

## Vision Statement for 2019 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Gail S. Chödrön, PhD

AUCD Member Organization: Waisman Center University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Current Position (role and date range):

WI LEND Training Director (2016-present)

UCEDD Community Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator (2019-present)

Assistant Scientist, Waisman Center, UW-Madison (2019-present)

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program: 12

### My vision for the Association:

The AUCD network is uniquely poised to bring together leaders in disability research, training, lived experience, and practice to ensure that cutting edge knowledge is shared and applied to advance our mission of increasing equity and inclusion for people with disabilities and their families. I think it is critical for AUCD to serve as a catalyst and support for bridging contributions from LENDs, UCEDDs, and IDDRCs. As an Assistant Scientist at one of the few network centers to house a LEND, UCEDD, and IDDRC in one building, I have seen this cross-fertilization take shape and enrich common as well as individual program goals. Further, I think it's important for AUCD to be a leader in modeling and well as fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion. It's important that a diverse set of voices is always at the table, and that work to address inequity always include full engagement from those most impacted by the inequities we aim to address. Finally, as a previous WI LEND trainee, I think continuing to foster a strong, inclusive training environment is invaluable to maintaining our capacity to advance our shared mission.

### What I would like to accomplish on the Board:

I would like to work alongside other Board members over the next few years to advance our progress on the AUCD strategic map, with particular attention to how connecting IDDRC, UCEDD, and LEND programs can further increase the caliber and impact of programs' work. As a parent of an LGBTQ young adult with ASD and as a first-generation college student, I feel intimately familiar with how disability status intersects with other identity and demographic factors to marginalize people with disabilities as well as their families. I believe my personal as well as my professional experience--which

has focused on early access to services and health equity and has spanned the network's core functions of research, pre-service training, and community training and technical assistance--may be an asset on the Board.

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

Throughout my years in the network, my leadership involvement has been nurtured by network leaders. Long before I felt I had made much of a contribution, I was awarded the AUCD Young Professional Award for facilitating “interactions between groups by providing reflective feedback and personal perspective”, “believing in the potential of individuals and our collective ability to contribute to meaningful change”, and bridging “the gap between the academic sector and the community”. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to assume numerous leadership roles at my Center, in my state, and in the network. I have served as the WI LEND training director (2016-present) and training coordinator (2011-2016), and at the national level I served on the National Training Director's Advisory Council in addition to be general member of the Council. As WI LEND Training Director, I have worked as part of our WI LEND leadership team to recruit and retain an increasingly diverse trainee cohort, which has included people with disabilities, parents and other family members, and trainees with diverse racial, ethnic, socio-economic, and gender identity backgrounds. I also have served as the UCEDD coordinator (2019-present), and previously chair (2016-19) and co-chair (2011-16), for community training and technical assistance. Since 2016, I likewise served on the AUCD Project Advisory Committee, which informs AUCD technical assistance to UCEDDs. As the CDC's Act Early Ambassador to Wisconsin from 2011-2019, I provided leadership through training, research, and systems change efforts to increase early identification of and access to services for ASD/DD, particularly among medically underserved families. As lead for the Wisconsin Act Early State Team, I also led the Team through a multi-year facilitated process to integrate diversity and equity considerations into the Act Early State Plan and to expand and diversify team membership, building the foundation for a sustainable collaborative health equity effort.

Return to: Laura Martin via email at [lmartin@aucd.org](mailto:lmartin@aucd.org) no later than COB Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.