Self-Advocate Traineeship
2021-22

JFK Partners, Colorado’s University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program is offering a part-time 10-month Traineeship for Self-Advocates to begin Aug, 2021.

The purpose of the LEND program is to improve the health of individuals who have or are at risk for developing autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities by providing graduate-level training in maternal and child health interdisciplinary leadership education in neurodevelopmental and related disabilities.

The voice of Self-Advocates trainees is a recent addition to our program and other programs like ours around the country. Learning alongside Self-Advocates brings a new perspective for health professionals and provides the advocacy perspective in a real context. This traineeship offers Self-Advocates the chance to learn more about legislation, community resources, programs and projects that support individuals with disabilities to be better advocates for themselves and others.

Eligibility:
Applicants must
• Be an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other Developmental Disability.
• Must be available to take coursework on Tuesdays (Sept-May) and attend a Leadership Course (daily Aug 2-6 and 9-13, 2021 from 2:00-5:00 pm).
• Support and advance the philosophy of interdisciplinary principles and practice.
• Have some past leadership experience.
• Only candidates with US citizenship may be considered.

Although this is a graduate education program and the others participating are at the masters, doctoral, or post-doctoral level, Self-Advocacy trainees do not need a master’s degree to participate.

JFK Partners is committed to the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty, staff and trainees to enrich the training environment and better prepare professionals and advocates to promote health equity, wellness, and reduced disparities. We have had challenges recruiting trainees that match the racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity of Colorado. It is a priority to JFK Partners to increase representation of the workforce so it reflects the community we serve. Bilingual Spanish-speaking applicants, in addition to those with racial, ethnic and cultural diversity are encouraged to apply.

Program Description: Trainees will engage in a 12-hour/week program of academic and practicum experiences to advance their skills in the areas of leadership, cultural competency, family centered
care, advocacy, public policy, clinical knowledge, research, and other topics associated with improving healthcare for children with ASD or other developmental disabilities.

Trainee experiences include:
- Weekly mentorship
- Coursework in Leadership (applicants must be available for the 2-week intensive course Aug 2-6 and 9-13, 2021 2:00-5:00 pm daily)
- Coursework in Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Tuesday mornings Sept-Apr)
- Coursework in Policy/Advocacy (Jan/Feb)
- Training experience resulting in a scholarly project with a presentation and product that is completed and presented by the trainee by the end of the training experience.

Support: A stipend for Self-Advocacy trainees completing the training program with 300 hours or more is available and will be discussed during the interview process. This position and funding are contingent upon JFK Partners receiving grant funding. JFK Partners is applying for a competing renewal in 2021, so letters of offer cannot be made until the award is received.

Application Procedure:
Our application requires the submission of the following documents:

1. Cover Letter Statement of Interest - Please include the answers to the following:
   - Describe why a Self-Advocacy Traineeship at JFK Partners interests you and what you would like to learn from this experience.
   - Describe past experiences related to being a Self-Advocacy leader or advocate working with or on behalf of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disabilities.

2. Resume

Deadline:
The deadline for materials is **Apr 1, 2021**. Please send materials to: Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, at Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu.

Please contact Tracy Price-Johnson, Self-Advocacy Discipline Director or Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, with any questions.

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