

**Subject:** College Autism Network - October 2021 Updates

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**COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK**  
ADVOCACY | RESEARCH | TRAINING

## College Autism Network Newsletter

September 2021

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### Don't Miss the Summit!

October 26-29, 2021

In just a few short weeks, some of the best minds and hearts in the college autism business will be gathering virtually to learn from one another, to network, and to be inspired by excellent speakers and panels at the fifth annual **College Autism Summit**. Come hear our keynote speakers, activist/advocate **Lydia X.Z. Brown** and activist/artist **DJ Savarese**. Join preconferences on building a new program or taking



[Register Today](#)

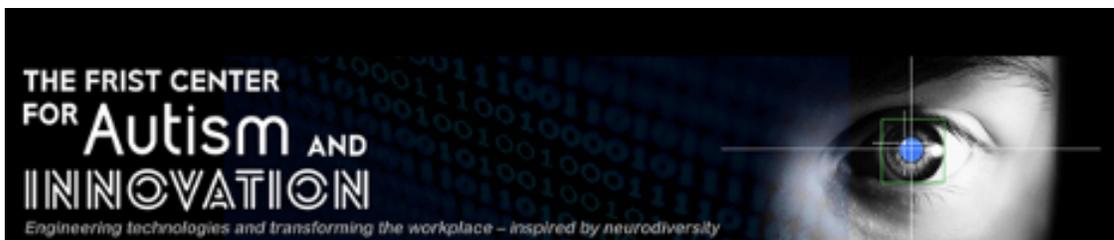
yours to the next level, or preparing students for the employment pipeline. Hear from panels comprised of professionals figuring out how to create “autism-friendly” campuses, students who have some things on their minds, and employers with demonstrated commitment to hiring neurodivergent employees. And of course, come for the 40 breakout sessions. Here’s a sampling of titles:

- Cultivating Career Readiness Conversations with Neurodiverse Job Seekers
- Into the Unknown: The Use of Coaching Portals to Support College Students with Autism in Virtual Learning
- Transformational Neurodivergent Leadership at College: Aggie Neurodiversity Community at UC Davis
- The InsideOut Program: Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles for College Students on the Autism Spectrum
- Supporting Students with Co-Occurring Mental Health Issues
- EduMix Aspie-Friendly: An Autism-Friendly Hackathon to Design an Inclusive University
- Creating Connected College Classrooms for Students on the Autism Spectrum

**Register by October 22.**

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## **Frist Center Receives National Recognition**



We’re excited for our colleagues at our host organization, the Frist Center for Autism and Innovation, which was recently recognized by the American Association for

Access, Equity and Diversity. AAAED awarded the Frist Center its 2021 Edward M. Kennedy Community Service Award “ for its contributions to innovative engineering research on the neuroscience related to autism and the opportunities created by having a neurodiverse workforce.” You can read more about it [here](#). The Frist Center brings an engineering mindset to supporting autistic college students in their preparation for exceptional careers. It’s great to see their work recognized.

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## Landmark College Announces New Professional Development Courses in Autism Services

Landmark College offers individual courses for graduate credit, as well as a five-course certificate program, in Learning Differences and Neurodiversity with a choice of two specializations:



- Autism on Campus and Online
- Executive Function

Designed with busy educators and disability services professionals in mind, the program offers a balance of theory, research and concrete practices. The next application deadline is October 31 for courses opening in November, including “Academic and Cognitive Supports for Autistic Students”. Learn more at [www.landmark.edu/certificate](http://www.landmark.edu/certificate).

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## Interesting New Role at Colleges in North Wales

It is always interesting to learn what our colleagues across the pond are up to. Ireland and the U.K. are often on the cutting edge of autism-related initiatives. **This initiative** at Grwp Llandrillo Menai, an organization that oversees the operations of three member colleges in North Wales, is an example of that. They have hired two “autism mentors” to work more generally across the campus.



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## Employment Coach Beth Felsen Explains our Program Database

We're proud of our Autism-Specific Programs searchable database, designed by the Frist Center's Dan Burger and assembled by Brett Nachman and Katie McDermott, so we're happy to know that coaches like Beth, at Spectrum Transition Coaching, are using it to help their clients make good decisions about college attendance.

**Read Beth's blog post here.** We encourage you to encourage others to use this valuable resource if you or someone you know is looking for a school with strong support services.

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*This newsletter is published monthly by the **College Autism Network**, an organization supporting the success of autistic college students and the professionals who work with them. Want to share an article? Feature an upcoming event? Our monthly newsletter reaches over 1000 self-advocates and professionals. Send it **to Lee** and we'll share it.*

*Was someone nice enough to forward this newsletter to you? We're happy to add you to our mailing list to receive it directly. **Send us a note.***

**It's NASPA Award Season!**



## 2022 NASPA Annual Awards

*Nominations Close October 15, 2021*

Do you want to honor a rising mid-level professional star? Is your faculty member an inspiration to you, and are they changing the literature of the field? Being recognized as a **NASPA Annual Award** winner is a mark of distinction, a verification of years of commitment and devotion to your craft, and an important way of sustaining the work of our field.

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