

Vision Statement for 2022 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: **Mark Crenshaw**

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

Disability status (voluntary): **Person with a developmental disability (cerebral palsy)**

AUCD Member Organization: **Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University (UCEDD/LEND)**

Current Position (role and date range): **Director of Interdisciplinary Training (June 1, 2011 to Present); UCEDD Assistant Director (February 1, 2022 to Present)**

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program: **11 Years**

My vision for the Association:

My vision for the association is for AUCD to be the go-to resource for contemporary, relevant, and accessible information concerning best practices for the purposeful inclusion of disabled children, adults, and families. I envision the association connecting further and deeper to the research of the centers and serving as a strong bridge between the work of the centers and external constituencies like the media and policymakers. Realizing this vision may require a strengthened commitment to training, technical assistance, and consultation related to translating research findings into plain language, so that the communities we serve can benefit more directly from our expertise in translating research into sustainable community practices that benefit diverse disabled people and their families.

I also envision AUCD and its centers as places that recruit, train, and retain the most powerful disabled leaders and their allies to be the next generation to lead our movement. These leaders will be equipped to lead in their communities because they will represent the communities where they lead. They will be equipped to share power, listen well, and create space for constituents who have historically been at the margins of their communities to join in leadership.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board: **I would like to continue the work toward the purposeful implementation of the AUCD Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan both within the association and in the centers. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us so much about the consequences of health disparities in terms of access, quality, and outcomes. These consequences have meant the difference between life and death in the disability community and other minority communities as well. The association and its member centers must position**

ourselves to continue to center equity in our advocacy. The best way to begin to do this is to take a hard look at the diversity, equity, and inclusion in our spaces and to move toward having our spaces reflect the diversity of their communities.

We find ourselves in a time when passionate, talented team members in our centers and in the association have many opportunities to work in places that align with their desires to make the world a better place. I want to use what we learned while working with the association in creating the AUCD Leadership Map in 2021 to make sure we are giving ourselves the best opportunity to recruit, train, and retain the best talent. This happens when AUCD members and the central office create a pipeline from our training programs to opportunities to work and lead in our spaces. This will happen when we take a serious look at compensation, as well as opportunities for advancement. This may require the association to advocate for increased funding for our centers— and this advocacy will be an investment in the future strength of our collective voices.

How I have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate leadership in the network: I have been a key member of the Center for Leadership in Disability's leadership team since 2011. During that time, I have:

- **Worked with the Georgia LEND Faculty and staff team to train more than 200 long-term trainees (Approximately 40% from diverse disability and racial/ethnic backgrounds) (with Dan Crimmins and Emily Graybill , LEND Directors)**
- **Actively participated in the National Training Director's Council (2011-2018)**
- **Served on the Core Faculty of the AUCD Leadership Academy (since 2017)**
- **Served on a team to develop the AUCD Leadership Map for the UCEDD Resource Center (2021) (with Emily Graybill, Molly Tucker, and Ashley Salmon)**
- **Co-led a series of webinars for LEND programs about the meaningful inclusion of self-advocates as trainees and faculty in LEND for the ITAC (2021). Those webinars have been followed by multiple opportunities to provide individual technical assistance to LEND programs. (with Molly Tucker)**
- **Co-led two webinars for the AUCD Community Education and Dissemination Council about social media as a tool to accomplish the UCEDD Core Functions (2020 and 2022) (with Matt Gianino, Aryana Jones, and Patti Ramos)**
- **Worked on a team to develop and accessible conference poster template to make academic posters more accessible to conference attendees with and without disabilities. The template that the team created has been adopted by our center and many AUCD centers utilize it as well (2015) (with Erin Vinoski Thomas, Susanna Miller-Raines, and Ken Mitchell)**
- **During 2022 have worked the LEND Self-Advocates group to create plain language version of the LEND Self-Advocacy competencies (with Molly Tucker)**