



# COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK

ADVOCACY | RESEARCH | TRAINING

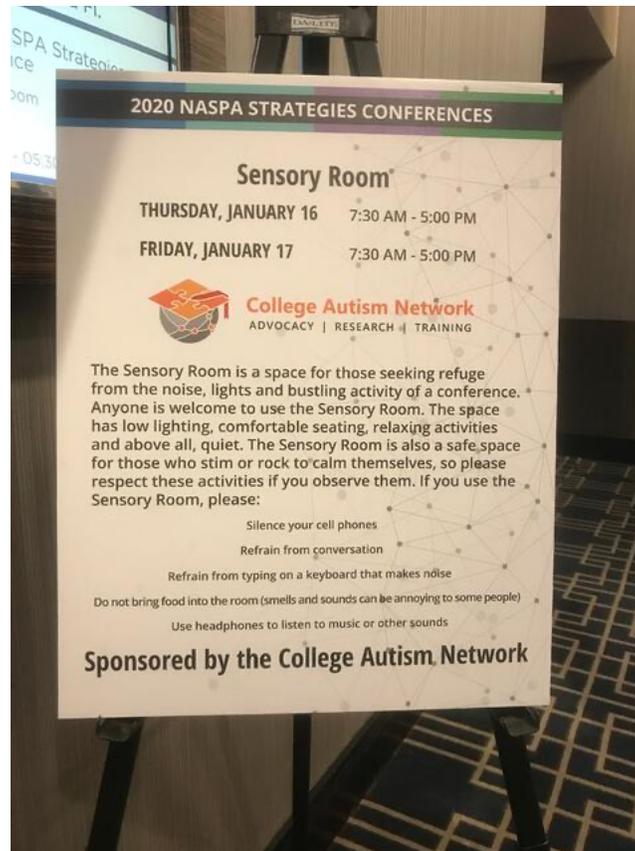
**The 2020 College Inclusion Summit is happening!** We are hoping to confirm our dates and location in the next two weeks and will post it on the CAN website, on the Summit website, email it to our CAN and CANVAS mailing lists, and hire skywriters to fly over most major American cities. We do know it will take place at the end of October or early November.

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## **The Burkhart Center at Texas Tech is Hosting Another Think Tank**

Join our friends in beautiful Lubbock, TX for the [4th Annual Higher Education Think Tank](#) sponsored by the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research. This is a low-cost, friendly and informational couple of days (**March 24-25**), and a chance to visit with our CAN and Summit friends Wes Dotson, DeAnn Lechtenberger and Taylor Fidler. Registration is now open.

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## Conference Sensory Rooms

CAN sponsored a Sensory Room at the NASPA Strategies in New Orleans in January, and will sponsor a similar one at the NASPA Annual Conference in Austin at the end of March.

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## Autism and the Job Search Process

Few topics generate as much interest among college students with autism as their career aspirations. And with that interest comes the concern that career services professionals feel as they support students with autism through this process. “Am I doing enough? Am I doing too much? How can I best support this student? How can I develop a good relationship with this employer?” [This article](#) by Rochester Institute of Technology’s [Janine Rowe](#), published on the website of the National Association of

Career Educators, offers great advice for career professionals who find themselves across the desk from a student with autism and who want to give them the best chance at job search success.

Some key points:

- Interviewing is challenging for most students, and for students with autism, it can be *extremely* difficult. Practice interviews can make a big difference.
- Targeted recruitment efforts by employers like Microsoft and SAP offer students with autism a leg up on the job search process. These and other companies recognize the unique abilities autistic people can bring to the workplace. Career professionals should work to build relationships with employers like these.
- Building relationships with students before the job search begins allows a career educator to learn what a student cares about, what motivates and inspires the student, and what strategies are the best fit for that student's job search process.

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### **Upcoming Conference Presentations**

Brad Cox and Lee Burdette Williams will be presenting at several conferences throughout the spring. Please encourage your campus colleagues to attend a session (you know how it helps to have an outside "expert" say the same things you've been saying):

- NASPA: Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education, Austin, TX, March 26-April 1 "Skills and Strategies for Effective Support of Students with Autism"  
Monday, March 30, 9:00-10:15 am (Lee and Brad)

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## **CANVAS Calls: Learn About Autism from Experts in the Field**

The College Autism Network's Virtual Association of Scholars (CANVAS) hosts a monthly virtual presentation of interest to professionals who work with students with autism. If you'd like to get on the mailing list to get a reminder and meeting link, contact [Brett Nachman](#), CANVAS head honcho. Here's the spring schedule:

- **Thursday, March 26 at 11am EST**
  - Presenters: Dr. Jodi Duke and Dr. Grace Francis (George Mason University)
  - Topic: Research on autistic college students and co-occurring mental health disorder; discussions on the impact of needs and coping strategies
- **Thursday, April 23 at 12pm EST**
  - Presenter: Dr. Sean LaRoque (Mansfield Hall) and Dr. Erin Shoulberg (Mansfield Hall)
  - Topic: Measuring autistic college students' journeys to adulthood using the Pathway to Independence Inventory: Development, results and lessons learned at Mansfield Hall - a residential college support program for students with learning differences.
- **Thursday, May 28 at 12pm EST**
  - Presenter: Dr. Ryan A. Miller (University of North Carolina-Charlotte)
  - Topic: Emerging research on the experiences of autistic LGBTQ college students

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## **Announcing the CAN Wisdom Collective**

Sure, we could call it a speakers' bureau, but that's kind of boring. This fall, we hope to launch a Collective of talented and inspirational speakers/trainers who will bring their wisdom to campuses seeking to strengthen their services to students with autism. If you are interested, or want to recommend someone who would be great in

this role, send [Lee an email](#). We will more formally put out a call for nominations later this spring.

NASPA, 111 K Street NE, 10th Floor, Washington, District Of Columbia 20002, (202) 265-7500

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