

**Subject:** College Autism Network - January 2022 Updates

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**From:** College Autism Network

**To:** brittany@collegeautismnetwork.org



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

## College Autism Network Newsletter

January 2022

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### Some Important News from the College Autism Network

**Lee Williams, CAN Executive Director**

We begin 2022 with some important information that those of you who've been part of the College Autism Network, whether it's been as a Summit attendee, a CANVAS participant, a faithful newsletter reader, or any other type of involvement, will want to know. First, a little historical context.

CAN was founded by Brad Cox, now our senior advisor, and incorporated as a nonprofit (501[c]3) organization in 2017. That was our legal status until January of 2020, when we dissolved as a legal corporation in order to join NASPA as an "initiative." At the end of 2020, NASPA made the decision to cut ties with us due to financial challenges the association encountered as a result of the pandemic. For the past year, we have had a home with the Frist Center for Autism and Innovation at Vanderbilt University while we considered our options. We are excited to announce that we will continue to be connected to the Frist Center as a partner, but will be re-incorporating CAN again as an independent nonprofit organization.

How does this impact you? While we will continue to offer all of the services and resources you've come to expect from CAN, we will do so, again, as a membership organization. Beginning right away, we are asking you to consider joining CAN as an institutional or individual member. These modest fees will help support our continued growth as an organization. We will continue to offer resources like our monthly CANVAS and program directors calls, keep our Autism-Specific Programs database updated and available without cost to professionals, families and self-advocates, promote research and publications you'll want to be aware of, and of course, plan another College Autism Summit (more on that elsewhere in this newsletter). We have plans for new initiatives that you'll be hearing about over the coming months.

Our membership rates are very low compared to most professional associations. We know budgets are tight. We hope, though, that you will join CAN because you believe in what we're doing and you recognize the value we provide to professionals, scholars, employers, families and ultimately and most importantly, autistic college students.

To join CAN, please visit our [website](#) and look for "membership information" on the homepage.

If you have any questions, please send [me](#) a note.

One last--and very important--item: we are in the process of applying for a reinstatement of our 501(c)3 status. This is, as you can imagine, a lengthy process that involves the currently overburdened IRS. Until we have official notice of their determination, which can take months, we are NOT technically a nonprofit organization. We are simply a corporation. We'll keep you posted on this fun process.

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## **Everyone's Favorite Conference! The College Autism Summit, v. 6.0; Volunteers Needed and a Save-the-Date**



# COLLEGE AUTISM SUMMIT

Plans are beginning to take shape for our sixth College Autism Summit, which we hope will be an in-person event to be held at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, home of the **Frist Center for Autism and Innovation**, our supremely supportive partner. Please save the dates: October 12-15. More details will follow. For now, if you would like to be part of the Summit planning team, we would love to have you. We seek volunteers for the Program, Major Speakers, Communications and Marketing, Sponsors, Local Arrangements, Research Symposium and Networking/Hospitality committees. To volunteer, please take a few moments and complete this **Google Form**, and we will be in touch within a few weeks.



## CANVAS Plans a Stellar Semester of Scholarship

Get out your calendars and pencil in these upcoming CANVAS virtual meetings:

### Friday, Jan 21 at 11am ET

- Helen Rottier (PhD Candidate and Research Assistant at the University of Illinois Chicago/Institute on Disability and Human Development):
  - Constellation Mentoring- Evaluating a Novel Approach to Support Autistic College Students

### Friday, Feb 18 at 3pm ET

- Sally Reis (Letitia Neag Morgan Chair in Educational Psychology, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor), Dr. Joseph Madaus (Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Director, Collaborative on Postsecondary Education and Disability), and Dr. Nicholas W. Gelbar (Associate Research Professor); all at the University of Connecticut:
  - Understanding the Academic Success of Academically Talented Students with ASD

### Friday, March 18 at 12pm ET

- Jill Underhill (Associate Professor, Communication Studies & Director, Writing Across the Curriculum, Marshall University):
  - Autistic Student Success in Public Speaking Courses

#### **Friday, April 29 at time TBD**

- Stay tuned for more information

#### **Friday, May 20 at 1pm ET**

- Kayden Stockwell (PhD Student, Department of Psychology, University of Virginia):
  - Understanding the Experiences of Autistic Undergraduates at the University of Virginia

More details (a description and link to the Zoom meeting) are available via the CANVAS listserv. If you wish to be added to this list, please contact CAN Director of Research **Brett Nachman**.

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### **Useful ASD Guide from EduMed Now Available**

EduMed is an organization that connects prospective students with information and resources related to postsecondary programs in the healthcare industry. They've recently published a guide for autistic students with some useful general information about attending college. The guide is free and available [here](#). Take a look, and contact them directly with feedback or questions.



### **St. Joseph's University's New Academic Program: Managing Neurodiversity, Featured in Recent Yahoo Story**

We are always excited to see CAN friends and their programs featured in the mainstream media, illuminating both the excellent work going on and the growing need for more of that work on other campuses. [This Yahoo article](#) features a new

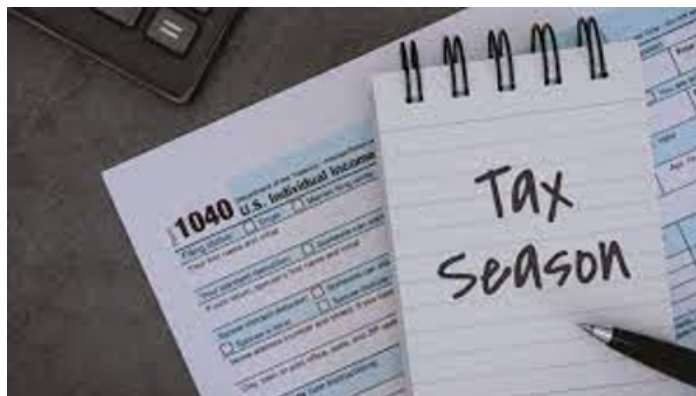
and exciting academic program being launched by St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia: an interdisciplinary minor in managing neurodiversity. This program is a collaboration of several academic programs and the Kinney Center for Autism Innovation and Support (including its **ASPIRE** program, one of our **featured ASPs**), and helps prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of managing a neurodiverse workforce.

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## IRS Hiring Neurodiverse Seasonal Employees

The IRS is hiring full-time seasonal employees to do administrative work related to tax returns, and has expressed interest in hiring neurodivergent candidates. The hourly rate is about \$16. This work is not remote. Locations include:

Brookhaven, NY  
Chamblee, GA  
Indianapolis, IN  
Covington, KY  
Andover, MA  
Kansas City, MO  
Holtsville, NY  
Philadelphia, PA  
Memphis, TN  
Austin, TX  
Ogden, UT



The IRS will be holding monthly information sessions for candidates with disabilities. To register, [visit this site](#). Search on "IRS jobs." For additional information, please contact **Rajiv Lamichhane**, Senior Manager of Non-Federal Sales at SourceAmerica.

*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.*