

Vision Statement for 2022 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Jenean Castillo, PhD

AUCD Member Organization: Westchester Institute for Human Development UCEDD-LEND

Current Position (role and date range):

LEND Director, 2018-Present

Associate UCEDD Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, 2022-Present

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program: 20 years

My vision for the Association:

My vision is for AUCD to continue to lead the network in its collaborative efforts to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families. AUCD can accomplish this through its continued efforts informing policymakers; advancing research; supporting education and training; and promoting a diverse, well compensated workforce; as well as facilitating good communication with and among network members and ensuring the voices of individuals with disabilities are included in all aspects of our work.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board:

I plan to work with the Board and network members to identify priorities, address challenges and highlight best practices and solutions. I will use my experience and expertise to support the Board's initiatives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and ensure health equity for individuals with disabilities, this includes continuing to support the network in implementing the EDI Action Plan. I would like to facilitate network engagement to improve communications between AUCD and network members and continue to include the voices of those with lived experiences and from diverse backgrounds. My work and role will be informed by my leadership experience as well as my perspective as a parent.

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

My 20 years of experience within the network started as a LEND trainee at WIHD and my leadership has grown through various positions at my respective center. At WIHD, I have served as LEND faculty, program manager, assistant director, and more recently in the role of LEND Program Director and Associate UCEDD Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

My leadership growth in the wider network started as a LEND trainee when I was selected to serve as trainee representative on the then AUCD Diversity Workgroup

(2002-2003). Since then I have continued to serve on workgroups, task forces, and councils, including the National Training Directors Council (NTDC) Steering Committee (2019-Present), the Multicultural Council (MCC) (2018-Present), and the Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center (ITAC) Project Advisory Committee (2017-Present). I continue to demonstrate my leadership and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, currently serving as an EDI Coach for the UCEDD Resource Center (2021-Present) prior to being a Prospective Implementor (2020) of the UCEDD's EDI Action Plan.

I continue to support and enhance the work at WIHD, as well as at the local, state, and national levels through collaborations with other agencies, partners and stakeholders. I look forward to continue supporting a network that is stronger by being more diverse and inclusive and promoting equitable outcomes and access. I look forward to this opportunity to become more active and engaged within the network, sharing my knowledge and expertise while also continuing to grow and enhance my leadership.