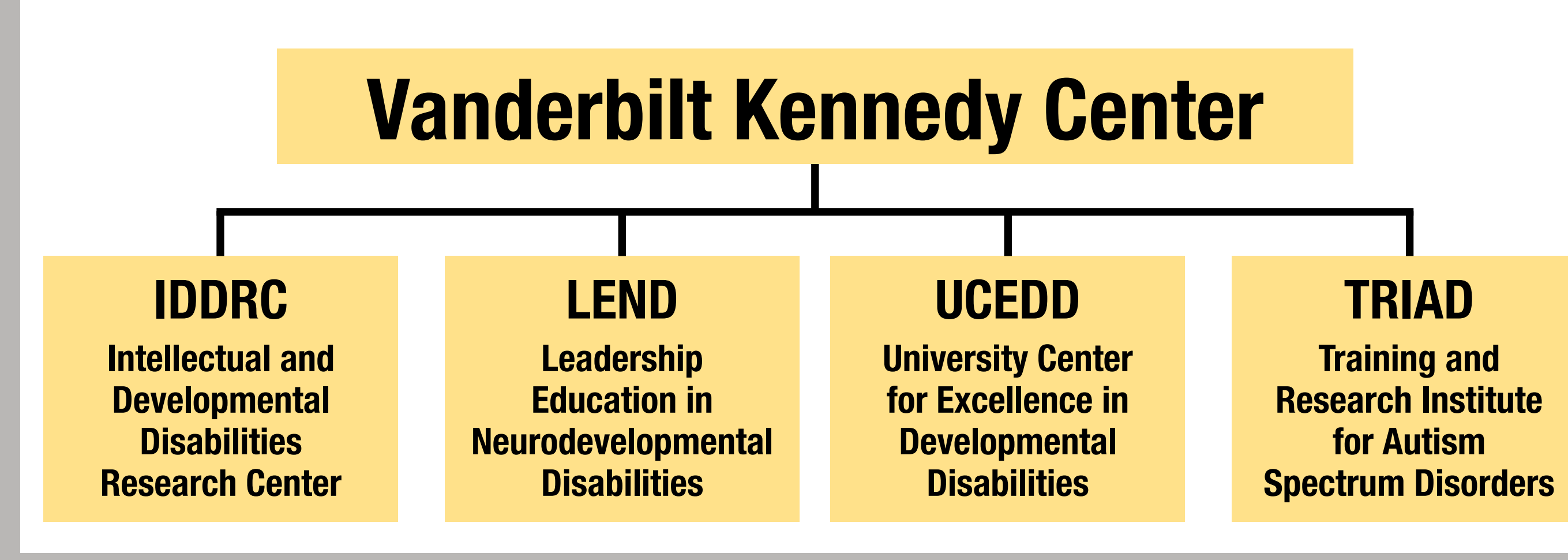
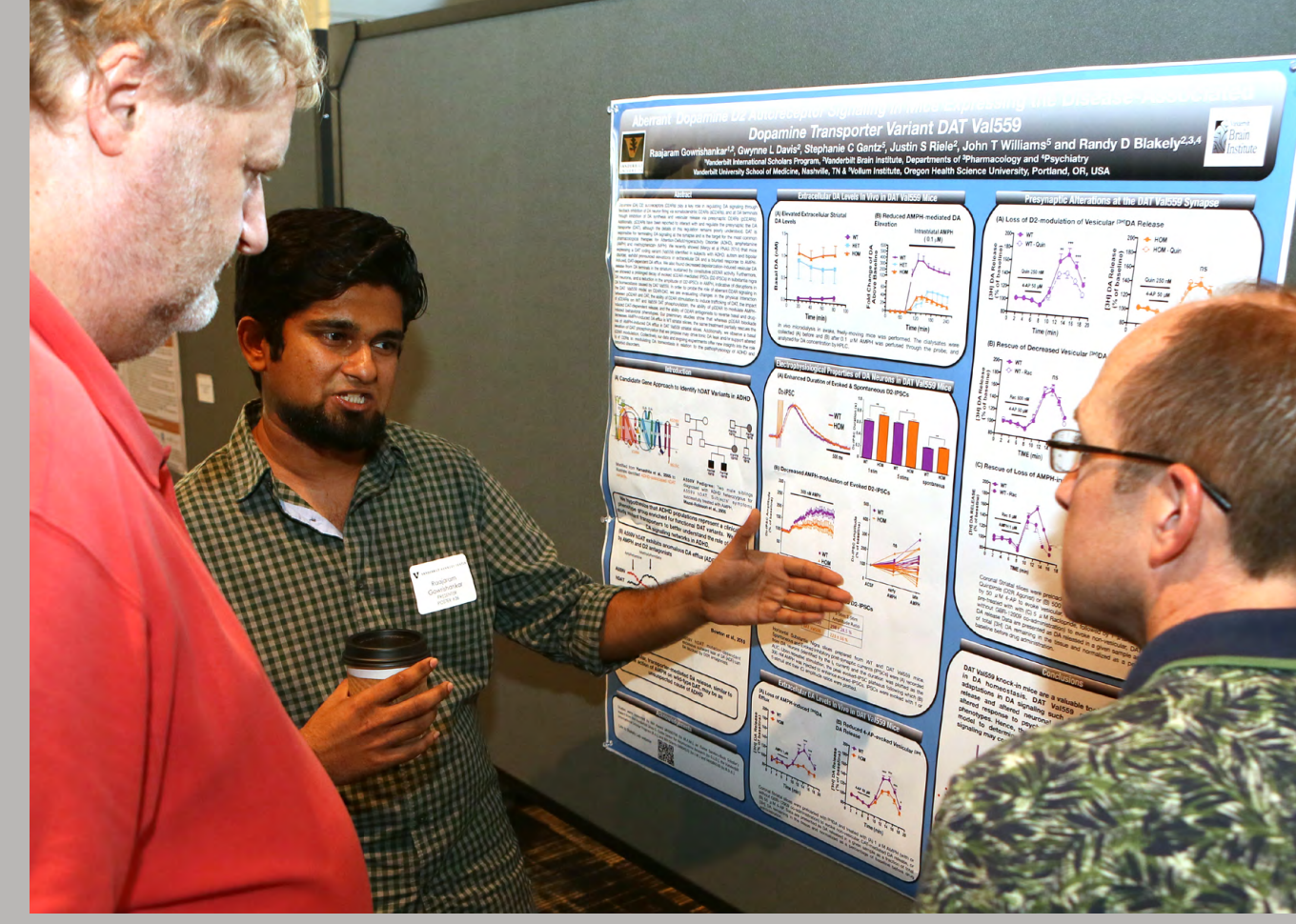
