



COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK
ADVOCACY | RESEARCH | TRAINING

College Autism Summit: It's a Wrap!

Our fourth College Autism Summit (and first virtual one) took place last week in Vermont...and Florida...and Michigan...and California, England, Australia, Canada, and many places in between. We came together from many time zones to connect with each other and learn from the more than 50 presenters who offered up a wide range of great content.

We think we can safely say that we are all “Atypical” fans now after hearing about the show from its creator Robia Rashid, as nice a keynote speaker as one could ask for. Perry LaRoque and Anthony Pacilio were our other plenary speakers and brought important insights about working with students while in college and beyond in the workplace. Joe Riddle and John Sheehan facilitated panels of employers and students, enriching the Summit with a diversity of voices and perspectives.

And 54 presenters crafted meaningful sessions for attendees, recording content that participants watched on their own schedules, then leading live discussions about that content.

Was it perfect? Nope. Was the technology flawless? Not really. But was it quintessential CAN? Absolutely. Since its beginning, CAN has been led by volunteers who all had day jobs. No one would have ever called us “slick.” But “sincere?” OMG yes. And the Summit may be one of the most sincere professional development events out there. That’s true even though we now are part of NASPA and have some actual professionals helping us plan our event.

To those professionals, especially Kayla Thompson and the whole Program Execution Team, many thanks for helping us pull this off. We’re grateful for the hard work and encouragement you offered throughout the planning and execution of the Summit.

What does the future hold for the Summit? What does it hold for any of us? Hard to say. We will have a fifth College Autism Summit. Whether we will find ourselves in the same place, in a conventional format, or do this virtual thing again, or maybe even a combination of the two, we will definitely be back to bring together all of you who care about this work, about your students, and about one another. Quintessential CAN. Stay tuned and watch this space for details this spring.

Upcoming CANVAS Speaker: Dr. Cheryl Widman on Parent Participation

Thursday, November 12 at 3PM ET

Join us for our next College Autism Network Virtual Association of Scholars (CANVAS) meeting on **Thursday, Nov. 12 at 3pm ET** as Dr. Cheryl Widman (University of Illinois at Chicago) joins us to discuss her research on "Understanding Parent Participation in the Postsecondary Education of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder." Please be sure to [sign up](#) to attend; you can join the meeting here:

[Join meeting](#)

Program Directors Call

Wednesday, November 18 at 3 pm ET

All campus-based autism program directors are invited to a monthly call for resource- and challenge-sharing, connecting and collaborating across programs, sponsored by CAN. This is a great opportunity for program staff to seek ideas from one another and share new initiatives and strategies. To be added to the invitation list, email [Lee Williams](mailto:LeeWilliams@can.org).

Disability:IN Opens Application Process for NextGen Leaders

This is an exciting opportunity to pass along to students!

Next Gen Leaders are college students and recent graduates with disabilities who have demonstrated talent and leadership in the STEM, finance and business fields. NextGen Leaders collaborate with Corporate Partners to prepare for employment through mentorship, networking and recruiting opportunities. Applications for the 2021 program are now available.

Here are a few key links to learn more and for students to apply:

2021 NextGen Leaders application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SKSZN6Q>

FAQs for Students: <https://disabilityin.org/what-we-do/nextgen-leaders-initiatives/apply-faq/>

Learn more about the mentorship portion of the program from NextGen Leader Samantha, and her mentor, Michael from Prudentia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIWhMuC60j4&feature=youtu.be>

Resources for CAN Members

CAN member Marcelle Ciampi has a couple of recommendations for readers:

- [Moving from a Deficit Medical Model to a Social Model for Humans on the Spectrum](#) (from Everyday Autistic)
- [60-minute talk on job seeking tips at the Stanford Neurodiversity Summit](#)

Please send any resources you think are particularly valuable to [Lee Williams](#) for inclusion in our monthly newsletter.

Our Newsletter

This newsletter is sent to over 900 individuals on our mailing list who share an interest in supporting autistic college students and the professionals and friends who support them . If you know of someone who might like to be added, please forward this to them and ask them to contact [Lee Williams](#).

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