NAME: NATALIA BAIRES
DISCIPLINE: BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:
I have been working with individuals with disabilities for six years and counting. I began working as a day rehabilitation aide at an after-school day program for children with autism or social, emotional, and behavioral disorders. Once in my Master's program, I began providing therapy based on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to children, adolescents, and adults with autism. After earning my degree and becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, I began supervising those who provided ABA therapy and worked closer with the therapist and family of the client. As a doctoral student in Southern Illinois University's Behavior Analysis and Therapy program, I currently work with adolescents and adults with autism in helping them identify their values and assisting them in working through any challenges they encounter in pursuit of their values and meaningful activities.

Goals for your LEND training experience:
During my LEND training experience, I hope to strengthen my skills as an interdisciplinary team member, knowledge of Family Centered Care, continued cultural competency, and increased integration of the perspectives of self-advocates into my clinical practice.

What you wish to contribute, in the future, as a professional/family member in the field:
As a professional working with individuals with disabilities, I aspire to continue making behavior analytic resources, research, information, etc. available to Spanish speaking communities and practitioners. I also hope that when I earn my doctorate, I will obtain a professor position to mentor new behavior analysts, and provide them with opportunities to work with and conduct research with individuals with disabilities in my research lab, which will also benefit the individuals who obtain clinical services from it.