



Rebecca Aune
Director of Education Programs

Rebecca is the Director of Education Programs for the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD). In this role, Rebecca works with the Educational Initiatives team and cross-departmentally to implement strategies to grow NORD’s educational content and programs for medical professionals, patients, caregivers and students. She liaises with NORD’s Education Committee and directs the continuing medical education (CME) program. Rebecca also leads the project team and develops programming for NORD’s annual Living Rare, Living Stronger Patient and Family Forum and the Rare Diseases and Orphan Products Breakthrough Summit. As well, she oversees NORD’s student programs.

Rebecca comes to the Educational Initiatives team with more than 12 years of nonprofit program management experience. Her most recent work was with the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA), a NORD member organization. At PHA, Rebecca directed PHA’s continuing medical education (CME) programs, resulting in 6,500 hours of CME delivered to more than 2,500 healthcare professionals annually. Additionally, Rebecca led the patient and caregiver education programs that educated more than 400 patients and caregivers in person each year and provided a video library that received 36,000 video views annually. She successfully led a team to reinvigorate online educational programming with professional videography and animatography and migrate PHA’s online learning platforms to new content and learning management systems for an improved learner experience and increased CME course completion.

Rebecca’s work in the field began at Starlight Children’s Foundation, where she supported thousands of pediatric patients and families living with serious, chronic, and often rare diseases with family outings, entertainment in the hospital, and healthcare facility renovations. Rebecca’s personal life has been affected by rare disease as an infant when her brother survived treatment for a rare pediatric cancer, as she survived treatment for rare cancer as a young adult, and now as her father-in-law lives with a rare cancer.

Rebecca earned her Master’s in Public Administration from Saint Louis University and her Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Criminal Justice from the University of South Dakota.