Vision Statement for 2020 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Derrick Willis

AUCD Member Organization: Iowa’s UCEDD

Current Position (role and date range): UCEDD Director 2019 - Present

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program: 15 years

My vision for the Association:
It is my hope that the Association will continue to serve as a leader in advancing policy, research, and advocacy for people with disabilities. Over the next three years I hope we strengthen our network relationships and partnerships withIDDRC’s, Councils, Special Interest Groups and Membership Organizations. My vision is to be responsive to our members and develop accountability measures that are transparent members. Being the largest disability advocacy organization requires a commitment to understanding the emerging trends and developing a strategic vision help improve services and supports for people with disabilities.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board:
I would like to continue to strengthen board governance and develop structures that support communication within our network. I would like to help the new director set a strategic direction that results in sustainable, measurable and accountable outcomes. I would like to support the councils and help increase engagement and communication to the network. I would also like to help our network address the emerging diversity challenges and help advance opportunities for all members of our network.

How I have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate leadership in the network:
I have and will continue to serve on committees, task forces and workgroups to help advance practice within the board and our network at large. I will continue to demonstrate leadership in diversity, equity and inclusion and work to create a platform where all voices have equal opportunities. I will continue to lead by example and be willing to grow and learn from others within our network. For the past 15 years, I have demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of people with disabilities and creating opportunities for growth. I will continue to advocate, support, and learn from people with lived experiences.