

Vision Statement for 2023 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Marcia Moriarta

Race/Ethnicity (voluntary): white

Disability status (voluntary):

AUCD Member Organization: University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability (UNM CDD)/UCEDD

Current Position (role and date range): UCEDD Director since 7/1/2014 to present

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program: 1995-96 USC CHLA LEND Trainee; 1995-2002 USC CHLA UCEDD; 2005 to present UNM CDD/UCEDD.

My vision for the Association: My vision for the association is to join in and further current work led by others whom I deeply respect across our network that has served to amplify the voices of those with disabilities from diverse communities and intersecting identities in all aspects of our work. As a UCEDD Director, I also deeply appreciate the role the AUCD plays in my ability to effectively lead within the University setting and within our local and state government and would like to see that role amplified. One of the most challenging issues I have faced in my now nine years leading New Mexico's UCEDD is navigating the arena of higher education and healthcare, while simultaneously finding opportunities to leverage the work of our Center and our network on behalf of the true goal of increasing access and strengthen the voice of those we serve with disabilities to increasingly be included in the conversation, and valued as decisions are made.

How to best position the network, UCEDDs particularly, in the complex and evolving spaces of higher education and health care – with a direct link to health equity, access to education, and elevation of the roles our network can play in these areas is a question I ask myself regularly. Supporting current and cultivating new leaders to effectively lead in this space is an area of importance to me. Our home Universities sometimes struggle to fully value our work and the creative and innovative space the network centers and LEND programs represent. I would like to see the AUCD become an even stronger voice in support for messaging the importance of our network in our states and within institutions of higher education and health care systems. I believe that the network and the AUCD could become an even more powerful voice on behalf of our work and those we serve with University leadership – strengthening our ability to meet our core functions and serve those with disabilities, their families and those who serve them better. I would envision myself taking on a leadership role with others in this area if elected to the board.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board: I would like to contribute to the evolution of the AUCD and network to continue it's work on inclusion, diversity in leadership roles, as well as in continuously including the voices and ideas of those we serve across all aspects of the network's work. I would also like to contribute to advancement in expanding the impact the AUCD can have in supporting the network's work across in our home academic institutions as higher education continues to evolve. In doing so, I would also like to support increased capacity for the AUCD to be a force for supporting funding and resource for our network from federal, state and other sources to advance access to health care, employment, mental health services, and meaningful community supports and inclusion. Leadership development and mentoring of up and coming leaders is also very important to me and I would like to see that operationalized even more so than currently.

How I have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate leadership in the network: I am part of a "new generation" of UCEDD leaders that started to come into their roles 10 or so years ago. While I can no longer claim to be a truly new UCEDD Director, my leadership continues to evolve and I am finding a renewed sense of energy related to the work of our UCEDD and the network. In my early years at USC CHLA UCEDD I was part of a formative leadership group that brought early childhood mental health to the fore as a core area of service and have continued with that expertise at the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability. The need for our understanding of the lives of those with and at risk for developmental disabilities to be understood through a trauma-informed lens is also an area where I have been a leader across our network. The delivery of developmentally informed, two-generational approaches that incorporate understanding of development, disability and exposure to adversity are important to me and I have developed programming at the UNM CDD that did not exist before I took my role there. In addition, I have been a committed developer and mentor for other leaders and have been proud that two leaders from our Center have been awarded the MCC award for leadership in diversity in recent years. I am a 2014 graduate of the AUCD Leadership Academy and have established myself in numerous leadership roles at UNM that serve to advance the work of our UCEDD within the University. I additionally serve as a founding editorial board member for the Developmental Disabilities Network Journal and have contributed to the development of several AUCD Director's retreats and TA institutes.

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