

***AUCD and
National Coordinating Center (NCC)
Disability Policy Leadership
Opportunity***



Think College Policy Advocates

Purpose: To train a cadre of public policy advocates knowledgeable and active in postsecondary education policy for students with intellectual disabilities, including the students themselves.

Who: Five teams consisting of one staff person and one student from a postsecondary education program for students with ID

- The team does not need to be from a university with a TPSID, just an active postsecondary education program.
- Teams must be interested in learning more about public policy and be willing to commit to a series of activities over the next year to promote or change federal and state policies affecting postsecondary education programs and students.
- An ideal candidate/team is:
 - Able to travel, and
 - Willing to speak and share what you learn publicly.
- Prior public policy experience is not necessary.
- Geographic diversity will be considered in choosing teams.

What: AUCD and NCC will commit to:

- Awarding scholarships for the teams to attend the Disability Policy Seminar (DPS; see below) in Washington DC, Sunday April 7 through Wednesday April 10.
 - Pay for conference registration;
 - Reimburse up to \$750 per person for travel and expenses;
 - Teams will participate in AUCD's pre-conference session for its LEND trainees on Sunday afternoon, which include basic information, mock Hill visits and preparation for the conference;
 - Teams will be able to participate in the introductory policy track at the DPS covering a variety of public policy issues, in addition to higher education;

- AUCD/NCC will hold a separate meeting during the conference for the teams and any other DPS/postsecondary education program attendees interested in inclusive higher education to discuss postsecondary education issues specifically, and to prepare for Hill visits;
- Teams will participate in Hill visits on postsecondary education on Wednesday of the conference.

[More about the Disability Policy Seminar (DPS) is hosted annually by the Arc, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), and Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE). It is the premier opportunity to cultivate champions on Capitol Hill and advance the grassroots movement for people with disabilities, offering the opportunity to come together with passionate advocates, self-advocates, experts, and professionals in the field to learn about key issues. <https://disabilitypolicyseminar.org/>]

What: Teams will commit to (with help from AUCD/NCC):

- Participate in a preconference webinar/call with AUCD in preparation for DPS;
- Attend and participate in the preconference, the DPS conference, and meetings on Capitol Hill with Members of your Congressional delegation or staff as part of DPS to advocate about IPSE and other issues of importance to you;
- Following DPS, and with help and coaching from AUCD/NCC:
 - Subscribe to AUCD's weekly newsletter on policy in Washington DC, *InBrief*, and respond to *Action Alerts* throughout the year;
 - Host a policymaker (state, local, federal) at your IPSE program;
 - Develop a "leave behind" document to educate your policymakers about your programs;
 - Host a Think College Public Policy Affinity group call on a topic of interest to the group and to the team;
 - Write and, where possible, deliver short testimony concerning your program or college experience. Can be given to local or state legislator, agency, meeting, town hall or other similar event. Will be developed and strategized with AUCD/NCC;
 - Draft and submit an op/ed piece or letter to the editor of your local paper about your program;
 - Share your public policy experience from DPS with the other students and faculty at your IPSE program.

Application (one application per team):

- Names of the Team and the IPSE program you are a part of;
- Why you want to participate (500-word max);
- What you hope to learn (500-word max);
- What policy experience do you have already (if any) (500 word max);
- Do you agree to do the things outlined in the description, with help and coaching?

When:

- Applications will be accepted beginning November 15 and must be submitted by no later than December 21. Teams will be chosen and contacted in early January 2019.

Other:

- Questions? Contact Denise Rozell drozell@aucd.org