



Building a Blue Ridge LEND Advocate Discipline: One Step at a Time!

Ciara Campbell



Justin Dart Jr., a polio survivor, was instrumental in the passage of the American with Disabilities Act and the Patient's Bill Of Rights. Photo by Tom Olin.

Background and Aims

This 2021–2026 grant cycle of LEND is the first time a self-advocate discipline with faculty has been a required element.

AIM

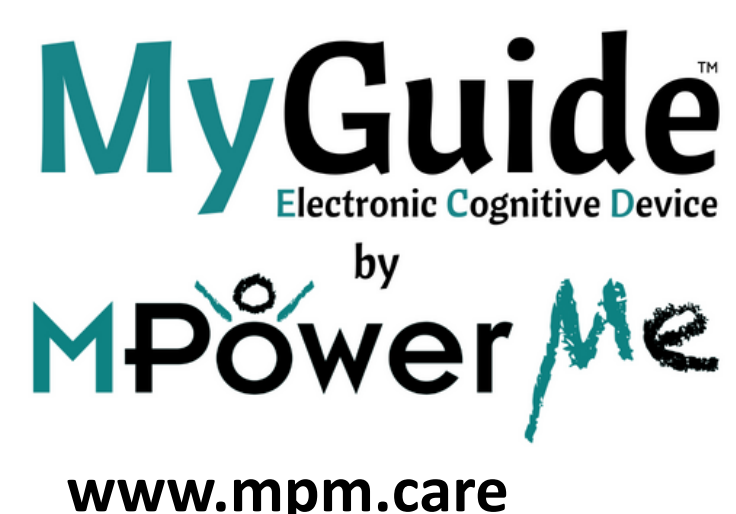
The role of the advocate discipline within LEND is to bring a lived experience or perspective to the interdisciplinary training program.

Programs available to LEND Self-Advocacy fellows

- The LEND Self-Advocacy Discipline Network
- Annual AUCD Leadership Academy

Mission Statement

Future where all advocates are prepared to lead and engage in decision-making toward a fair and inclusive society.



First Steps

Consultant role in 2021–2022

- Developed and began introducing Universal Design for Learning
- Developed understanding of issues that may affect Self-Advocate Fellow recruitment
- Developed guidelines for dealing with CSB, DARS, SSI/SSDI, UVA support services
- Developed Lunch and Learn Presentation
- Applied for LEND Fellowship
- Attended MyGuide trainings & developed content for future Fellows with ID/DD
- Consulted with VisitAble about feasibility of accessibility assessment and training.

As a 2022–2023 LEND Fellow

- Joined SAIL
- Reached out to VCU-LEND Advocate Faculty
- Enlisted the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities to help with recruitment.
- Helped Recruit a new Advocate Fellow 2023-24
- Presented at the 1st Annual LEND Rural Workgroup Conference April 14, 2023
- Collaborated with WVU to create financial/stipend/salary guidelines for SA fellows and faculty
- Attended the 2023 Disability Policy Seminar
- Created peer-to-peer mentoring activity as a Family As Mentor module for Self Advocate.

