



## COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK

ADVOCACY | RESEARCH | TRAINING

### SAVE THE DATE! The Summit is Coming!

The 5th College Autism Summit will take place the week of October 25. We will once again be gathering virtually to share resources, challenges, research and general bonhomie. More details will be coming soon, including a Call for Programs and a slightly more specific schedule than “the week of October 25.” But for the moment, that’s what I’ve got.



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### The Autism-Friendly Campus Certification Project Moves Forward

We are excited to launch the first stage of this effort: information gathering. And we’re very happy to introduce you to a new CAN member, Mary Rose Sweeney from Dublin City University, the world’s first “autism-friendly campus.” Dr. Sweeney is an associate professor in Health Systems Research and was the principal investigator and project

lead for DCU's efforts. You can hear her talk with the Anderson Center for Autism about the project on [this podcast](#). More about our DCU and AsIAM friends in a future issue.



## **And Speaking of Dublin City University...**

### **DCU Launches Autism-Friendly Design Guide**

Dublin City University is a true leader in the higher education arena when it comes to supporting autistic students. DCU is following up its “autism-friendly” project with another fascinating effort, partnering with a professor of architecture from the American University in Cairo on the first Autism-Friendly University Design Guide. Read more about it [here](#). Thanks to Katie McDermott for sharing this.

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### **Our Next CANVAS Call: Thursday, March 11 at 6 pm ET**

Join researchers and scholars from around the globe to discuss the intriguing work being done down under (hence the late start time).

### **Autistic Adults' Success Factors for Employment and Beyond**

Presented by Dr. Craig Thompson (Lecturer, School of Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Speech Pathology; Curtin University; Perth, Australia) and Dr. Melissa

Black (Postdoctoral Research Associate, School of Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Speech Pathology; Curtin University)

Where? <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1489747906>

How to Sign Up: [Meeting Agenda](#)

[CANVAS is CAN Virtual Association of Scholars, a group of scholars engaged in research related to college students and autism. All are welcome.]

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## **Our Next Program Directors' Call:**

**Wednesday, March 31 at 3 pm ET**

Please join us for a conversation with Laurie Ackles about a new initiative she is launching at Rochester Institute of Technology. For more information, or if you're a program director or senior professional responsible for supporting neurodiverse students and would like to be added to our program directors' list for meeting information, [contact Lee](#).

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## **3rd Annual Autism at Work**

### **Virtual Research Workshop**

**April 20-22, 2021 (11am-2pm PDT)**

The [Autism at Work Research Workshop](#), co-sponsored by University of Washington

ACCESS-IT, Microsoft Research, and University of Maryland Autism Research Consortium unites leading scholars, employers, clinicians, service providers, entrepreneurs, caregivers, and autism advocates concerned with autism employment. Their work may relate to employment preparation, recruitment, persistence, advancement, and management of autistic individuals.

## Agenda

- **Day 1: Community Building/Agenda Setting** - will include a set of talks and panels given by employers, autism self-advocates, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and academics about the state of autism employment and their priorities for its future. There will be an online social event following this day's activities.
- **Day 2: Research Opportunity/Development** - will include clinicians, service providers, entrepreneurs, and researchers sharing ideas about potential research project proposals and connect with researchers to plan collaborations.
- **Day 3: Research Deep Dive** - will give researchers an opportunity to introduce themselves and their work, discuss their research agenda, and present their recent work. There will also be research idea round table discussions, along with extended abstracts and research-in progress submissions.

## Dates to Remember

- **Registration opens on March 1** - Day 1 is open to all; Days 2 and 3, you must submit a paper with your research ideas and proposals, extended abstracts, or research-in-progress related to employment of individuals with autism.
- **Research Workshop submissions DUE by 5pm PDT, Friday, 3/15/2021** through the CMT  
website: <https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/AWRW2021/>.
- **Research submission questions?** Email Hala Annabi- [hpannabi@uw.edu](mailto:hpannabi@uw.edu)
- **Workshop questions?** Email [autism@umd.edu](mailto:autism@umd.edu)



**3rd Annual  
Autism  
at Work  
Research  
Workshop**

**Tues., 4/20/2021**

11AM – 2PM PDT-USA  
2PM – 5PM EDT-USA

**SAVE THE DATE**  
*Registration coming soon*

**We Need Your Input to ~**



**Engage**

Engage the autism ecosystem in a *world café*

**Tickets:**  
Day 1- \$25 Days 2/3- \$50/day  
Need a discount?

Questions?  
Contact: [autism@umd.edu](mailto:autism@umd.edu)



**Introduce**

Introduce the research community to the voices of the ecosystem (e.g. autistic advocates and autistic and neuro-typical clinicians, technology experts, & startups/corporation)



**Establish**

Establish ways to support autistic individuals using evidence-based practices and practice-based evidence in employment





## A New Voice in Autism Advocacy

My name is Michael Lettman, I'm a student attending AHRC New York's Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at Kingsborough Community College. I'm a high-functioning autistic advocate and I am working on a project focusing on autism. The

goal of my project is to help the autistic community by articulating what it is like to be "living with autism" and try to explain autism from my own perspective. For my project, I create videos and other materials to share my experiences in order to help others understand individuals on the autism spectrum a little better. I'm interested in sharing my work with others. I'd be interested and open to presenting, training, or working with anyone who might be interested.

Please visit my [project's channel](#) and my [project's website](#) for more information.



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