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CPD Legacy Story: Nancy Dold, Urlend Trainee

Center for Persons With Disabilities

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This CPD Legacy Story is from Nancy Dold, a 2009-2010 student of the Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities/Infant and Pediatric Audiology (URLEND/IPA) program.

The URLEND program is a multi-state collaborative CPD program that provides training to advanced standing trainees in health care and prepares them to become leaders in the Maternal and Child Health Care field. The IPA offers additional training in the field of pediatric audiology.

My name is Nancy Dold and I am currently an assistant professor at the University of Montana in the Communicative Sciences and Disorders (CSD) department.

This past year, I participated in the 2009-2010 URLEND training program and it has enriched both my work and personal life in many ways.

Most importantly, the enrichment grew from interconnections made with the staff and coordinators of the URLEND program as well as other trainees. These interconnections were specifically cemented with face-to-face contact through attending the initial orientation, clinics, and conferences during the year. It was during these face-to-face interactions that I was able to really get to know people and appreciate a variety of perspectives.

The URLEND Leadership project assignment provided another way that face-to-face interactions benefited me. Three of us were assigned to complete a final project. After working together, I appreciate the dynamics of our group and we all formed a very strong professional and personal bond. For this project, our development of interpersonal connections was more important than a publishable end-product. I know that, although these two other people live in two other states, I can call on either one of these people for information or advice, either professionally or personally. Our growth in coming to an individual and collective understanding, was immeasurable.

The URLEND staff offered me opportunities that I would not have considered on my own. I would not have taken time off work to attend conferences or clinics, but the support staff made the travel and accommodation arrangements very easy.

There were so many URLEND lectures which I would like to commend - the audiology and the autism lectures in particular; however, I will choose just one for comment. The lecture on writing grants had a huge impact on me. What I learned was the necessity for 'exactness' to meet a rubric, while still maintaining room for negotiation and creativity. The lessons learned from this lecture will inform my future writings.

I salute the staff of the URLEND program. The training requirements were rigorous, but worth it. If I could change anything during the year, I would change my circumstances. Working on a doctorate, and writing and teaching a new class while being involved in the URLEND program was exhausting, but I am grateful for what I consider a fortuitous experience.

Finally, I am wondering how I can maintain my connections and involvement with URLEND and how, through these continuing connections, I can make a difference with the leadership skills I have gleaned through URLEND participation.

I thank all of the staff for the opportunity to participate this year and I am grateful for the sharing of ideas and knowledge not only from the staff but from the other trainees.