

Vision Statement for 2020 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Colleen McLaughlin, MEd

AUCD Member Organization:

The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
UCEDD and LEND
Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Current Position (role and date range):

Associate Director

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program:

19 years (17 as an employee, 2 years as a Trainee/GA)

My vision for the Association:

My vision for AUCD is to continue to support the collective efforts of UCEDDs to uphold, promote, and fully realize the Developmental Disabilities Act vision of self-determination and full inclusion and participation and LEND's role in preparing future leaders across a variety of disciplines to improve the health of children with neurodevelopmental and related disabilities. AUCD can support this through ongoing promotion of effective public policy that helps people with disabilities be healthy, active, valued, and contributing members of our communities; educating policymakers about the critical roles of UCEDDs and LENDs; developing recommendations and strategies to address the health, education, and service disparities at the intersection of race and disability; and supporting UCEDDs and LENDs to promote, replicate, and expand our work in order to create meaningful change in the lives of people with disabilities, their families, and those that provide support.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board:

As a board member, I would work with colleagues to identify the needs of the AUCD network and expand approaches to help the network grow diverse and skilled leaders, model diversity, equity, and inclusion; advance policies and practices that improve lives; and conduct and apply research and share knowledge (*AUCD Strategic Map, 2017*). Through the identification of trends and issues, I would partner with colleagues to increase collaborative opportunities and expand the reach of UCEDDs and LENDs through the sharing of ideas, mentoring of emerging leaders, wide-spread dissemination and presentation of best practice and policy priorities, and collaborative opportunities on national initiatives.

How I have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate leadership in the network:

My experiences within the AUCD network started as a student trainee and over nearly two decades has grown through positions including research associate, technical writer, training and consultation specialist, program specialist, and associate director. I'm grateful to have been given the opportunity to work at two centers providing

opportunities to be mentored by great leaders in the field, learn differences between state systems and policies, and understand the complexities of how universities function.

Currently, as Associate Director of The Boggs Center, New Jersey's UCEDD and LEND, my roles and responsibilities span policy, management, program development, and knowledge translation. At our Center, I have the responsibility to bring together oversight for our UCEDD Core grant, LEND grant, major Memoranda of Understanding with the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities and NJ Department of Education, and New Jersey's Partners in Policymaking Program. I am grateful that I have been able to cultivate strong relationships with state agencies in order to inform policy and practice. Collaborations cultivated with people with disabilities, families, and colleagues, have helped to establish DSP Workforce Development as a statewide priority; create a series of systems navigation resources known as the "Making Choices, Becoming Empowered" series; infuse concepts from the Council on Quality and Leadership's Personal Outcome Measures and The Charting the LifeCourse Framework into person-centered planning and approaches to support; and continue to reinforce inclusive community living as a priority for all people. Most recently, I supported our Center to meet the needs of the NJ disability community through converting training and technical assistance activities to a virtual format, establishing a COVID-19 resource web-page; facilitating Town Hall meetings in collaboration with our DD Act partners; and promoting the development of a plethora of dissemination materials including those focused on pandemic response and voting.

Within AUCD, I am a member of the Policy Committee and Community Education and Dissemination Council (CEDC), have presented in AUCD sponsored webinars, participate in the Annual Meeting through presentations and participation in various working meetings, and have regularly participated in the Annual Directors Meeting and Retreat. I also participated in the first National Leadership Consortium for UCEDD emerging leaders. I look forward to continued opportunities to contribute, learn, and collaborate within the network.

Return to: Laura Martin via email at lmartin@aucd.org no later than COB Tuesday, September 29th.