

Vision Statement for 2023 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Katie Arnold, PhD

Race/Ethnicity (voluntary): White

Disability status (voluntary): non-disabled; family member who has a sister with intellectual disabilities, spouse with disabilities, and child with developmental disabilities.

AUCD Member Organization: The Institute on Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois Chicago, Illinois' UCEDD and LEND

Current Position (role and date range): Faculty member and Director of Stakeholder Engagement (January 2023-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:

- Expand partnerships beyond the traditional disability networks into new arenas where we can have greater influence and impact.
- Grow diverse leaders in the field that naturally use an equity lens to advance work in the field.
- Impact policies and practice guided by cutting edge research to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families.
- Enact our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and serve as a model for other organizations to effectively use an equity lens in all our work.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board:

I would like to guide AUCD to the next level in organizational development. AUCD is in a strong position to continue to grow and develop and be the go-to resource for disability professionals, policymakers, communities, families, and beyond. We can serve as a model for more organizations to enact diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as grow diverse leaders in the field. We are powerful due to the great breadth and depth of our network, and we can harness that power for greater change that improves the lives of people with disabilities and their families. I would be honored to serve on the Board and if given the opportunity, I look forward to accomplishing great things together with the Board and network.

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

I am a strong disability advocate with a sense of social justice and a long commitment to service and leadership in the disability field. For more than 20 years, I have played a key role at Illinois' UCEDD. I also serve as the Family Discipline Training Coordinator for the Illinois LEND. As a faculty member in the Department of Disability and Human Development, I conduct inclusive research on family support, future planning, and self-determination of people with disabilities. Additionally, I am the Founding Executive Director of the national Sibling Leadership Network (2012-2022), a non-profit dedicated to supporting siblings of people with disabilities to advocate *with* their brothers and sisters to promote issues important to them and their entire families. Central to my work is serving as a community connector and bridge builder in Illinois and beyond, establishing partnerships with self-advocacy organizations, disability providers, community-based organizations, government agencies, and more to advance our work. Currently, I am part of eight grant projects totaling over \$14 million, serving as Principal Investigator (PI) for two projects, Co-PI for three projects, and Co-I for one project.

I have provided leadership to the AUCD network in the following ways:

- Shared my work through 38 presentations given at the AUCD conference in the past 20 years, including an invited plenary panel in 2011 on *Future Directions of the AUCD network*.
- Helped establish an informal supportive partnership between AUCD and the Sibling Leadership Network after being invited to present for the AUCD Board in the past.
- Actively engaged on and led numerous AUCD groups, including:
 - AUCD's Family Support Special Interest Group (11/10-present)
 - AUCD's National Community Education Directors Council (11/05-present)
 - Steering Committee of NCEDC (11/07-11/09)
 - Chair of Self-Determination Workgroup (11/07-11/09)
 - AUCD's Sexual Health Special Interest Group, Chair (7/11-11/14)
 - Member (7/11-11/21)
 - AUCD's Central Conference Training Consortium (11/06-12/2015)
 - AUCD's National Training Directors Council (11/05-11/13)
- Co-authored with Nathan Grant and Amy Halm an AUCD Core Curriculum on Siblings of People with Disabilities for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND)

I have been honored by AUCD over the years, including in 2008 with AUCD's Anne Rudigier Award for an emerging leader in the disability field and in 2013 with AUCD's Young Professional Award. In 2021, I graduated from the AUCD Leadership Academy.

Return to: Elizabeth Schneider via email at eschneider@aucd.org no later than COB Thursday, September 28th.