For Immediate Release

at the University of Delaware

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Newark, Delaware -- The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware announced that applications are now open for the next Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion sponsored by the Ruderman Family Foundation. The Institute will be held in at the Capital Retreat Center near Waynesboro, PA December 12-14, 2016.

The Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion provides leadership development for professionals in Jewish organizations including Federations, Community Centers, Family Service Agencies, Employment and Vocational Service Agencies and other Jewish institutions. Participants learn the skills and strategies to lead their organizations to provide progressive person centered supports to people with disabilities and their families. The faculty of the Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion are highly regarded experts in disability, inclusion, community organizational leadership and Judaism.

Institute participants will come away with demonstrated leadership ability and a firm grasp of the Jewish values that inspire full and meaningful inclusion and support quality in organizational practice. Both current leaders and those who anticipate filling these leadership roles in the future in agencies that serve people with disabilities are invited to apply.

The Institute is accepting applications through October 28, 2016. People applying on or before September 30, 2016 are eligible for an early bird rate.

“Inclusion of people with disabilities is part law, values, attitudes and skills,” said Steven M. Eidelman, the Institute’s Faculty Director. “The goal is to increase the capacity of the Jewish Communal Services field to support and include children, adolescents and adults with disabilities and their families.”

Stacey Levitan, a graduate of the Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion and executive director of JCHAI near Philadelphia said, “This is an unparalleled opportunity for Jewish professionals and lay leaders. It was thought-provoking, challenging, productive and an opportunity to meet others in Jewish agencies with a similar focus. The Institute hones
leadership skills so participants are prepared to implement what they have learned and lead their local communities to greater inclusion for those with disabilities.”

“I have a renewed sense of energy, purpose and hope for people with disabilities and inclusion in the Jewish community and beyond. I have made lasting connections with an amazing group of Jewish leaders and faculty who share the same vision,” according to Connie Putterman, a Toronto Jewish community lay leader.

The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities has been providing leadership development for professionals in the intellectual/developmental disabilities field since 2006. This consortium of eleven national disability organizations has provided leadership development programs for over 600 people from the US, Canada and over a dozen other countries.

The Ruderman Family Foundation has made inclusion and supporting people with disabilities part of the mission of the organization. As part of the commitment to inclusion and enhancing the lives of adults and children with disabilities, the Ruderman Family Foundation actively supports a range of innovative projects with organizations that focus on integrating them into society and minimizing their feelings of loneliness. These projects cover education, housing, employment, synagogues, community life and much more. (http://www.rudermanfoundation.org/programs/inclusion)

Nancy Weiss, director of the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware and Shelly Christensen, executive director of Inclusion Innovations, co-founder of Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month and author of the Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities, join Eidelman in the Jewish Leadership Institute on Disability and Inclusion.

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