



*"Leadership gave me a vision of a positive future for my child: it gave me the self-confidence to dream and design my own vision, and skills to make my dreams a reality!"*

NH Leadership Series Graduate

June 25, 2009

Dear NH Leadership Nominee,

Congratulations! You have been nominated to participate in the 2009 - 2010 New Hampshire Leadership Series. The series is a leadership development program for individuals with disabilities and parents/family members of individuals with disabilities. Leadership provides state-of-the-art information about all disability issues. Participants come together monthly over a seven-month period and receive intensive training on a wide variety of educational and community topics.

Leadership strives to teach through a variety of educational methods. We include discussions, web based learning, small and large group learning, independent research and application, as well as video and audio resources. Each session combines educational information and direct experience. Professionals in the field, parents, and individuals with disabilities join together not only to provide information, but to offer strategies for collaboration and implementation as well.

**The goal of the Series is to support the development of advocacy and leadership skills in NH citizens who wish to grow at a personal level to achieve community and statewide change that supports the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in their schools and communities.**

The New Hampshire Leadership Series is produced by the UNH Institute on Disability in collaboration with the New Hampshire Department of Education, the Bureau of Developmental Services, the Developmental Disabilities Council of New Hampshire, New Hampshire's Area Agencies, Friends of Leadership, and many other state organizations, businesses, foundations, and individual donors. In addition to providing financial resources, representatives from these agencies are involved in the nomination, application, and selection process for participants. Many are also involved as presenters or group facilitators.

**The cost to participants is kept very low through contributions from a variety of organizations and individuals.** Each participant is asked to provide **\$250.00** toward their total tuition cost of \$6,000.00. Individuals may find it helpful to seek sponsorships from local community organizations or employers to help cover these costs. We ask that you consider an additional gift for the scholarship fund so that anyone, regardless of economic means, can attend the Series. People needing additional supports (e.g., transportation, interpreter, physical assistance) will be assisted in every way possible to facilitate their attendance and participation. No one will be denied due to lack of funds.

The 2009-10 Series will take place in several areas of the state – the Seacoast, the Lakes Region, Monadnock Region, and Concord. Each two-day session will begin at 12:30 pm on Friday and end at 4:00 pm on Saturday. Most will include Friday evening workshops. Attendees are requested to stay overnight at the hotel unless you live nearby. One-day sessions commence at 9:00 AM on Saturdays and end at 4:00 PM. All expenses (hotels, meals, materials) are covered for participants. Reimbursement is available for travel and childcare expenses for those who need it.

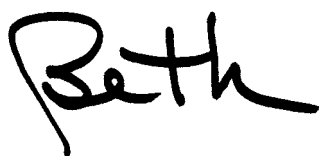
**We are particularly eager that members of the group represent diverse backgrounds, ages, and different geographic regions of the state.** Thirty-five participants will be selected on the basis of their degree of motivation to become well informed about and active in, policymaking and systems change for individuals with disabilities in our state. **All applications are reviewed by a selection committee that will choose this year’s participants based on the content of the application and the above criteria.** Graduates of the NH Leadership Series belong to a statewide network of over 700 citizens creating inclusive lives for people with disabilities.

An application form is attached which includes a list of dates, topics, and expectations for participation in the New Hampshire Leadership Series. Please complete and return the application to: NH Leadership Series, Institute on Disability, 56 Old Suncook Rd. Suite 2, Concord, NH 03301 att: Beth Dixon **by July 24, 2009.** You will be notified by August 28<sup>th</sup> of your acceptance status.

For more information or additional applications call me at 228-2084 or 1-800-238-2048, or e-mail: [Beth.Dixon@unh.edu](mailto:Beth.Dixon@unh.edu). You may also visit our website at: <http://www.nhleadership.org> to complete an online application.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Beth Dixon, Leadership Coordinator



## NH LEADERSHIP SERIES

"THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE BEAUTY OF THEIR DREAMS."

### APPLICATION

#### New Hampshire Leadership Series

NOTE: This application is available in other formats. Please let us know if you prefer to complete this application in person or a phone interview, or if you would like the application in large print, Braille, or audio tape.

The goal of the New Hampshire Leadership Series is to support the development of self-advocacy and leadership skills in individuals with disabilities and their family members who wish to affect change at a personal, community, and statewide level to support the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in their schools and communities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Family profile (names, ages of children and types of disabilities that impact you and/or your family):

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Are you or any of your family members participating in the state Medicaid program? Please explain:

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What is the best way to contact you?

