**Traineeship for Self-Advocates**

2020-21

**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 July, 2020.**

The program promotes a multi-discipline team model of care, with special emphasis on improving care for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disabilities. Inclusion of Self-Advocates in the group of disciplines 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 shows advocacy 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. Trainees also gain experience to further develop their leadership and advocacy skills.

The training program is committed to the recruitment of culturally diverse trainees. We encourage inquiries and applications from all qualified individuals.

**Eligibility:**

Applicants must

- Be an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental disability
- Have the ability to participate in all aspects of the LEND curriculum (i.e. orientation, course sessions, mentorship meetings)
- Support and advance the philosophy of interdisciplinary principles and practice
- Self-advocates must have some past leadership experience

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

Due to grant policies, only candidates with US citizenship can be considered.

**Program Description:** Trainees will engage in a **1 ½ days per week** program of academic experiences to advance their skills in leadership, cultural competency, patient and family centered care, advocacy, public policy, clinical knowledge, research, and other topics associated with improving healthcare for children with ASD or other developmental disabilities. Mentorship for Self-Advocacy Trainees is provided by JFK Partners faculty member, Tracy Price-Johnson, in collaboration with other JFK faculty.
Trainee experiences include:

- Weekly mentorship
- Coursework in Key Concepts in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (Tuesday mornings Sept-Apr)
- Coursework in Leadership (applicants must be available for the 2-week intensive course in July/Aug, 2020 2:00-5:00 pm daily for this in-person course held at the Anschutz Medical Campus). Dates TBD.
- Coursework in Policy/Advocacy (four Tues mornings and 1 full-day at the Colorado Capitol Building)
- Training experience resulting in a leadership 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 is available and will be discussed during the interview process.

**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 **Feb 1, 2020**. Please send materials to: Christine Cook, Training Coordinator, JFK Partners, at Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu. You may also mail your application to: Christine Cook, JFK Partners, 13121 E. 17th Ave., C234, Aurora, CO 80045.

**Questions:**
Please direct questions about the application process to Christine Cook (Christine.Cook@cuanschutz.edu or 303-724-0429) or Tracy Price-Johnson (Tracy.Price-Johnson@cuanschutz.edu or 303-724-2676).