

The UW Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (UW LEND) program, based at the Institute on Human Development and Disability (IHDD), prepares future leaders in disability care through interdisciplinary training, family engagement, and systems change.

## Cultivate Future Leaders

UW LEND prepares graduate-level professionals, self-advocates, and family members to lead across clinical, policy, education, and research settings. Trainees engage in interdisciplinary learning rooted in disability justice, health equity, and systems change.

Who We Train:

- Medical students, residents, and post-doc fellows
- Graduate students in OT, PT, SLP, Audiology, Nutrition, Social Work, Public Health, Psychology
- Family members and self-advocates

Hybrid model combining Seattle-based learning with Yakima and Spokane satellite sites to expand statewide reach.

**300+ hours per trainee annually**

**20+ faculty across 20 disciplines**

**650+ leaders trained 2020 - 2024**



## Mission and Vision

**Our vision** is a world in which all individuals with neuro- developmental and related disabilities achieve their full potential and participate as valued and supported members in their communities.

**Our mission** is to serve as a Center of Excellence in MCH leadership training, which prepares the next generation of leaders to take action through person- and family-centered, culturally and linguistically responsive principles, and advance interdisciplinary evidence-based clinical practice, advocacy, research, and inclusive communities.

## Trainee Spotlight

*"I've been honored to work with UW LEND and see the gates open to the self-advocate community in leadership." – Ivanova Smith*

Ivanova Smith joined UW LEND in 2014 as the program's first self-advocate trainee, later becoming its first Self-Advocate Faculty member. She helped revise the program's curriculum to reflect dignity and inclusion, mentored peers, and advocated statewide. Today, Ivanova is the Community Collaborations Program Manager at Washington's Developmental Disabilities Administration and helped lead the passage of the *Nothing About Us Without Us* law.

Stay connected: [uw-ctu.org/uw-lend](http://uw-ctu.org/uw-lend)

*UW LEND empowers future leaders in neurodevelopmental and related disabilities through person- and family-centered, culturally responsive training. We advance interdisciplinary practice and research to foster inclusive communities.*

UW LEND trainees gain unparalleled, hands-on clinical experience through rotations at the IHDD UWMC Specialty Clinics. Across 11 interdisciplinary sites serving patients from infancy to older adulthood, trainees engage in holistic, family-centered care that blends medical, therapeutic, behavioral, genetic, audiology, nutrition, and social-work expertise.

This direct immersion in collaborative, evidence-based practice is a cornerstone of our curriculum—equipping emerging leaders with the real-world skills, cultural responsiveness, and interdisciplinary teamwork needed to advance inclusive, high-impact care.

## ANNUAL IMPACT

3,000+ unique patients served

6,000+ clinical visits

Patients from 37 of Washington's 39 counties, plus Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and California

Over 50% patients live in neighborhoods rated medium-high to high on the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index

Over 30% patients covered by Medicaid

## IHDD UWMC Specialty Clinics

- Adult Autism Clinic
- UW Autism Center
- Biochemical Genetics Clinic
- Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Clinic
- Child Development Clinic
- Down Syndrome Specialty Clinic
- FASD Diagnostic & Prevention Clinic
- Genetic Medicine Clinic
- Infant Development Follow-Up Clinic
- Neurogenetics Clinic
- Phenylketonuria (PKU) Clinic

IHDD UWMC Patients by Washington State Counties 2024

