

Vision Statement for 2023 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Maureen van Stone, Esq., MS

Race/Ethnicity (voluntary): White/Non-Hispanic

Disability status (voluntary): N/A

AUCD Member Organization: Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute (Maryland's UCEDD)

Current Position (role and date range): Assistant Vice President (2023 – present) & Director (December 2018-present)

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

My vision for the Association:

My vision is for the AUCD network, including the UCEDDS, LENDs, and IDDRCs, to be a reliable and dependable national resource for federal agencies, partners, and policymakers to ensure that we can create laws, regulations, policies, and practices grounded on evidenced-based research that advance the rights of individuals with disabilities and their families.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board:

While I have been actively involved in the AUCD network for years, I am ready to assume a more prominent leadership role and support my colleagues across the network. I bring a unique perspective to the board of directors, as I am a practicing civil rights attorney, with a strong background in policy and legislative advocacy. Eighteen years ago, I founded Maryland's only comprehensive medical-legal partnership named Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law), which provides advocacy and civil legal services to Kennedy Krieger patients and their families. I pride myself on working efficiently and effectively on complex issues to identify areas of common ground and work toward a resolution. Personally, and professionally, my greatest asset is my ability to grow and nurture relationships with friends and colleagues.

I am confident that my advocacy skills and legal background will be valuable to the organization as individuals with disabilities across the country experience bias and discrimination in accessing equitable services and supports in home, school, and community settings.

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

I have been affiliated with the AUCD network since September of 2009, from my beginning as the Associate Director, a role which I served in from September of 2009 through June of 2018. In that capacity, I engaged in all the MCDD's advocacy and policy work at the federal and state levels, as well as being involved in all our external relations with disability-related State agencies and organizations. I was appointed to the interim Director position from July through December 2018. In December 2018, under the leadership of Kennedy Krieger's newly hired (and present) President and CEO, I was promoted to the Director position. Most recently, in July 2023, I was promoted to the role of Assistant Vice President of Kennedy Krieger Institute.

In addition to my roles with the MCDD, I have broader leadership roles with Kennedy Krieger's LEND program and the IDDRC. I have been a LEND faculty member since 2006, and I teach two core courses to our LEND trainees per year on special education law and adult guardianships and less restrictive alternatives to guardianship. I have served on the executive committee of Kennedy Krieger's IDDRC since 2018.

I also serve on the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, IDDRC, Diversity and Inclusion workgroup with other AUCD network members. The workgroup is comprised of AUCD network members who are committed to increasing diversity in research. Although the workgroup primarily holds monthly virtual meetings, I organized an in-person meeting for our workgroup and other interested network members at the AUCD conference in 2022. This created an opportunity for my Kennedy Krieger colleague to share the results of an IDDRC survey administered to leaders across the network and openly discuss our plans for the workgroup.

As a member of the AUCD network for fourteen years, I have participated as a presenter, a committee member, and a workgroup member. I have attended the annual conference and gala each year, as well as presented seven concurrent sessions, twenty-seven posters, hosted a table at the trainee-professional networking breakfast, and participated in Capitol Hill visits. Additionally, I am currently in my second term serving as the AUCD policy co-chair. I have participated on other committees and workgroups including: the nominations committee for the board of directors, the TA Institute planning committee, the Healthcare Transition Learning 4ALL group, the rural-area code caucus, the UCEDD promotion workgroup, and the UCEDD Director's meeting planning committee. In 2016, AUCD invited me to share an overview of Project HEAL at the Education for All: An Evening with AUCD at the Carnegie Library in Washington, D.C. Founded in 2005, Project HEAL remains Maryland's only comprehensive medical-legal partnership (MLP) and the only MLP affiliated with UCEDD.

During the 2019 AUCD TA Institute and Director's Retreat, I facilitated a breakout session titled, "Achieving UCEDD Goals through Leveraging and Maximizing Relationships within Your Setting." In 2021, I co-authored a report with AUCD staff and network members titled, "The COVID-19 Pandemic and People with Disabilities:

Primary Concerns, the AUCD Network Response, and Needs for the Future.” I authored a blog for the AUCD Policy Talk titled, ‘Equitable Access to Remote Learning is Paramount’ and I participated in a Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All titled, “Conversations on COVID-19.” In June 2022, as a policy co-chair, I helped author two AUCD statements on the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* on reproductive health and a statement titled “Gun Violence and Mass Shootings to Ensure the Safety of People with Disabilities.” And I have continued to encourage my staff to publish blogs on AUCD Policy Talk.

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