

### What is the GaLEND Program?

The Georgia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Program (GaLEND) is an interdisciplinary, one-year training experience that incorporates *didactic* and *experiential* learning in classroom, clinical, and community settings. We aim to prepare future leaders who will enhance the lives of children and families through culturally competent and family-centered services, coordinated systems of care, and responsive social policies.

GaLEND is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources Services Administration. GaLEND is a program within the Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD) at Georgia State University (GSU), operated in collaboration with the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) and the MCH Center for Excellence at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. We also collaborate with a number of academic and community partners, including the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These partners offer faculty who are thought-leaders in their fields of study and provide unique perspectives to the GaLEND Program.

GaLEND is one of 52 LEND programs across the United State. Together, they form a network that addresses regional and national issues of importance to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities, with a specific focus on autism and related disorders. All LEND programs have faculty and trainees from a wide range of disciplines, provide interdisciplinary training, and include parents or family members as faculty and paid program participants. They also share the following objectives:

1. To advance the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to improve health and educational systems for children with autism and related developmental disabilities;
2. To provide interdisciplinary education that emphasizes the integration of services across state and local agencies, private providers, and communities;
3. To promote innovative and effective practices that enhance cultural competency, family-centered care, and interdisciplinary partnerships;
4. To prepare future leaders from diverse backgrounds to improve health care access, quality of care, and outcomes for children, especially those from historically underserved racial and ethnic groups.

### Who are our GaLEND Trainees?

Since 2011, we have trained more than 175 future leaders for careers in service agencies and schools, academia, government, and advocacy. Our trainees come to us because they want to make the world a better place – and understand the importance of gaining the leadership skills and perspectives to make that happen. Applicants for GaLEND have generally already demonstrated an interest in improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities *and* a commitment to pursuing a leadership identity. Most GaLEND trainees are advanced master's, doctoral, or post-doctoral students from GSU and MSM. GaLEND also includes non-students -- individuals with disabilities and family members, early career CDC professionals, and community practitioners. An annual stipend is available for eligible trainees (stipends amounts vary by discipline, level of training, and whether the trainee is otherwise employed); stipend recipients must be US citizens or permanent residents.

### Training Activities

GaLEND develops competencies in three domains -- personal, working with others, and enhancing systems. Within these, there are 12 more specific leadership competencies, including self-reflection, critical thinking, cultural competence, communication, family-and-person-centered care, interdisciplinary team building, working in communities, and policy and advocacy. Learning experiences include weekly seminars (Friday from 1:00-4:00 pm), leadership seminars (Wednesday from 5:30-7:30 pm), interdisciplinary group activities, clinical observations, research project, and family mentoring. GaLEND is a 10 hour/week appointment. Approximately 5½ hours per week are in class and meetings: the additional 4½ hours are scheduled by trainees to meet their other GaLEND commitments. The program takes place over two semesters starting **August 19th, 2020 and ending April 23, 2021.**

## LEND Disciplines and Coordinators for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

<b>Audiology</b>	Akilah Heggs Lee, MA,CCC/A,PhD	Aheggs1@gsu.edu
<b>Self-Advocacy</b>	Kurt Vogel	kvogel@gsu.edu
<b>Family Advocacy</b>	Ramatu Muhammad	rmuhammad14@gsu.edu
<b>Health Administration</b>	William Custer, PhD	wcuster@gsu.edu
<b>Law</b>	Margaret Middleton, JD	mmiddleton@gsu.edu
<b>Medicine–Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics</b>	David O’Banion, MD	david.obanion@emory.edu
<b>Medicine–Family Medicine</b>	Harry Heiman, MD, MPH	hheiman@gsu.edu
<b>Nursing</b>	Jiwon Lee, PhD, RN, MPH	jlee242@gsu.edu
<b>Nutrition</b>	Anita Nucci, PhD, RD, LD	anucci@gsu.edu
<b>Occupational Therapy</b>	Carolyn Podolski, OTR/L, MA	cpodolski@gsu.edu
<b>Physical Therapy</b>	Yu-Ping Chen, ScD, PT	ypchen@gsu.edu
<b>Psychology–Clinical</b>	Erin Tone, PhD	etone@gsu.edu
<b>Psychology–School</b>	Andy Roach, PhD	aroach@gsu.edu
<b>Public Health</b>	Daniel Crimmins, PhD	dcrimmins@gsu.edu
<b>Social Work</b>	Terri Lewinson, PhD	tlewinson@gsu.edu
<b>Special Education</b>	Eliseo Jimenez, PhD	ejimenez7@gsu.edu
<b>Speech and Language Pathology</b>	Julie Washington, PhD, CCC/SP	jwashington@gsu.edu

### Program Requirements

GaLEND program trainees are required to complete a minimum of 300 hours (10 hours per week on average) over two semesters of didactic, advanced clinical, community, and interdisciplinary leadership training activities.

