Vision Statement for 2020 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Susanna Miller-Raines, MSW

AUCD Member Organization: Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University

Current Position (role and date range):
UCEDD Operations Coordinator: (Oversees internal and external communication & project manager for several grants and contracts. September 2017-Present)

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program: 8.5 years

My vision for the Association:

My vision for the Association of University Centers on Disabilities is to continue to be a great connector of UCEDDs, LENDs, and IDDRCs. One of the beautiful things about working for a UCEDD/LEND/IDDRC is having access to a network of other centers and professionals that are doing similar work to what you are doing. We all have the same directives and being able to connect with others doing similar work either through Councils, SIGs or national coordinating centers housed within UCEDDs offer a great web of information and collaboration possibilities. Through the LENDs I also see great potential for interdisciplinary and inter-state collaborations to grown and nurture professionals in the fields of disability. When we all work together, we can create a better country for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. I would like for our members, centers and AUCD to be more of a national resource and have a place on the national stage when experts, especially those with lived experience, on intellectual and developmental disabilities.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board:

As a member of the AUCD Board, I will bring positive energy and the perspective of a family member to the board. I would continue the push for more collaboration between councils and between centers. We are better together, and I think creating more opportunities for centers to work together and learn from each other is important. I would like to support more opportunities for emerging professionals in the field, especially for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to become leaders within their centers, states, and the network.

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

I have demonstrated leadership in the network through involvement in the Community Education and Dissemination Council as the Vice Chair, where I have supported the trainee liaison, led workgroups, and stepped in when the Chair needed me to. I have served on national workgroups, including the UCEDD Promotion workgroup. I worked
on contract with Think College, the National Coordinating Center for Inclusive Postsecondary Education, to support other UCEDDs and other university programs on creating state alliances. When I was a LEND trainee, I served as the Georgia LEND Trainee Representative. Through my work with the Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance (SEPSEA), I originally brought together representatives from UCEDDs across the Southeast who were working on inclusive higher education. Our goal was and continues to be providing a place for professional development for frontline staff of inclusive higher education programs. SEPSEA has grown from an annual professional development conference into a 501c6 membership organization. I am the founding Chair of the SEPSA Board of Directors, and any of our board members are UCEDD staff members. I continue to demonstrate leadership within the network as a member of the Postsecondary Education and Communications SIGs, through my leadership within CEDC, and through my work with inclusive higher education with Think College and SEPSEA.