

NAME: MELISSA SINGLETON

DISCIPLINE: MEDICINE, FAMILY ADVOCATE

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:

I have worked with many people with disabilities in my roles as an ED tech and EMT. However, the bulk of my experience comes from my family. My sister has a developmental disability, and I grew up caring for her and watching my parents advocate for her. As I have grown older, I have started to become an advocate for her as well.

Goals for your LEND training experience:

My personal goal is to learn how to be a better advocate and future guardian for my sister. Additionally, I would like to understand the policies that influence people with disabilities and how we can influence those policies for the better. Professionally, my goal is to learn how to better communicate with, care for, and advocate for my patients more effectively.

What you wish to contribute, in the future, as an advocate/professional/family member in the field:

As a physician, I want to be a trusted resource for my patients. I hope to cultivate a practice that welcomes and cares for patients with disabilities and their family. Wherever I end up settling down, my goal is to improve the community for people with disabilities, whether through policy, advocacy, or another avenue. As a family member, I want to improve my sister's daily experience to help her live her best and happiest life.