

Vision Statement for 2024 AUCD Board Nominees

Name of Candidate: Maureen van Stone, Esq., MS

Race/Ethnicity (voluntary): White/Non-Hispanic

Disability status (voluntary): N/A

AUCD Member Organization: Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute (Maryland's UCEDD)

Current Position (role and date range): Assistant Vice President (2023 – present) & Director (December 2018-present)

Total Years Employed/Active in an AUCD Member Center or Program: fifteen

My vision for the Association: My vision is for the AUCD network, including the UCEDDS, LENDs, and IDDRCs, to be a reliable and dependable national resource for federal and state agencies, partners organizations, and policymakers to ensure that we can create laws, regulations, policies, and practices grounded on evidenced-based research that advance the rights of individuals with disabilities and their families to meaningfully live, work, and play in their communities.

What I would like to accomplish on the Board: While I have been actively involved in the AUCD network for fifteen years, I am ready to assume a more prominent leadership role and support my colleagues across the network. I will bring a unique perspective to the board of directors, as I am a practicing civil rights attorney, with a strong background in policy and legislative advocacy. Nineteen years ago, I founded Maryland's only comprehensive medical-legal partnership named Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law), which provides advocacy and civil legal services to Kennedy Krieger patients and their families. I pride myself on working efficiently and effectively on complex issues, to identify areas of common ground, and to work toward a resolution for all parties. Personally, and professionally, my greatest asset is my ability to grow and nurture relationships with colleagues and friends from diverse backgrounds and fields.

I am confident that my advocacy skills and legal background will be valuable to the AUCD Board and network, as individuals with disabilities across the country experience bias and discrimination in accessing equitable services and supports in home, school, and community settings.

How I have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate leadership in the network: Kennedy Krieger Institute is home to Maryland's only UCEDD, the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD), a Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program, and an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center (IDDRC). All three federally-funded programs are located

within the same nonprofit organization and work collaboratively on behalf of the patients, students, and families that we serve at Kennedy Krieger.

Since 2006, I have taught one-three core courses annually for the LEND program and I've served on the IDDRC executive committee since 2018. From September of 2009 through June of 2018, I served as the Associate Director of the MCDD. In that role, I engaged in all the MCDD's advocacy and policy work at the federal and state levels, as well as being involved in all our external relations with disability-related State agencies and organizations. In 2018, I was promoted to be the Director of the MCDD, and, in 2023, I was promoted to Assistant Vice President.

I also serve on the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, IDDRC, Diversity and Inclusion workgroup with other diverse AUCD network members. The workgroup is comprised of AUCD network members who are committed to increasing diversity in research. Although the workgroup primarily holds virtual meetings, I organized an in-person meeting for our workgroup and other interested network members at the AUCD conference in 2022. This created an opportunity for my Kennedy Krieger colleague to share the results of an IDDRC survey administered to leaders across the network and openly discuss our plans for the workgroup. This workgroup continues to meet on a quarterly basis and I am an active participant.

As an AUCD network member for fifteen years, I have participated as a presenter, a committee member, and a workgroup member. I have attended the annual conference and gala each year, as well as presented nine concurrent sessions, twenty-nine posters, hosted a table at the trainee-professional networking breakfast for two years, and participated in Capitol Hill visits (during the conferences and throughout the year). Additionally, I am currently in my second term (final year) serving as the AUCD policy co-chair. I have participated on numerous AUCD committees and workgroups including: the nominations committee for the board of directors, the TA Institute planning committee, the Healthcare Transition Learning 4ALL group, the rural-area code caucus, the UCEDD promotion workgroup, the UCEDD Director's meeting planning committee, and the awards committee. In 2016, AUCD invited me to share an overview of Project HEAL at the Education for All: An Evening with AUCD at the Carnegie Library in Washington, D.C. Founded in 2005, Project HEAL remains Maryland's only comprehensive medical-legal partnership (MLP) and the only MLP affiliated with UCEDD.

During the 2019 AUCD TA Institute and Director's Retreat, I facilitated a breakout session titled, "Achieving UCEDD Goals through Leveraging and Maximizing Relationships within Your Setting." In 2021, I co-authored a report with AUCD staff and network members titled, "The COVID-19 Pandemic and People with Disabilities: Primary Concerns, the AUCD Network Response, and Needs for the Future." I authored a blog for the AUCD Policy Talk titled, "Equitable Access to Remote Learning is Paramount" and I participated in a Tuesdays with Liz: Disability Policy for All titled, "Conversations on COVID-19." In June 2022, as a policy co-chair, I helped author two AUCD statements on the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* on

reproductive health and a statement titled “Gun Violence and Mass Shootings to Ensure the Safety of People with Disabilities.” And I have continued to encourage the MCDD staff to publish blogs on AUCD Policy Talk. In September 2024, I organized a site visit at Kennedy Krieger Institute for all AUCD staff members. They learned about the work of our UCEDD, LEND, and IDDRC, while visiting clinical departments and programs across the organization. In April and May 2024, I participated in Capitol Hill visits with a Kennedy Krieger LEND trainee and AUCD policy team members to encourage members of the Maryland delegation to co-sponsor the Autism CARES Act.

It is my hope that I can assume a leadership role on the AUCD Board of Directors and advance the mission, vision, and values of the organization at the national level.

Return to: Elizabeth Schneider via email at eschneider@aucd.org no later than COB on Thursday, September 12th.