



VCU

Virginia Collaborative Developmental Disabilities Trainee Exchange: The Intersection of Policy and Practice



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Clinical Experiences

This grant provided Va-LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) trainees with the opportunity to observe clinics at the University of Virginia (UVA) children’s hospital.

- **14 different clinics from which to choose**
- **10 trainees visited 13 different clinics**
- They learned about the role of developmental pediatricians in caring for children with special health care needs
- They observed clinicians working with families, and the need to incorporate a ‘whole-family’ approach into medical services.

“Importance of person centered care, the knowledge of individual circumstances, and the strength of having live interpreters, scribes on site and multi-disciplinary consultation.”

“Every family is at a different stage in accepting that their child has a disability. As a doctor/ professional you need to meet the family where they are, and tell them how great they are doing and how much support is available to them and their child.”

Policy Practice Experience

The UVA Developmental Pediatric (DBP) Fellows had the opportunity to participated in Va-LEND Policy experience

- **Viewed Zoom recordings**
- **Attended the Disability Policy Seminar**
- **Participated in Hill visits**
- They could see the connections between what they learned from watching the Seminar sessions and their participation in the hill visits.

“At the Medical Waivers presentation in VA we learned the history of disability policy in the US, [and] we know more about the different forms of Waivers, the waitlist policy in Virginia, and how VA differs from other states from a funding standpoint. This will improve my care and understanding of the needs of patients with disabilities - whether it be from the insurance side or guardianship or fighting for their basic rights.”

“The need to talk to your representatives better when they are not in session, because they have more time to listen; it is important to give both facts that are related rationally, and an emotional connection or story.”

Background



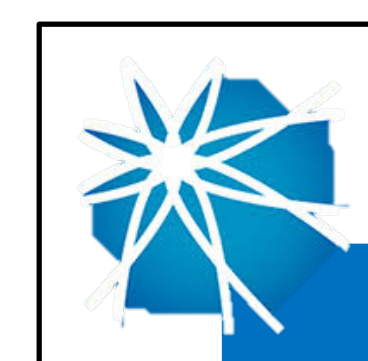
VCU Va-LEND Trainees

- Trainees at VCU were able to travel to UVA to participate in clinical observations that counted towards their LEND practicum hours.



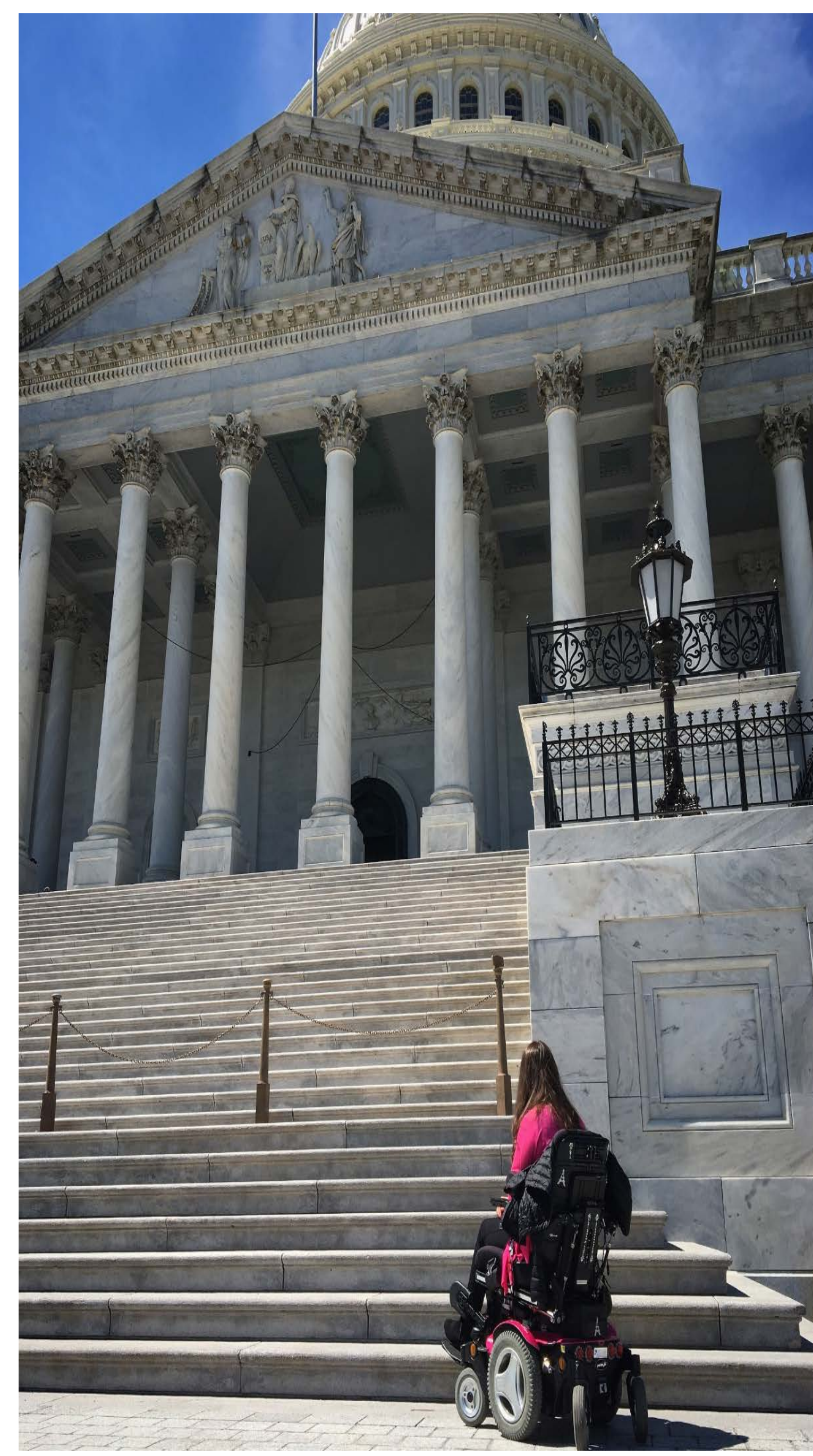
UVA Developmental Pediatrics Fellows

- UVA Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics Fellows participate in the LEND classes that addressed policy practice and participated in the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington D.C..



