



For Immediate Release

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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 in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania (an hour from Baltimore, Maryland) February 1-4, 2016. Applications are accepted until December 4, 2015.

The Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion provides leadership development for leaders and emerging leaders of Jewish organizations including **Federations, Jewish Family and Children’s agencies, Jewish Community Centers, and Jewish Career and Vocational agencies**. The Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion supports the development of skilled leaders who are passionate about including people with disabilities in a self-determined, quality Jewish life and who have the leadership, management and financial skills needed to run solid not-for-profit agencies. Participants in the Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion are capable of assembling top-notch teams of caring staff, and have a solid commitment to progressive values that assure lives of meaning and impact for the individuals receiving supports from the Jewish community. 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.

“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.”

Jay Ruderman, President of the Ruderman Family Foundation, advanced the idea for the Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion and stated, “The professional leadership of our Jewish community plays a large role in shaping how our community will look in the coming years. The Jewish Leadership Institute will allow our professional leadership to build a community that is open and attractive to all members of our society. This year’s seminar is a must attend for anyone in our Jewish community who wants to be knowledgeable of the latest trends to impact the future of the Jewish community.”

“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,” said Stacey Levitan, a 2013 graduate and Executive Director of the Judith Creed Homes for Adult Independence in the Philadelphia area.

Connie Putterman, a Toronto Jewish community lay leader and participant of the inaugural Jewish Leadership Institute in 2013 stated, “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.”

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 850 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 their 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 Month and author of *the Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, join Eidelman in organizing the Jewish Leadership Institute on Disabilities and Inclusion.

For more information, please contact Shelly Christensen at shelly@inclusioninnovations.com

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