

## **Vision Statement for 2023 AUCD Board Nominees**

Name of Candidate: Beth Boone, PhD, BCBA

Race/Ethnicity (voluntary): white, non-Hispanic

Disability status (voluntary): Person with a special health care need, parent of a child with a special health care need

AUCD Member Organization: Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC)

Current Position (role and date range): Associate Director (2023), Executive Director, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (2019-pres.)

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program: 19(+)

### **My vision for the Association:**

I envision a Board and coordinated Councils, SIGs, and network members examining and addressing two underserved areas of rising importance for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their loved ones. First, we know too little about the needs of and barriers for people with IDD and critical intersectionalities (e.g., race, gender identity, sexuality, mental health). Second, much discussion, research, and resources have been focused on children, and we are faced with an ever-increasing population whose needs (health care, employment/education, well-being) extend beyond childhood and school age. I envision our network coming together even more to brainstorm, collaborate, and effect positive change in these areas in the coming future.

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

As a Council Chair and Board member, I bring energy, enthusiasm, creativity, and flexibility to my role as a leader and learner. One of the very best parts of being in the AUCD network is access to members from a huge cross-section of our population, bringing varied viewpoints, different means of problem-solving, and the prospect of unique and paradigm-changing ideas for meeting the needs of our constituents, families, and communities. A natural collaborator, I am excited to listen, share, brainstorm, and problem-solve new and needed areas while honoring and maintaining those activities that have well served our network in the past. I hope as a Board member to be able to facilitate conversations across formal and informal segments of our Network, particularly in the areas noted in my vision statement.

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

I bring almost 20 years of experience in the UCEDD/LEND network, serving in many learning, educational, and leadership roles along the way. As a Clinical Psychology Post-doc and LEND fellow in 2002-2003 at the Westchester Institute for Human Development, I also worked with George Jesien and Aaron Bishop as the very first AUCD Virtual Trainee, at a time when there were no funds or tracks for trainees at the AUCD conference or Home Office. Using the only technology that was available, I organized the inaugural Trainee listserv, opening the pipeline between UCEDD/LEND trainees and AUCD as well as each other. I went on to serve as LEND faculty at WIHD. Life circumstances brought me to the Arkansas UCEDD in 2008, where I continued as LEND faculty and PBS Program Director while continuing national service as a member then Chair of the former Council on Interdisciplinary Services (CIS) and AUCD Board member from 2007-2011. In 2014, I became the Director of the Mississippi UCEDD, also directing a subcontracted LEND program in our Center, and am a proud member of the 2015 cohort of the AUCD Sponsored National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware (where Ben Kaufman dubbed me “The Generator”) I moved to Tampa, FL in 2017, where I had a hiatus from the Network, working in the field and completing my Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) designation. In 2019 I was thrilled to be invited to join the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC UCEDD) as Executive Director of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) and returning to a UCEDD Leadership role as Associate Director earlier this year. My life has had some twists, turns, and unexpected moves, but I firmly believe that no experience needs to be wasted if it can be used to make something, somewhere, better for someone. I am very excited for and humbled at the opportunity to bring together my previous AUCD network, clinical, educational, administrative, and life experiences to my new roles on the Community Education Director Council (CEDC) and the AUCD Board.

Return to: Elizabeth Schneider via email at [eschneider@aucd.org](mailto:eschneider@aucd.org) no later than COB Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.