AUCD Fast Grant

- Funding by Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center (ITAC).

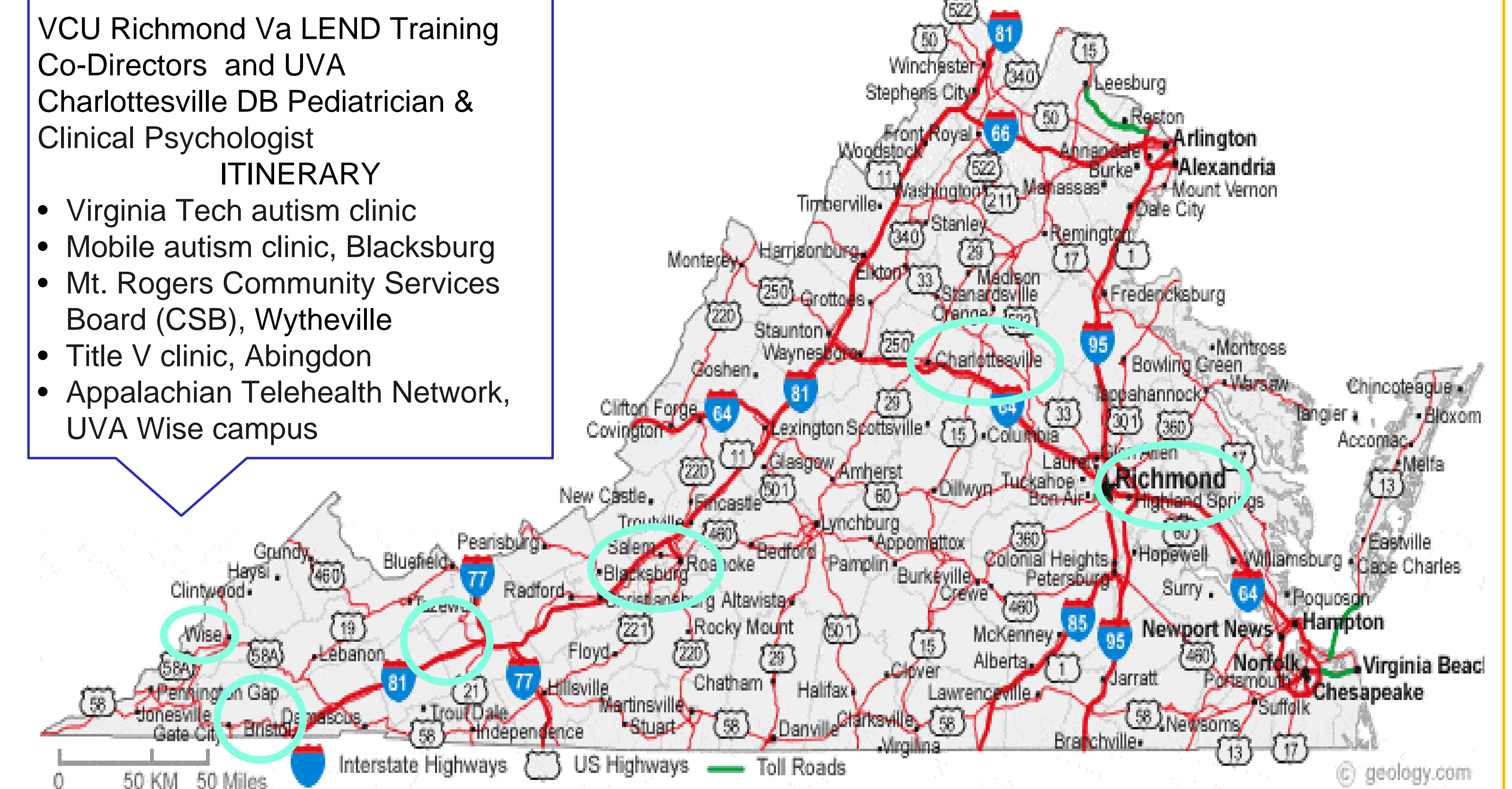


Exploring collaborative and Rural Resources

VCU Richmond Va LEND Training Co-Directors and UVA Charlottesville DB Pediatrician & Clinical Psychologist

ITINERARY

- Virginia Tech autism clinic
- Mobile autism clinic, Blacksburg
- Mt. Rogers Community Services Board (CSB), Wytheville
- Title V clinic, Abingdon
- Appalachian Telehealth Network, UVA Wise campus



Findings

- It was beneficial for trainees to see how other universities conduct clinics. These observations helped shape them as practitioners and increased their understanding of the importance of teamwork and family-centered care.
- The DBP fellows were highly satisfied with their participation in the Disability Policy Seminar the Va-LEND Seminar classes. Through their participation in these activities they learned about connections between policy and practice and the implications of policy for the people they see in their clinics.
- In addition, the collaborative exploration of resources in rural Virginia led to resource sharing with the community, and strengthened the relationship between the two universities.

Implications for the Future

- Promoted an atmosphere of learning and collaboration between two major universities.
- It has the potential to reduce in duplication of efforts and streamlined services.
- Through the collaborative exploration of resources in Southwest Virginia, both universities were able to learn more about the different tools and resources utilized in those rural areas, as well as extant gaps in services.