Perceived Confidence from Participation in the Connecticut LEND Program

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The Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program LEND

- Graduate level program
- Interdisciplinary training

The goal is to improve the health and care of all individuals with disabilities by preparing and training professionals.
Purpose

- This study aims to address the following research questions of if students who participate in a LEND program perceive themselves as confidant, working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Results from this research will show how LEND programs improve professional’s knowledge and therefore confidence.

- Determines the training that would be the most beneficial to professionals working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Methods

- **Sample**
  - CT LEND graduates from the past 10 years
  - Over age 18
  - All disciplines

- **Measures**
  - Online survey
  - Eight items asking about confidence in specific topic areas, e.g. family centered practices

- **Analysis**
  - Descriptive statistics: frequency of responses
How comfortable do you feel working with individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities?

- Extremely Comfortable: 46%
- Very Comfortable: 36%
- Moderately Confident: 4%
- Slightly Comfortable: 14%
- Not at all Confident: 0%
How confident do you feel working on interdisciplinary teams?

- Extremely confident: 15
- Very confident: 1
- Moderately confident: 7
- Slightly comfortable: 5
- Not at all confident: 1
LEND HELPED PREPARE ME TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT ARE CULTURALLY COMPETENT.

- Strongly Agree, 13
- Agree, 7
- Neither agree nor disagree, 6
LEND HELPED PREPARE ME TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT ARE FAMILY-CENTERED.

- Strongly Agree, 17
- Agree, 9
- Neither agree nor disagree, 1
LEND HELPED PREPARE ME TO WORK EFFECTIVELY ON INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS.

- Strongly Agree, 13, 48%
- Agree, 11, 41%
- Neither agree nor disagree, 3, 11%
Overall, do you feel that the LEND program provided you with experience/training in interdisciplinary work with individuals with disabilities that you would not have gotten in your graduate program?

Yes

N/A

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Overall, do you feel that the LEND program resulted in increased confidence in working with individuals with disabilities?

100% Yes
In conclusion, the majority of professionals who previously participate in a LEND program perceive themselves as confident, trained, and prepared to work with individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in their fields.
References


QUESTIONS?