

Empowering Self- Advocates to be Leaders

WIHD- CSN Transition Institute
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Westchester Institute
for Human Development

Session Goals

- Learn about a Leadership Development Opportunity for Young Adults ages 22-35, with developmental disabilities.
- Discover if this opportunity is right for you?
- Understand what you need to do to apply and be accepted into this 10-month program.

Leadership Development for IDD

A Collaboration between Volunteer New York! and Westchester Institute for Human Development.



This program is funded by a grant from the Taft Foundation





Being a Role Model

Building the Next Generation of Leaders





Leadership Westchester 2021



LEADERSHIP WESTCHESTER

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

BRENDAN KLEIN

Has satisfactorily completed all requirements for graduation from the Leadership Westchester program of Volunteer New York! & is recognized for their contribution to community leadership.

PRESENTED ON THIS 22ND DAY OF JUNE 2021 BY

JEANETTE GISBERT, *Executive Director*

DAVID SEVERANCE, *President*

Volunteer New York!

New Door Leadership





Brendan's Mission

To empower people with disabilities in my community and to show them that they can become a leader, be strong self-advocates, and be more independent.

RISE

Readiness thru Integrated Service Engagement



Connects adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to local nonprofits, where they build skills while volunteering.

CONNECT

- Advocate for community inclusion through volunteerism.
- Offers disability awareness to community partners
- Build community connections

SERVE

- Support community engagement goals
- Support integrated volunteer projects

GROW

- Experience the power of community inclusion.
- Building skills in: life skills, job readiness, volunteerism, communication, relationship building and leadership.

Leadership Westchester 2022

My Mission:
**CONNECT-
CREATE-ENGAGE**
with others in
ways that allow us
to **FLOURISH**



Mission: Aspiring LeaDDers

*The Mission of the
Aspiring LeaDDership program
is to foster Aspiring LeaDDers
with developmental disabilities
to build community, strengthen self-confidence,
and develop leadership skills,
so they may LEAD by example,
find their VOICE
and take ACTION!*

This program is funded by a grant from the Taft Foundation



Are You Ready to Be a Leader?

This program provides accommodations for young adults with different learning needs, in a small group of 8-12 people. It requires participants to apply and be accepted into the program.

Are you ready? You need to...

- Be an active participant in a 4-hour interactive class
- Practicing Self-Determination
- Goal Oriented: Personal goals to develop leadership skills
- Positive Attitude with a growth mindset
- Willingness to share with and support peers in this shared journey.

Requirements to Participate

- **Complete application & interview process.**
- **10-month commitment- attend all sessions**
 - 1x month from September- June
 - 10:00-3:00 . Day of week to be determined (Mon. Wed or Thu)
- **Young adults, ages 22-35 with developmental disabilities**
- **Held In-person in Westchester County NY.**
- **No cost to participate.**
- **Arrange for your own transportation.**
- **Arrange own support aid, if needed.**

Leadership Topics



- Goal Setting
- Self-Awareness
- Social Awareness
- Self- Management
- Communication Skills
- Teamwork
- Building Relationships
- Public Speaking
- Leadership Projects



Application Process

You will need to apply and be accepted into the program.

- Applications now **OPEN** for September 2025-June 2026.
- Application Link: <https://forms.gle/UFXKF5RqkX41gZN5A>
Answer what you can on form, with option to answer on a zoom mtg.
- **Deadline to apply is June 13, 2025,**
After this date, check to see if there are openings.
- Interviews will be set up on zoom.
- Acceptance based on cohort best match with mutual availability
- Class to start September 2025

Impact of Aspiring Leaders



**Taking
Classes at
WCC for
GED
2024-2025**



“This graduation means a lot to me. I graduated from High School before I was fully able to communicate on a letterboard. I feel like I have fully earned this graduation by participating in each class by spelling out my thoughts and feelings. I am feeling proud of myself because I keep trying, doing things that are hard despite sometimes having self-doubt. In the process of taking this Leadership Training, I got a part-time job working for the Spellers and Allies Advocacy Network. I plan to continue to advocate for non-speakers everywhere.” - Tyler

“I started this, thinking that my only life option was to work for myself because no one else would want to look for my value over my autism. I'm finishing this with a paying job, hopes for a career, hopes to get degrees. This class taught me to both see and actually believe in my own value. Now I understand that I am an asset to the community of Westchester, of New York, of humanity. I deserve to take up space because I have so much to offer and contribute. I have discovered I am in fact a leader, and plan to continue being so for the rest of my life.” -Mo



**Accepted into
LEND Class
2025**

Leadership Class of 2024

[Click to see Video](#)



Q & A

Reach out to us with any questions



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