New Support for Pediatric Audiology Training Efforts

SILVER SPRING, MD (July 10, 2009) - The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is pleased to announce supplemental funding for three additional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) programs to expand and augment their pediatric audiology training efforts. The competition and supplemental sub-awards to the LEND programs were made possible through a contract to AUCD from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA). The competition generated a great deal of interest and demonstrated the LEND network's capacity in audiology as 19 applications were submitted for the available funding slots.

Each awardee will receive approximately $65,000 per year for three years to increase the number of short and long term pediatric audiology trainees and to expand didactic content and augment clinical experiences in infant/pediatric audiology. Funded programs will develop new or adapt existing curricula for use in an accredited graduate level audiology training program. The three new LEND awardees are:

- University of Miami Mailman Center for Child Development, Miami, FL,
- University of South Dakota Center for Disabilities, Sioux Falls, SD, and
- University of Washington Center on Human Development and Disability, Seattle, WA.

In addition to these programs, six previously funded programs began in January 2009. The programs are:

- University of Utah Regional LEND (URLEND), Salt Lake City, UT,
- Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC,
- Center for Development and Learning at the University North Carolina; Chapel Hill, NC,
- The UCLID Center; University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA,
- JFK Partners at University of Colorado-Denver; Aurora, CO, and
- Mid-Tennessee Interdisciplinary Instruction in Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, Nashville, TN.

The mission of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) is to provide national leadership, in partnership with key stakeholders, to improve the physical and mental health, safety and well-being of the maternal and child health (MCH) population which includes all of the nation’s women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families, including fathers and children with special health care needs. Since 1963, AUCD has worked collaboratively with the MCHB to address the needs of the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) and other MCHB interdisciplinary training programs in developing leadership systems of quality education for health providers within the Maternal and Child Health network.

About AUCD
The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), a nonprofit organization that promotes and supports a nationwide network of university-based interdisciplinary centers and programs, is actively working to advance policy and practices for individuals with disabilities and their families by conducting basic and applied research, providing training to the next generation of educational, health and allied health professionals and providers, and providing exemplary direct services and supports for individuals and their families. Network members consist of 39 Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Programs, 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), and 19 Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDR).