

AUCD 2024: Trainee-Professional Networking Breakfast

Stronger Together: Creating a More Inclusive World



Table 1 - Eileen Alepuyo Babauta

Discipline: Psychology

Role/Organization: CNMI UCEDD Director

Contact Info: eileen.babauta@marinas.edu

Prior to becoming the UCEDD Director, Eileen was the Program Manager for one year. Since then, she has enjoyed every minute spent advocating and servicing CNMI people with developmental disabilities.

Visual Description: Black hair tied in a ponytail, brown eyes, with a red NMC polo shirt standing next to a tree.



Table 2 - Elizabeth Cleveland, PhD, CCC-SLP

Discipline: Speech-Language Pathology

Role/Organization: Director of Training, AR LEND; Associate Director, AR UCEDD

Contact Info: ewcleveland247@gmail.com

Elizabeth became involved with AUCD when she was a trainee in the AR LEND program while getting her PhD. After two years of traineeship, she stepped into the role of Director of Training.

Visual Description: A white woman with shoulder-length brown hair and blue eyes wearing a black and grey leopard print blazer and gold glasses.



Table 3- Mark Crenshaw, MTS

Discipline: Theology/Training Director

Role/Organization: Georgia State Center for Leadership in Disability

Contact Info: mcrenshaw@gsu.edu

Mark has been involved in the AUCD Network for 12 years. He serves as the Assistant Director at the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University. He is also the training director for the Georgia LEND Program.

Visual Description: Mark is a white man with brown hair and black glasses.

**Table 4 - Nathan Chung****Discipline:** Nonprofit**Role/Organization:** Cybersecurity Engineer**Contact Info:** nathanincal@gmail.com

Nathan is the founder and former president of WiCyS (Women in Cybersecurity) Neurodiversity Affiliate, a group dedicated to supporting and advocating for neurodivergent women in tech and cybersecurity. He is also a global advocate for neurodiversity, disability, and accessibility. He is the host of the NeuroSec podcast and the author of the NeuroSec newsletter. He has done talks for various United Nations agencies and conferences about Neurodiversity. He is also a 5x award winner: 2024 D-30 Disability Impact List Honoree, 2023 WiCyS Top Affiliate Award Winner, 2022 DEI Champion Award from the United Cybersecurity Alliance, 2022 Sponsor Award from Women in Cloud, 2020 Male Ally of the Year Award from Inteligenca.

Visual Description: Nathan is an Asian man with dark hair, wearing a gray blazer with a white shirt.

**Table 5 - Melanie Davis, Advocate Mentor****Discipline:** Self advocacy**Role/Organization:** Munroe-Meyer Institute at University of Nebraska**Contact Info:** melanie.davis@unmc.edu

Melanie has been in the AUCD network for 3 years and has found many opportunities to connect and expand her skills, which has allowed her the opportunity to take on the role of COLA co-chair.

Visual Description: White woman with shoulder brown hair wearing black framed glasses. Wearing a grey sweater.

**Table 6 - Jules Edwards****Discipline:** Family/Parent/Youth Psychology**Role/Organization:** Intertribal Disability Advocacy Council**Contact Info:** jules@awnnetwork.org and @autistictyping

As a 2020-2021 LEND fellow, Jules is an author and educator who integrates Indigenous knowledge and culturally responsive care to decolonize systems and foster inclusive communities.

Visual Description: A Native woman with brown eyes and long brown hair smiles in front of greenery.



Table 7 - Wanda P. Felty

Discipline: Family/Parent/Youth Advocacy

Role/Organization: Assistant Director, CLL|UCEDD, Family Faculty OK LEND

Contact Info: Wanda-felty@ouhsc.edu

Wanda worked for the Oklahoma LEND and UCEDD for more than 12 years. She is a graduated, first graduate in OK from the Family Discipline in 2005 and is currently the lead family faculty for the LEND program, working closely with the director on curriculum and outcomes.

Visual Description: White middle to upper middle-aged white woman with brown shoulder length hair, round glasses and a green and white checkered top.



Table 8 - Gale Hann, MPH, CPH

Discipline: Post-secondary Transition, Public Health, and Advocacy

Role/Organization: Leaders for Transition Scholar - University of Oklahoma Zarrow Institute on Transition and Self-Determination

Contact Info: gale.hann@ou.edu

Gale is an autistic and disabled advocate with a background in public health and post-secondary transition from adolescence to adulthood. Gale was an Oklahoma LEND trainee from 2020-2021 and then served as the NIRS data coordinator for OKLEND and the Center for Learning and Leadership (OK's UCEDD) from 2022-2024. Currently Gale is a doctoral scholar at the Oklahoma Zarrow Institute on Transition and Self-Determination, works with undergraduate students who are a part of the University of Oklahoma's autism support program (SPARK360) and inclusive post-secondary education program (Sooner Works), and serves as the emerging leader representative of AUCD's board.

Visual Description: A transmasculine nonbinary person who has light olive skin and short brown hair. They are photographed in front of a green, leafy background wearing glasses and a navy-blue shirt.



Table 9 - Sarah Laughlin, PhD

Discipline: Psychology

Role/Organization: Assistant Professor & Clinical Neuropsychologist, University of Pittsburgh and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Contact Info: sarah.laughlin@chp.edu

Dr. Laughlin is a clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist with expertise in neurodevelopmental disorders. She works clinically in a children's hospital and educationally within the LEND-Pitt Program, as Director of Neuropsychology Predoctoral Training in Physical Rehabilitation Medicine at the School of Medicine, and as adjunct faculty in the undergraduate Rehabilitation Science Program at the University of Pittsburgh. As a former LEND trainee herself, she works to integrate community partners and honor lived experience in her professional roles.

Visual Description: A white woman with medium length blonde hair and blue eyes, wearing a white collared shirt and suit coat.



Table 10 - Mirian Ofonedu, Ph.D., MSW, LCSW-C

Discipline: Psychology and Social Work

Role/Organization: Director of Training at the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Contact Info: ofonedu@kennedykrieger.org

Dr. Ofonedu is an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland Baltimore Graduate School and the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Department of Mental Health. She is also a Faculty affiliate of the Johns Hopkins Wendy Klag Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities and Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. Dr. Ofonedu is a psychologist and a licensed clinical social worker, with a specialization in service to children, youth, and families. Dr. Ofonedu contributes to the field through her clinical, research, and training expertise at local, state, national, and international levels. She began in the AUCD network as a LEND trainee.

Visual Description: A black woman with black hair, wearing pearl earrings and a yellow blazer.

**Table 11 - Anastasia Riley, MBA CBIS****Discipline:** Psychology**Role/Organization:** WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities - Positive Behavior Support Program Manager**Contact Info:** ahesley@hsc.wvu.edu

Anastasia Riley received a BA in psychology with a minor in sociology from WVU, then went on to receive her Master in Business Administration also from WVU. She has worked in the developmental disabilities field for over 20 years, starting her career in the IDD waiver program. She has experience providing counseling services for at risk youth and their families. After receiving her master's degree, she became a Behavior Specialist and taught positive behavior support as well as providing therapeutic consulting services. She has taught at the collegiate level and has spoken at several conferences. She has worked for the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities as a Behavior Specialist in the Positive Behavior Support Program since 2011 and in 2019 was promoted to the PBS Program Manager position. She has a passion for helping others reach their dreams and increase their quality of life. Anastasia is a certified brain injury specialist, an ACE fitness personal trainer, and the mother of two amazing kiddos.

Visual Description: Woman with long blond wavy hair and blue eyes smiling in front of grass and a gravel road.

**Table 12 - Jane St John, BA****Discipline:** Family/Parent/Youth Advocacy**Role/Organization:** UMKC Institute for Human Development, UCEDD**Contact Info:** stjohnj@umkc.edu

Jane is a parent of a 34-year-old man with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Jane has worked at the Missouri UCEDD for 22 years, is currently the lead product development specialist for the LifeCourse Nexus team, and is a member of the AUCD Family Support SIG.

Visual Description: A white woman with medium length blonde hair, wearing glasses, and a blue shirt with a white jacket.



Table 13 - Izel Steinmann Obermeyer

Discipline: Occupational Therapy

Current Role/Organization: Chief Clinical Officer

Contact Info: obermeyer@wihd.org

Izel started out at WIHD as a LEND fellow in 2006 and has been here ever since. She was the director of the Assistive Technology Program for many years and now oversees medical, dental, behavioral health and allied health services.

Visual Description: A white woman with long, blond hair and blue eyes in front of a blue wall.



Table 14 - Maureen van Stone, Esq, MS

Discipline: Law

Role/Organization: Kennedy Krieger Institute

Contact Info: vanStone@KennedyKrieger.org

Maureen is an assistant vice president and the director of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute (Maryland's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service), and the founder of Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law), a MCDD community-based program. Project HEAL is Maryland's only comprehensive medical-legal partnership, which provides advocacy and civil legal services to children with disabilities who receive services at Kennedy Krieger. Maureen is an associate faculty for the Department of Mental Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and affiliate faculty for the Wendy Klag Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities. Maureen is a member of Kennedy Krieger's ethics program. For more than a decade, Maureen has served on the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc. board of directors. Maureen earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Southern California, a master's degree in developmental psychology at The Johns Hopkins University, and a Juris Doctor at Whittier Law School, with a concentration on children's legal issues.

Visual Description: A white woman smiling with shoulder-length blonde hair wearing a gold necklace and purple top.



Table 15 - Kiriko Takahashi

Discipline: Education/Special Education

Role/Organization: Center on Disability Studies at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Contact Info: kiriko@hawaii.edu

I've been a faculty member at our UCEDD for 16 years. I started out as a learning disabilities specialist, and through meeting with many persons with disabilities and seeing their talents, I became interested in Disability Studies. Currently, some of my research focuses on supporting students with disabilities through the STEM pipeline using culturally responsive methods

and assistive technology, creating research trainee programs with and for persons with disabilities, and establishing international research agenda and partnerships.

Visual Description: A Japanese woman with long black hair, wearing blue lightweight shirt smiling and looking up from her computer.



Table 16 - Michael Thornton

Discipline: Self Advocacy

Role/Organization: LEND Arkansas/Mississippi

Contact Info: mikethornton1971@gmail.com

As an advocate with lived experience having a disability, Michael has been the Self-Advocate Faculty Advisor for the Arkansas LEND for 7 years now, and has served as an At-Large Board Member for 3 years. He has learned a lot about policy and how it affects disability, and strongly believes that disabled individuals

should be more involved in policy and education.

Visual Description: Nice looking man with short (Crew cut style) Hair and wearing a Black shirt sitting in front of a dark backdrop.



Table 17 - Sandra Vanegas, PhD

Discipline: Psychology

Contact Info: sandra.vanegas@austin.utexas.edu

Sandra is a former LEND trainee (IL LEND) and is now the clinical training director for the ACT LEND Program. She conducts research on identifying and addressing disparities that impact children and youth with IDD from diverse racial/ethnic, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Visual Description: Latina woman wearing black rimmed glasses in front of a tree background. Dark brown hair pulled back and wearing a green top with a black blazer.