Day phone\_\_\_\_ Evening phone\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_ Cell phone\_\_\_\_

*First, we want to let you know about what you can expect by participating in this series, and what is required of you to maximize that gain for yourself.*

**What we expect from you:**

- ★ **Attend and be present for every session.**
- ★ **Arrive on time and stay for the complete session.**
- ★ Participate in all learning experiences provided by the Series, both during sessions and between sessions in the form of homework and field assignments. We will incorporate multiple learning strategies throughout the year.
- ★ Collaborate with other learners to complete assignments **and final projects.**
- ★ Complete evaluations of each session and the complete series when requested.
- ★ Plan to stay overnight during two day sessions to maximize your participation and learning.
- ★ A contribution of \$250 toward tuition which may be donated by community organizations and employers that you are actively involved with. (No one will be denied for their inability to contribute)

**Participants can expect:**

- ★ Seven involving and interactive sessions presented by respected leaders in community organizing, leadership development, and best practices in the inclusion of people with disabilities. The sessions will cover the following topics:
  - History & Community Building – September 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>
  - Creating Personal and Leadership Visions – October 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>
  - Community Organizing – November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Discovering Best Practice – January 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Effecting Change – February 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Effecting Legislative Change – March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Culmination and Celebration – April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>
- ★ **To become connected to a growing community of leaders in the area of social justice for people with disabilities and full inclusion in schools and communities.**
- ★ To learn and be able to use effective strategies that promote and support change.
- ★ **To learn and practice specific strategies utilized by effective leaders.**
- ★ To learn about best practices in inclusive education, inclusive communities, effective employment, and creative housing strategies for individuals with disabilities.
- ★ **A \$6,000.00 scholarship to the multi-session series, covering most sessions, speakers, learning materials, access to technical support from Institute on Disability staff needed to complete assignments, as well as meals and overnight accommodations for each session of the series.**
- ★ To work hard and have fun!

*Next, we want to get to know you, so please answer to following questions. Be honest, be creative, and tell us what you really think!*

**Please answer each question with as much detail as you can – place the pages with your answers inside the application packet.**

1. This Leadership Series is both a wonderful opportunity for growth and learning **and** a big commitment of time and energy for its participants and the group leaders. What motivates you to apply?
2. NH Leadership aims to choose participants with a variety of experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives. With that in mind:
  - Tell us a bit about yourself and your family.
  - What is your connection to the community of people with disabilities?
3. This Series is designed to support the development of leadership skills that will assist participants to be effectively engaged in positive social change for people with disabilities. What do you believe are the characteristics of an effective leader?
4. Tell us about any opportunities you have had to be a leader. How would you describe your effectiveness in these situations? What skills did you use? What did you learn?
5. What have you experienced as barriers to effective leadership? What did you struggle with?
6. Participants in each Leadership Series join an ever-expanding community of leaders, both current participants and past graduates. As a prospective member of that community, what gifts do you bring? What fears? What hopes?
7. Many people apply for this Series. Why should we choose you?
8. Well, we can't have thought of every question...what else do you want to share with us?

*Finally, you may foresee some barriers that will impede your ability to meet the expectations of Leadership participants. We want to remove any of these that we can. There is LIMITED financial assistance to support this.*

Please think hard about all you will need to participate. If you are accepted, we will contact you to arrange for the support you need. Please note that your need for support to attend **does not**, IN ANY WAY, affect the way in which your application is reviewed.

**Learning Accommodations:**

Our Series is a tremendous learning experience, one that we want each participant to benefit from. What would you say is your preferred learning style? What accommodations or supports do you need to learn effectively? (For example: small group work, with visuals, lecture style, large print materials, etc.)

Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Accommodations needed to participate:**

- I do not have access to my own transportation.
- It would be a financial hardship for me to pay for the gas that will be required to get to each session.
- I would need financial support to help pay for child care or for personal care support while I attend Leadership.
- There are other barriers not mentioned above that may get in my way (please explain):

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The New Hampshire Leadership Series is made possible through collaboration and financial assistance from the NH Developmental Disabilities Council, NH Department of Education, NH Area Agencies, People First of NH, NH Bureau of Developmental Services, NH Bar Foundation, Parent Information Center, Family Support Councils, Partners In Health, Annie Forts "UP" Syndrome Foundation, and many Friends of Leadership.