

Edward Esbeck Receives 2019 Healy Award

The Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD) is very proud to announce that the the 2019 recipient of the Alfred Healy Leadership Award in Developmental Disabilities is **Edward Esbeck, Self-Advocacy LEND trainee**. The purpose of the Alfred Healy Leadership Award is to nurture in recipients a life-long commitment to leadership in developmental disabilities that will carry on Dr. Healy's legacy for future generations. Dr. Healy, was a world-renowned pediatrician



Ed received his award on May 6th at a luncheon hosted by CDD. He is pictured above with members of the Healy family and his family.

and educator who devoted his life to caring for children with developmental disabilities. He served as the director of CDD, Iowa's nationally designated University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities, from 1977 until he retired in 1998.

Ed was nominated by Mike Hoenig, Self-Advocacy Training Director for LEND. He had this to say about Ed's accomplishments:

"Ed has taken a phenomenal path from self-advocate to emerging leader. During the first semester of his long-term traineeship (fall 2017), he educated fellow trainees and ILEND faculty through a provocative presentation of his case study. He then impressed national audiences at AUCD and AMCHP, employing his dynamic personality to describe his experiences as ILEND's first self-advocacy trainee.

I had the privilege of working with Ed throughout his first traineeship to prepare self-reflections on noon seminars, clinic observations and outreach activities. As the year progressed, so did Ed's self-insight, empathy for families, and understanding of interdisciplinary clinical care.

Recognizing Ed's motivation to learn and develop leadership skills, the ILEND management team chose to bring him back for a second year-as a medium-term trainee. In this role, he has mentored our new self-advocacy trainee, created a video designed to foster a sense of empowerment for CDD transition clinic patients (available at <https://youtu.be/9cb5Tb2fYfs>), and served as a guest presenter encouraging high school students to advocate for themselves as they seek employment. Though discussion of disability is taboo in his native Uganda, Ed perseveres through the awkwardness he still feels, openly discussing the topic with multiple audiences, including his mentee."

Ed will be returning to Uganda this summer to begin exploring opportunities to teach others with disabilities in his homeland. He will spend two weeks with Light for the World's "Make 12.4% Work" campaign and spend one month in Jinja working for Soft Power Education and their special needs education programs. He will also be speaking with school and parent groups about his experience as a person with a disability. Like Dr. Healy, who traveled and supported the creation of programs benefiting persons with disabilities around the world (Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, Great Britain, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan and Russia), Ed desires to make services and supports available in the US to his international peers. Those who had the privilege of working with Dr. Healy are confident that he would be excited about the possibilities which await.

Congratulations Ed!