Approximately 50% of that time is in formal course sessions largely at GSU and 50% in clinical, community, and research activities. Trainees and fellows will be responsible for recording and reporting their time outside of GaLEND courses. To the extent possible, we work with individual trainees to accommodate family needs and program requirements. Expectations are that *all* participants will:

- Attend GaLEND Orientation on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Attend evening Leadership Seminars from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Wednesdays (foci on self-care, mindfulness and developing tools/skills to support leadership in disciplinary and interdisciplinary contexts).
- Attend weekly courses on Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, Systems of Care that meet on Friday afternoons from 1:00pm-4:00pm
- Attend occasional all-day Friday sessions for community experiences and site visits
- Attend one two-to-three-day conference to advance leadership skills (travel stipend is provided)
- Participate in clinical and community training and document hours in setting
- Attend regular meetings of assigned project team (usually weekly or bi-weekly)
- Complete independent assignments on family and self-advocacy mentoring, developing informational resources for families, providing technical assistance, and delivering community education programs
- Demonstrate disciplinary and interdisciplinary competencies in community practice sites
- Develop and present a collaborative research/leadership project related to GaLEND and MCHB goals
- Complete an electronic portfolio to showcase products and highlight professional growth & development

### Admission Guidelines and Application

If you are interested in applying to be a GaLEND trainee, **please contact Mark Crenshaw** at 404.413.1385 or email [mcrenshaw@gsu.edu](mailto:mcrenshaw@gsu.edu). The application form should be completed following your discussion with Mr. Crenshaw and your discipline coordinator regarding your qualifications and goals.

### GaLEND Program Leadership

**Daniel Crimmins, PhD**, Director

**Mark Crenshaw, MTS**, Director of Interdisciplinary Training and Course Director for Systems of Care Course

**Emily Graybill, PhD**, Course Director for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Course

**Andrew Roach, PhD, NCSP**, Course Director Leadership Course

**Ramatu Muhammad**, GaLEND Faculty, Family Discipline Coordinator

**Kurt Vogel**, GaLEND Faculty, Self-Advocacy Discipline Coordinator

## Directions for Applicants

1. Include this page with your signature at the bottom to affirm that you understand the goals of the GaLEND Program and that if accepted you intend to meet all program requirements.
2. Attach the following: (a) current curriculum vitae or resume, and (b) typed, narrative responses to the questions below.
3. Submit names and contact information for two faculty members or supervisors who would be willing to speak to your qualification and readiness for the GaLEND Program. This information may be included on the page with the narrative responses.
4. E-mail one copy of your application material to Mark Crenshaw, Project Coordinator at [mcrenshaw@gsu.edu](mailto:mcrenshaw@gsu.edu) AND a second copy to the faculty member from your discipline (listed on p. 2) by **Friday, March 6, 2020 for Georgia State University student applicants or Friday, May 1, 2020 if you are a community applicant\***. If you represent a discipline that is not included on the current list, please contact Mark Crenshaw. We observe a rolling admissions process for GaLEND applicants. We will contact all Georgia State student applicants regarding admission decisions prior to April 10, 2020. We will inform community applicants regarding admission decisions prior to June 12, 2020.

## Narrative Questions

Please address each of the following in one or two paragraphs. Please type your responses and attach the pages to the application packet. (Limit 1 page total)

1. The GaLEND Program focuses on family-centered, culturally competent practices in providing supports and services to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. What experiences have you had with individuals with disabilities and their families?
2. What are your career goals related to children with disabilities, family members, and community health services?
3. What are your goals for participation in the GaLEND Program?

## Declaration of Intent to Participate in the GaLEND Program

By signing below, you acknowledge 1) your understanding that the purpose of the GaLEND Program is to prepare trainees from diverse professional disciplines to assume leadership roles in their respective fields, 2) your commitment to the goal of improving the health of individuals with disabilities and the responsiveness of the systems that support them, 3) your interest in developing your own competence in policy, advocacy, research, and clinical skills needed to affect positive change, and 4) your understanding and commitment to completing all program requirements and fulfilling all leadership competencies of the GaLEND Program.

**Applicant Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_