

LEND TRAINEE BIO

NAME: ALEXANDRA RICHMOND

DISCIPLINE: PhD STUDENT, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:

For many years, I worked as a special educator, case manager and teacher leader in Chicago Public Schools. I am currently a 3rd year PhD student in special education at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I also work as a special education instructor for undergraduate students working to get their special educator's teaching endorsement.

Goals for your LEND training experience:

LEND emphasizes collaboration and community partnerships. A lot of my research centers on this, but with an emphasis on minoritized populations and underserved communities. I hope to learn more about building service partnerships to better wrap-around support for students and families with special needs in the underserved communities that are often ignored.

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

I will contribute an excited-to-learn and diligent attitude towards this work. I am passionate about helping families with special needs and I know how to be an effective advocate. I also understand just how important it is to have a more diverse representation and perspective of leaders within the disability community and I hope to help foster this diversity.