

11-2017

# Engaging LEND Trainees in a Leadership and Policy Experience

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## Recommended Citation

Russell, S., Humphreys, B. P., Kurtz, A., & Sonnenmeier, R. (2017, November). *Engaging LEND trainees in a leadership and policy experience* (PDF). Peer-reviewed poster presentation at the 2017 Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Conference, Washington, DC.

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## Overview

Over the past five years, NH-ME LEND faculty have revised the LEND Leadership Core Curriculum to create a Leadership and Policy Experience for trainees. This poster will describe how we have refined our curriculum to create this experience and how it connects to the overall curriculum and the NH-ME Professional Development Framework.

The NH-ME LEND Professional Development Framework provides a visual depiction of the instructional methods and procedures used by the program to support trainees' professional and leadership development in the field of neurodevelopmental disabilities. The LEND Leadership Core is one "Activity" in the larger **NH-ME LEND Professional Development Framework**.

## Leadership Training Core

The leadership training core, focusing not only on leadership but also on policy and advocacy, consists of the following: 1) didactic training; 2) Interdisciplinary Leadership Intensive sessions; 3) community leadership field placement; 4) capstone project and presentation; and 5) a leadership and policy experience.



1) Didactic training – an 8-week public policy module on MCH, Title V and public health systems and policy that includes the history of child health policy, introductions to policy practice, policy analysis and the art of persuasion.



3) Community leadership field placement – 70-hour field placement, completed in partnership with a community-based organization whose mission is aligned with LEND, to provide an opportunity for trainees to develop and apply leadership skills.

2) Interdisciplinary Leadership Intensive (ILI) sessions – nine monthly ILI sessions to engage the trainees in learning activities about different aspects of leadership within fields of neurodevelopmental disabilities and community based systems of care.



4) Capstone project and presentation – poster development and presentation that highlights the leadership placement and leadership development over the year.



5) Leadership and policy experience – a semester-long trainee experience that begins with identifying a policy issue to explore and ends with visits to Capitol Hill.

## What We Learned

Leadership Training:

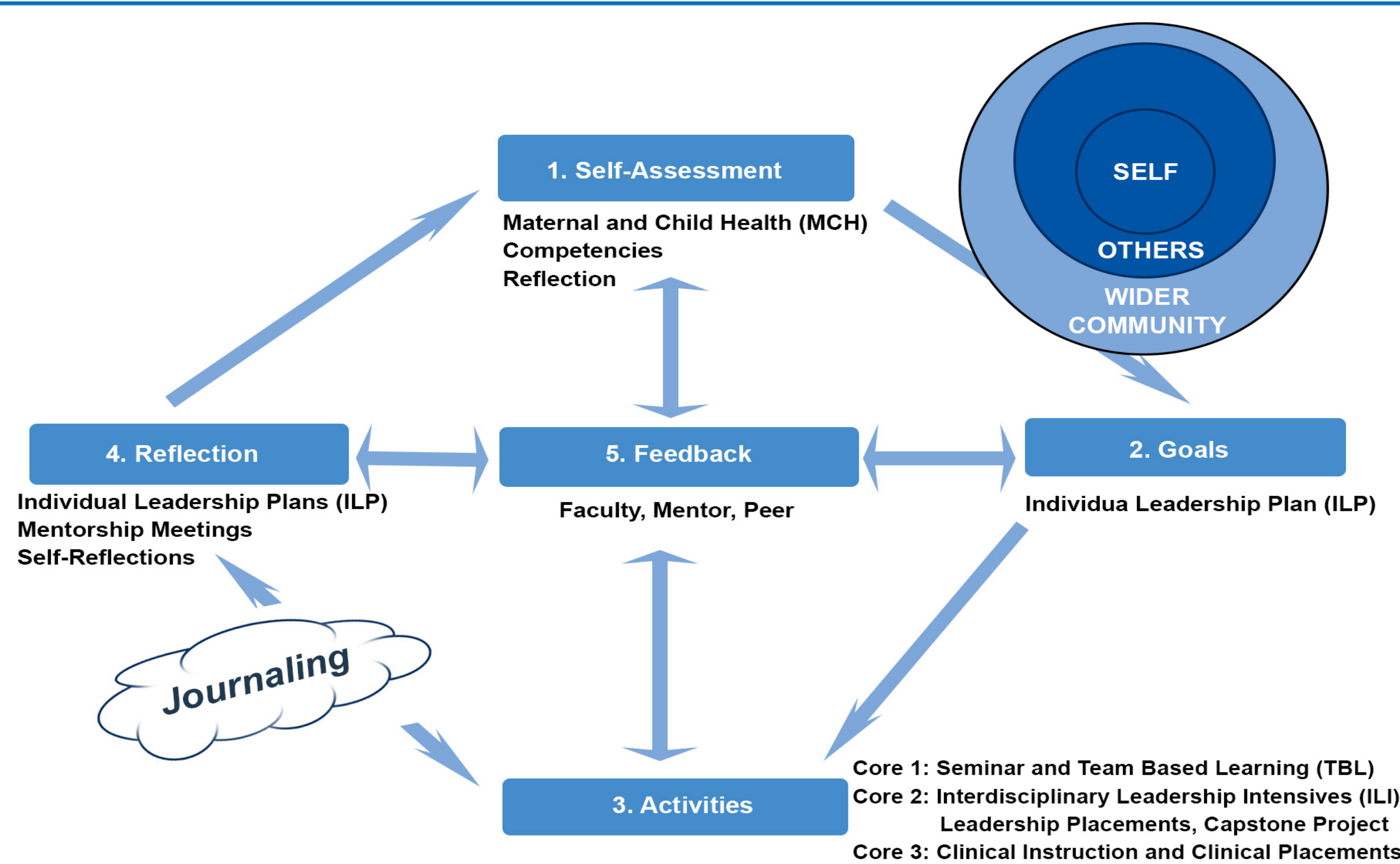
- is multifaceted, intentional and woven into all aspects of the program;
- involves examining one's knowledge, skills, personal styles, and learning new knowledge and skills to advance leadership abilities in more challenging situations.



## Leadership and Policy Experience

During this experience trainees learn about and explore many aspects of policy, leadership and advocacy from beginning to end. Over the spring semester, trainees will:

- identify a policy issue that is on the congressional agenda;
- learn the policy framework and apply to selected policy issue and conduct a policy analysis;
- engage with policy experts from NH-ME LEND and guest lecturers from AUCD Policy Team;
- develop a policy brief;
- prepare for and present the NH-ME LEND policy brief to congressional members and staffers during visits to Capitol Hill; and
- attend and actively participate in the Disability Policy Seminar, including mock hill visits.



## Questions to Consider

- How do we engage trainees more regularly in state and local policy efforts?
- How do we engage more LEND faculty in the leadership and policy experience?