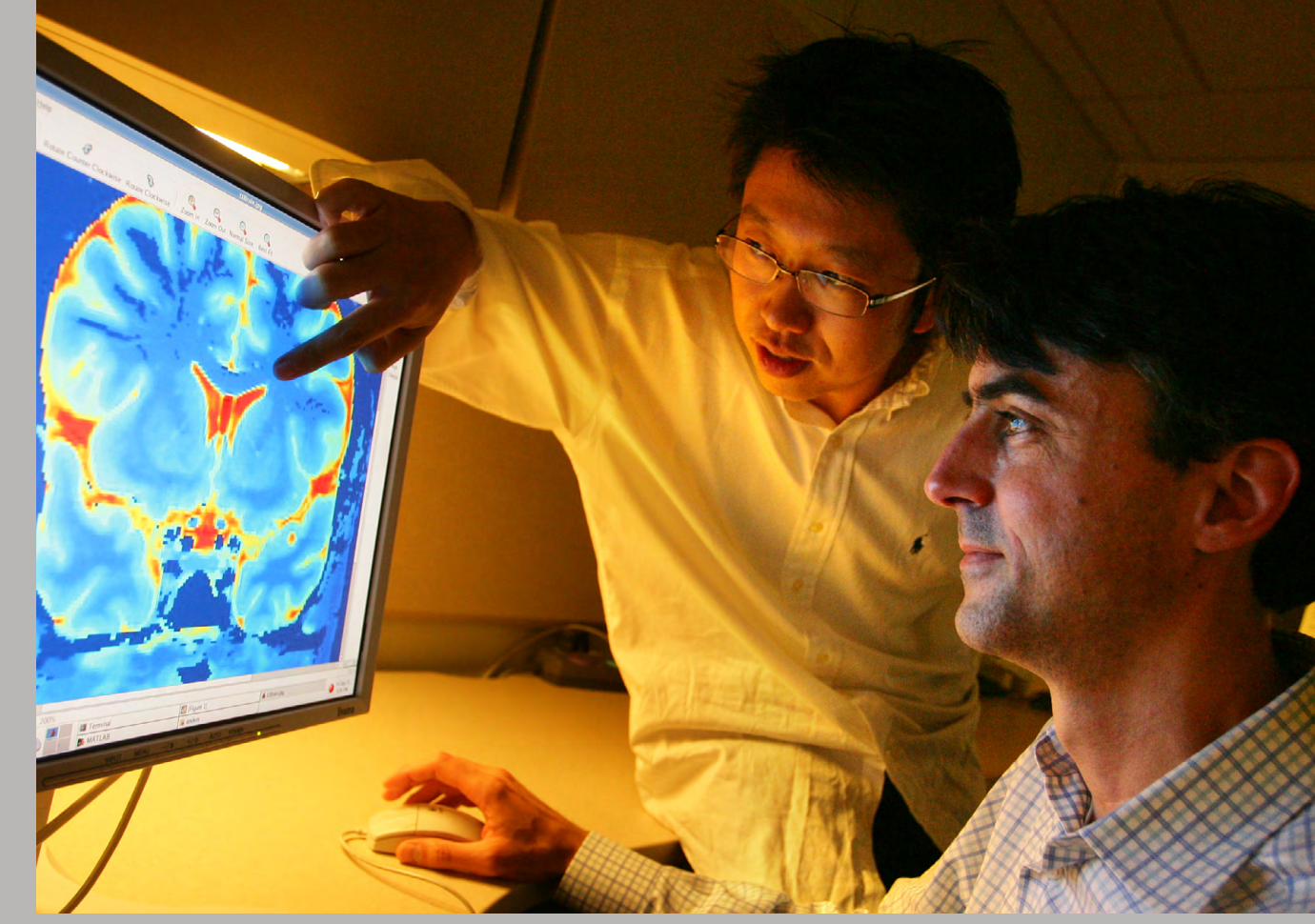


Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's IDDRC, LEND, UCEDD, and TRIAD: Working Together to Promote Inclusive Communities



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Overview:

Collaboration across disability-focused programs can be challenging, but when it works well, it promotes innovation across research and inter-professional training, and improves services and communication/dissemination across the life span for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Examples of Productive Partnerships:



ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp: a week-long residential camp for individuals with Williams syndrome (16+ years) which includes a songwriting workshop culminating with a live performance at the Grand Ole Opry, fosters the development of social skills, and incorporates research activities.



The Vanderbilt Consortium LEND: prepares healthcare professionals across 15 specialties to assume leadership roles in serving children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. LEND Trainees participate in a rigorous core curriculum, leadership series, interprofessional group project, and other activities to enhance their clinical and research skills and increase their ability to provide family-centered, culturally competent care.



Next Steps at Vanderbilt: a 4-year certificate program for students 18 to 26 years of age with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Students take university classes, receive peer mentor support, expand their social networks, and develop employment skills which will promote their future independence and quality of life.



The VKC Reading Clinic: provides intensive, individualized, one-on-one tutoring to K – 8th grade students utilizing assessments and evidence-based instructional methods.



TRIAD Community Engagement Program: provides training to a network of arts, education, athletic, and entertainment organizations with the goal of promoting acceptance and inclusion of individuals with ASD/IDD and their families.



Volunteer Advocacy Project (VAP): involves 40 hours of training so individuals can become special education advocates who can provide support to families of children with disabilities across Tennessee.

Benefits of the Organizational Structure:

- Because the governance structure of the VKC intentionally includes community partners, family members, and self-advocates, there is ongoing guidance and oversight to insure that the goals of independence, self-determination, community integration and inclusion of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are prioritized.
- Many members of the VKC Leadership team have roles in several of the components (IDDRC, UCEDD, LEND and TRIAD), and this working knowledge builds trust and promotes communication across projects.
- The organizational structure facilitates the leveraging of limited financial resources.
- It also affords the strategic matching of graduate students to projects that need more person-power while simultaneously enhancing the individual trainee's learning experiences.

