



July 13, 2015

Partners in Policymaking: Congratulating 2015 Graduates & Recruiting 2016 Applicants

Congratulations to the 2015 Partners in Policymaking Graduates. Nineteen individuals completed the six months of coursework and requirements, becoming the 25th graduating class of the Louisiana Partners in Policymaking Program. Graduation was held on June 13th in Baton Rouge with many family, friends and previous Partners graduates witnessing the accomplishment of these advocacy leaders. Partners in Policymaking is a national leadership training program for people with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities. Through intensive weekend-long sessions participants are educated on current disability issues, best practices, policymaking and legislative processes. Participants develop the competencies necessary for effective advocacy to influence public policy at all levels of government.



Pictured from left to right – **Front row:** Morgan Brownlee (Mandeville); Rhonda Chube (Baton Rouge); Steven Nguyen (Marrero); April Dunn (Baton Rouge); Justine Fucci (Covington) **Second Row:** Liz Gary, Partners in Policymaking Coordinator & 2008 Graduate (Mandeville); Carmen Cetnar (Lafayette); Brittney Barnett (Prarieville); Ayesha Moinuddin (Lake Charles); Hilary Bordelon (Slidell); Zach Edmonston (Gonzales); Robbie Gray, Program Monitor, LA DD Council (Baton Rouge) **Third Row:** Lionel Carbajal (Mandeville); Sandra Guichard (Covington); Kevira Johnson (Baton Rouge); Karen Artus (Mandeville); Cathy Castille (Milton); **Top Row:** Robert Paddy (Greenwood); Jennifer Huber (Metairie); Ashley Plaisance (Covington); Micah Moscovis (Opelousas).



Apply for the 2016 Partners in Policymaking Class

The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council is now recruiting motivated individuals with developmental disabilities and parents of young children with developmental disabilities to apply for the 2016 Class of Partners in Policymaking. The Council is especially interested in individuals who have the enthusiasm and potential to become effective advocates.

Participants attend a weekend training session each month from January through June. Individual sessions are devoted to specific topics presented by nationally-known experts. The next class begins January 15-16, 2016. Sessions begin Friday at 12:00 PM and conclude on Saturday at 3:00 PM. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory for successful completion and graduation in June.

Participants are expected to complete assignments between sessions and become engaged in systems advocacy. Lodging and meals are provided. Respite care and attendant services are reimbursed for participants who qualify.

Completed applications must be received in the Council office via e-mail or fax or postmarked no later than **September 30, 2015** to be considered. This deadline will not be extended. Final selection of participants will be made by mid-November 2015. Specific dates and topics for the next session can be found at www.laddc.org.

To apply for the 2016 Partners in Policymaking class click [HERE](#). Contact Robbie Gray at 800-450-8108 or 225-342-6804 or robbie.gray@la.gov for more information or assistance with applying.