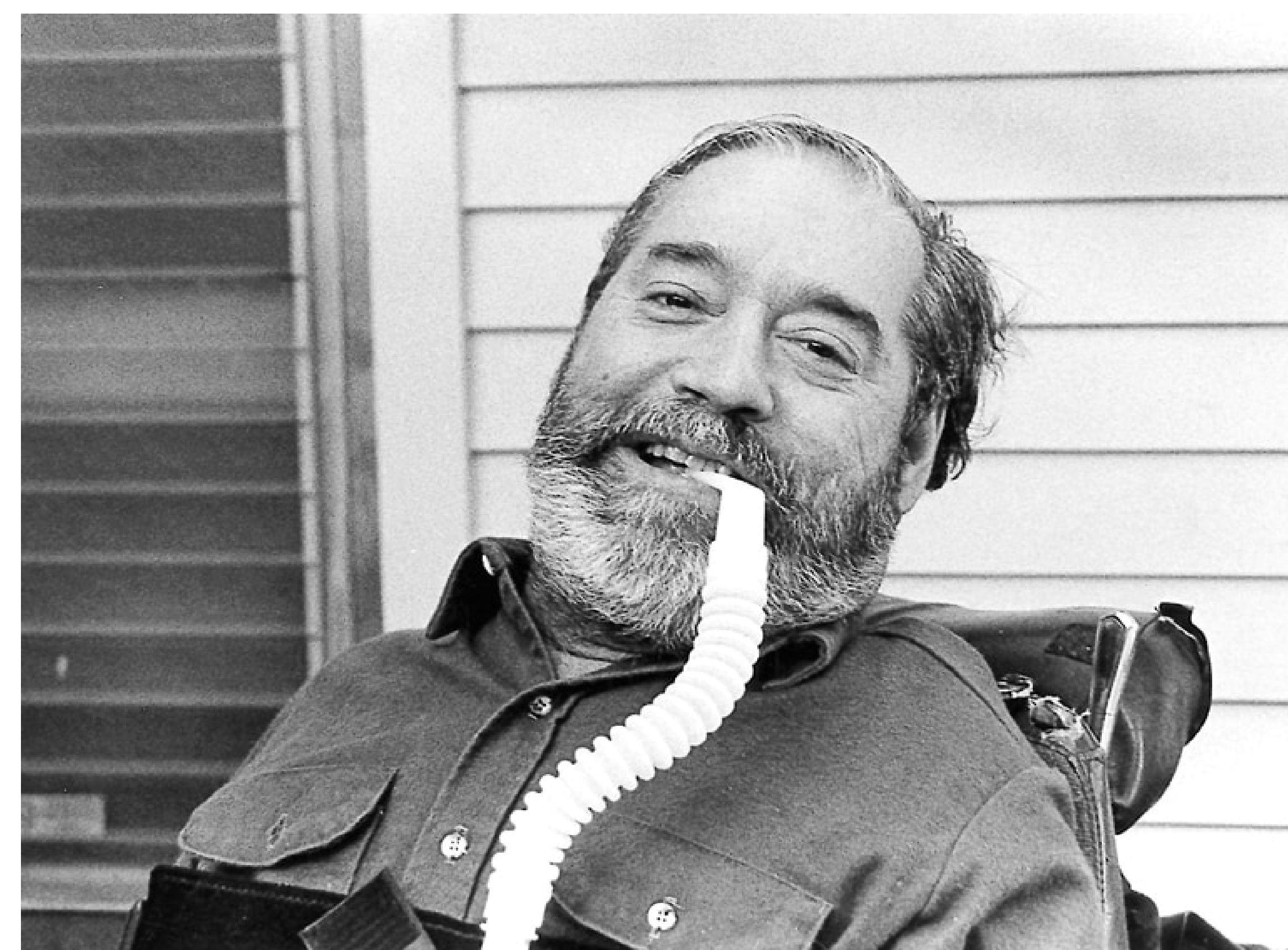


Photo originally published by New Mobility Magazine May–June 1994, *We're Talking about Inclusion Here*

References

Self-advocacy and its impacts for adults with developmental disabilities, *Australian Journal of Adult Learning*, Volume 55, Number 1, April 2015

LEND Self-Advocate Competencies Exist (2023)!

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC LEARNING NEEDS AND PERSONAL LEADERSHIP GOALS OF A SELF-ADVOCATE TRAINEE.

The LEND Self-Advocacy Discipline Competencies are organized into five areas:

1. Self-Advocacy
2. The Disability Civil Rights Movement (DCRM) and Other Models of Disability
3. Advocacy and Policy
4. Disability Culture
5. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Next Steps

- Build Advocate Faculty Role — team collaboration
- Join the National Advocate Faculty workgroup
- Find an Advocate Faculty mentor
- Attend AUCD Meeting
- Maintain and further enhance Universal Design for Learning
- Strengthen recruitment pathways for future fellows
- Advocate interests in broader community leadership besides a medical clinic or a therapy appointment—Family Advisory Council; expand opportunities for community leadership observations including: a Board meeting, participation in ECHO



Judy Heumann, Public Domain

Acknowledgments

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