals (so long as they are engaged in advancement of academic credentials through a course of study or practicum), family members of an individual with ASD/ND or a person with a disability. STTs may have an academic and/or experiential



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background in disabilities or be new to this population. STTs will participate in <40 hours of didactic and experiential contact hours. This includes seminars and a clinical training series. Additionally, a list of approved courses may also count towards the STT hours. For an approved course list, please contact lend@stonybrook.edu.

Training Opportunities for STTs: The LEND training program will be delivered primarily by our Core and Supporting Faculty at Stony Brook University and with our community partners. Training will occur primarily within (1) didactic seminars and (2) clinical training.

- *Didactic Seminars:* Recorded online trainings related to the historical treatment of people with ASD/ND, cultural responsiveness and humility, family-centered care, communication skills, multidisciplinary training etc. will be available for STTs to view. On the first Friday of the month, STTs may participate in the *Coffee with Experts from the Novel Disciplines (CEND) Series* to introduce trainees to faculty from outside the core LEND disciplines and discuss emerging issues, cutting-edge research and technology. Examples of novel disciplines include computer science, linguistics, neuroscience, dance, and music. Each year, up to 6 novel disciplines will be highlighted and offered as a “flipped classroom,” with recorded lectures for STTs to view on their own schedules and then have coffee virtually with the expert to ask questions.
- *Clinical Trainings:* There will also be a *Clinical Training Series* online with 1.5-2 hour seminars for STTs available via registration on select Fridays. Our Director of ASD Clinical Training, in concert with Core and Supporting Faculty, will provide the clinical trainings, which includes topics such as “Understanding Autism Symptoms and Tests for ASD” and “The Art and Science of ASD Diagnosis”.

Program Structure

Orientation

- During orientation, STTs will review and reflect on the education and experiences that led to their decision to participate in the Stony Brook University LEND and learn more about the content and organization of the STT program. The orientation will be scheduled to occur in person at different times throughout the academic year and is also available via a recording.

Didactic Seminars

- STTs may view recorded workshops and trainings online.
- A *Coffee with Experts from the Novel Disciplines (CEND)* flipped classroom will take place on the *first Friday of each month*, at 12:00pm for approximately 30-45 minutes.

Clinical Training Series

- STTs may choose to view the *Clinical Training Friday Series*, a clinical seminar offered synchronously online via registration the *third Friday each month*, at 10:00/10:30 am for approximately 90 minutes.



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Cultural Responsiveness Training Seminar

- This *optional* training will be led by a team of experts to investigate and disseminate best practices in the delivery of culturally competent services to the ASD/ND population impacted by cultural and linguistic barriers with a focus on intersectionality of identities. *This training will be available for viewing.*

Research Exposition

- This *optional* event showcases long-term and medium-term trainees' LEND research and quality improvement projects for other trainees and faculty on *May 15, 2023*.

Graduation

- A ceremony honoring all trainees for their accomplishments will be held on *May 22, 2023*.

Goals: The Stony Brook University LEND training program will increase the number and expertise of clinicians and leaders who are well-prepared to deliver high-quality, interdisciplinary, family-centered, and culturally responsive care, and to appropriately identify and refer children, adolescents and adults with ASD/ND and their families to comprehensive systems of care. Through the Clinics affiliated with Stony Brook Medicine and our community partners, the LEND program will provide interdisciplinary clinical services that directly benefit children, adolescents, and adults with ASD/ND throughout the region.

The Stony Brook University LEND will provide interdisciplinary training on evidence-based screening, diagnosis, and treatment of the complex needs of those with ASD/ND, so as to increase the number of clinicians and families with (1) knowledge and skills in providing empirically supported diagnosis, health, and treatment practices and (2) training in leadership skills so that they can lead others in their communities to adopt these practices. Through LEND's focus on research and research training, we will advance scientific knowledge about the challenges, needs, strengths, and opportunities of individuals with ASD/ND and their families. This program will develop visionary leaders in communities who are: experts in their disciplines and in interdisciplinary knowledge of ASD/ND, designers of new models of care provision, committed to high quality, evidence-based services from core and novel disciplines, able to communicate effectively with families and providers from a wide range of cultural and economic backgrounds, and committed to advocacy, leadership, technical assistance and consultation in their communities.

In summary, the Stony Brook University LEND training program is designed to increase the number of clinicians, community leaders, self-advocates and family members who provide empirically supported clinical care and/or lead others in their communities to adopt these practices and becomes leaders in the ASD/ND field.

General Expectations: STTs participating in the Stony Brook University LEND program will be expected to:

- Demonstrate ethical principles of their home discipline
- Display professional behavior and be treated professionally



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- Engage in experiences with families and individuals with ASD/ND as partners and/or as team members whose voices are heard, respected and responded to
- Experience and learn about individuals with disabilities across the life span and across a variety of disabilities
- Develop the skills to access community-based services.

Applicants: Training those from underrepresented groups, including non-professional family members and persons with disabilities, is a very high priority. Trainees will be accepted only from the disciplines outlined on the first page of this Information Sheet.

Application Process: Please submit the online LEND [application](#). **Applications are due on a rolling basis, and will be reviewed monthly, through May 1, 2023.** Applications will be reviewed by members of the LEND Core Faculty team. Final decisions will be communicated to the applicant via email typically within 2 weeks from submission of a completed application.



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