

**Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:**

I have worked in the field of Special Education for over 10 years. As a special educator, I worked as a high school teacher for students with significant support needs in both private and public schools. I had the opportunity to work as a Special Education Administrator in Chicago Public Schools to provide instructional support to teachers, administrators, and district leaders as they worked diligently to provide equitable access to students with disabilities. In the past 2 years, I have also worked as an adjunct professor at DePaul University and with an educational equity consulting organization as the Diverse Learner Specialist. I am currently a second-year student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign pursuing my PhD in Special Education.

**Goals for your LEND training experience:**

Through the LEND training experience, I hope to engage in collaborative learning to better understand the perspectives of individuals with disabilities. I am eager to learn from self-advocates, families, and professionals across disciplines to inform research and advocate for policy reform that improves the health and well-being of those with disabilities. I would like to continue to learn how to be a strong ally to those with significant support needs and their families, as well as work toward more equitable and inclusive experiences at the individual and systems level.

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

I hope to engage in leadership, research, teaching, and advocacy that supports transition-age youth and young adults with significant support needs. I would love to support policy reform for special education, as well as employment, post-secondary education, and independent living experiences beyond high school graduation.