

## About the NYLN

The National Youth Leadership Network is an organization of young leaders with disabilities from across the U.S. and its territories. Governed by its Governing Board, the NYLN seeks to promote leadership development and education that ensures all youth with disabilities have the opportunity to attain their maximum, unique, personal potential. The NYLN:

- Fosters the involvement of young leaders with disabilities in all aspects of society at national, state and local levels.
- Increases opportunities for employment, independent living and health and wellness among young people of diverse race, ethnicity and disability.
- Communicates about issues that are important to youth with disabilities and the policies and practices that affect their lives.

## NYLN Activities

### National Youth Leadership Conference and Institutes

Conferences in Washington, DC help prepare the next generation of disability leaders and identify ways to improve policies and supports for young people with disabilities.

Participants learn from national disability leaders, public officials, and other young leaders with disabilities from all over the country.

### Mentorship

National disability leaders provide mentorship for members of the Governing Board. They share experiences, advice and encouragement that assists members to develop their leadership skills and connections.

### Youth-Directed Research

The Governing Board gathers information about the experiences of young people with disabilities and what youth think is important for building a successful adult life.

## NYLN Resources

### Future Directions Agenda

The NYLN is a voice for youth with disabilities across the United States. We develop an agenda for improving policies and services, and for encouraging communication among youth and policymakers.

### Resource Consultants

Young leaders with disabilities are available to serve on boards and committees, conduct presentations, develop materials, and facilitate discussions about issues facing youth with disabilities.

## For more information, contact:

[www.nyln.org](http://www.nyln.org)

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## **NYLN Support**

### **Center on Self-Determination**

Oregon Institute on Disability  
and Development  
Oregon Health & Science University

### **Academy for Educational Development**

## **Federal Sponsors**

**US Department of Education**  
Office of Special Education Programs

**National Council on Disability**

**Social Security Administration**

**US Department of Health  
and Human Services**  
Administration on Developmental  
Disabilities  
Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention  
HRSA/Maternal and Child  
Health Bureau

**US Department of Labor**

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# **NYLN**

National Youth Leadership Network



**Shaping a Better  
Future for Youth  
With Disabilities**

***“Leadership is demonstrated,  
not designated...”***

*Jennifer Jones*  
NYLN Founding Chair

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