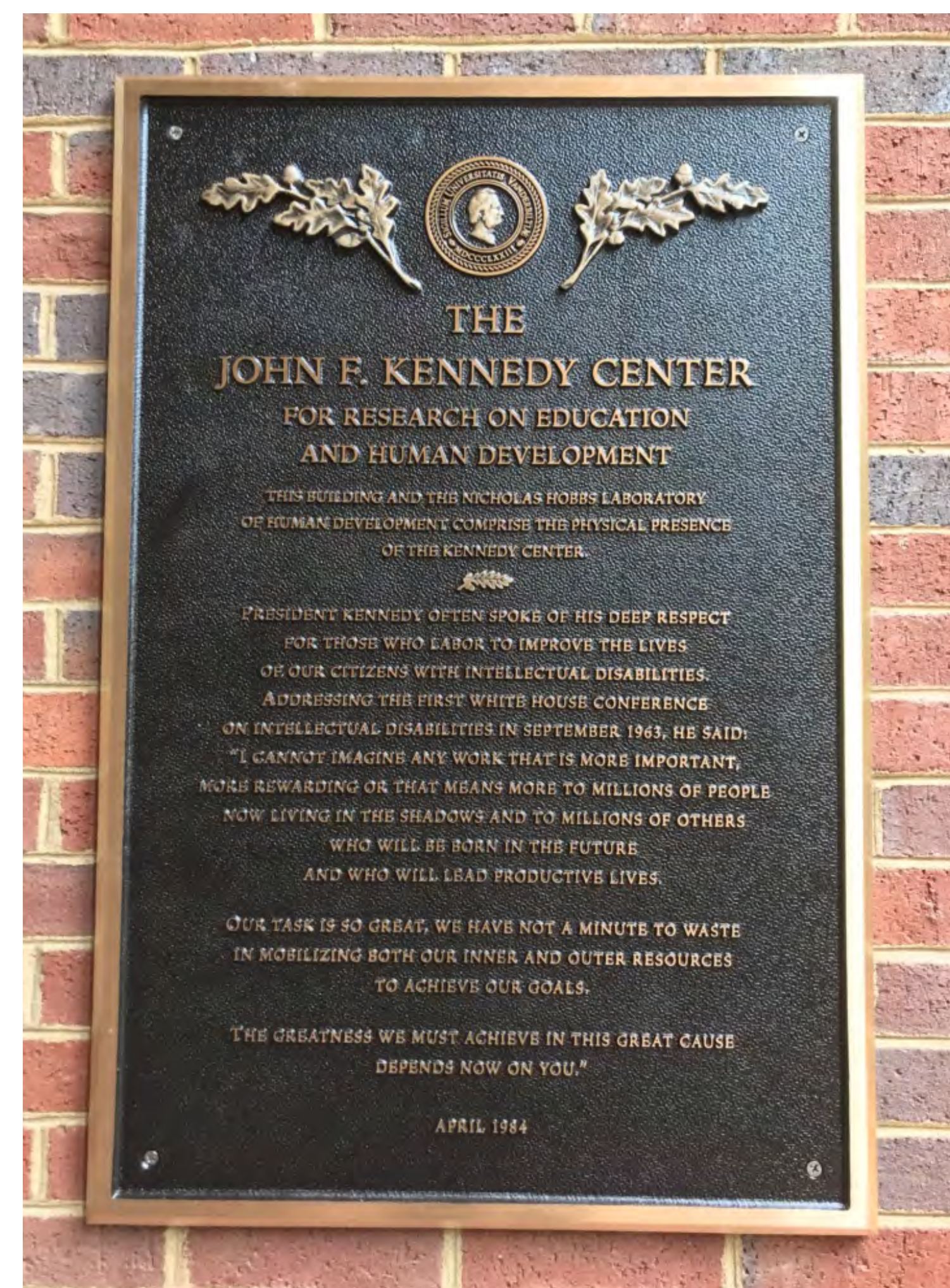
“We All Belong Here. Achieving Inclusive Communities.”

Since its inception, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center has placed a strong emphasis on projects including research, training and service. There is a culture at our Center that recognizes that projects are stronger if all components exist. From our earliest days, our Center founders, including Dr. Nicholas Hobbs, Dr. Susan Gray and Dr. Lloyd Dunn, recognized the important contribution that individuals with disabilities and families could make. Examples of activities and programs open to all:

- Journal Clubs
- Grand Rounds
- Ethics Grand Rounds
- VKC Community Advisory Council
- Educate to Advocate
- Community Education Series

“I cannot imagine any work that is more important, more rewarding or that means more to millions of people now living in the shadows and to millions of others who will be born in the future and who will lead productive lives.”

President John F. Kennedy (1963)



Mission:

The mission of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development is to facilitate discoveries and best practices that make positive differences in the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families. The pursuit of these goals is aided by the structure of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (VKC) which is comprised of four components: (a) a Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC), (b) a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), (c) a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program, and (d) the Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (TRIAD). Each component has a slightly different focus but shares similar goals, including fostering research, training, community service, and dissemination.

Having all four components in one center does not guarantee that the separate entities will work well together, but it does provide opportunities for meaningful collaborations.

Funding:

- (IDDRC) *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center, Grant #U54HD083211, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
- (UCEDD) University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service, Grant #90DD0825-02-02, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
- (LEND) Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, Grant #T73MC30767, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.