

Interdisciplinary, Pre-Service Preparation and Continuing Education

Preparing Future Leaders

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) prepares trainees for leadership roles advancing inclusion for people with disabilities. Undergraduate and graduate students from a range of disciplines train at the MCDD, including law, health policy, public health, special education, community health, neuropsychology, mental health and behavioral psychology. Trainees gain practical skills and knowledge that inform their work about the needs, strengths and perspectives of people with disabilities across the lifespan. A number of learning opportunities are available.

Pre-Service, Discipline-Specific Training

LEND

The Maternal and Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities (LEND) offers trainees didactic, clinical, community and research experiences. LEND training is provided to trainees from varied disciplines, including audiology, behavioral psychology, medicine, nursing, nutrition, occupational therapy, physical therapy, neuropsychology and speech-language pathology.

RISE-UP

The Maternal and Child Health Careers/Research Initiatives for Student Enhancement provides opportunities for enhanced public health and related training for up to 50 undergraduate students from underrepresented populations to encourage and support the pursuit of graduate degrees.

MCDD Teaching

MCDD staff have faculty appointments at local universities and actively teach disability-related coursework in program evaluation and special education law. They also guest lecture on a variety of disability-related topics.

Discipline-Specific Internships

Research and Policy

The MCDD works with universities and clinical departments to offer significant research and policy experiences as part of an overall pre-service preparation experience. The cornerstone of this effort is the work done through the Wendy Klag Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities at The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, including two funded internships to work directly with the MCDD on research, evaluation and policy experiences.

Disability Perspective Experience

Through training from the point of view of families and self-advocates, students have the unique opportunity to discover and develop sensitivities to the complexities and challenges facing people with disabilities on a daily basis.

Discipline-Specific Placements

Professionals and students are invited to train with the MCDD in specific disciplines such as special education, law, mental health and community health.

Key Partners

The MCDD partners with many dedicated individuals and organizations that work together to advance training opportunities for students and professionals. Trainees come from Maryland and around the nation. Partners include:

- The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Towson University
- University of Baltimore School of Law
- University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

We are all born with great potential.
Shouldn't we all have the chance to achieve it?



Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
at Kennedy Krieger Institute

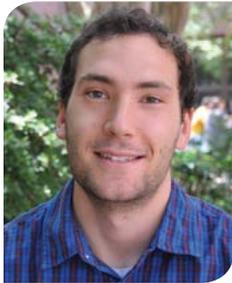
Building Partnerships. Changing Lives.

For more information, visit [MCDD.KennedyKrieger.org](https://www.MCDD.KennedyKrieger.org)

What Past Interns are Saying About MCDD Training

Eric Rubenstein

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, May 2015
Master of Science in Epidemiology



Training at the MCDD gave me practical experience and a real-world perspective of the developmental disability research field. The opportunity to work on a grant, from idea formation to submission, was a great experience that engrained lessons that will follow me through my career.

Tylea Powell

Towson University, December 2015
Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration



The experience I had at the MCDD was very eye-opening and rewarding. I had the opportunity to work in grant writing, research, working with families, and conducting needs assessments. The internship has shaped the path that I want to take for my career.

Heather Liberto

Towson University, December 2015
Bachelor of Science in Health Science – Community Health



I am grateful for the rewarding experience at the MCDD, which reinforced my desire to continue my education and career in the disability field. My internship with the MCDD at Kennedy Krieger Institute was a remarkable experience.

Kelsey Crowley

Towson University, May 2016
Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management



It is one thing to learn about health care organizations in a classroom, but to actually be exposed to one every day in a hands-on manner is extremely valuable. At the MCDD, every work day is different and filled with meaningful projects that benefit the organization and the community.

Amanda Wylie

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, May 2015
Master of Science in Public Health

I was afforded the opportunity to gain an understanding of the trials and triumphs of individuals with disabilities and their families, and learn and work alongside professionals who are making lasting contributions to the field. I am grateful for the welcoming atmosphere that the MCDD has created for student trainees, and I am inspired by the determination of the faculty, staff and friends of the MCDD. This internship allowed me the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills that I have gained throughout my undergraduate career. My experience at the MCDD greatly influenced the work environment that I will seek in the future. Thanks to the MCDD, I am more confident about my contributions to the community. I believe that the perspectives of the families were valuable, and I will integrate them into future endeavors.

Marjie Wilkerson

Towson University, May 2014
Bachelor of Science in Health Science – Community Health

The Disability Perspective Experience was an enlightening opportunity, as I got to see firsthand the struggles and accomplishments that come along with living with a disability and that it not only affects the individual, but also the family, who are often the caregivers. Overall, I would encourage other students to come to the MCDD to advance in their career and gain knowledge that can be used in every aspect of health, education and advocacy as a widely-trained individual in the workplace.

For more information about internships and other training opportunities at the MCDD, call **443-923-9555** or visit **MCDD.KennedyKrieger.org**.



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