

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

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## COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK

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### College Autism Network Newsletter February 2022

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#### Coalition of Autistic and Neurodiverse Student Organizations

As autism and neurodiversity self-advocacy becomes more prevalent on college campuses, a number of new student organizations that support and advocate for neurodiversity as a campus goal have sprung up on the higher education landscape.



The College Autism Network is interested in bringing these groups together as a coalition of mutually supportive organizations. We have two goals: one, for groups to learn from one another how to best serve their members, and two, for new groups to have a source of information and support to start their organizations.

Are you part of an existing autism or neurodiversity student organization? Are you interested in starting such an organization? Please email **Lee Williams** at CAN for more information, or to share your group's information.

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## **New Show on Amazon Prime Illuminates the Neurodivergent Experience of Young Adults**



This month saw the launch of a new Amazon Original series, “As We See It,” the story of three autistic young adults making their way in the world. Created by Emmy-award winning producer Jason Katims, the series is particularly notable for its casting of neurodivergent actors in the lead roles, bringing an authenticity to the show that has often been lacking in previous TV shows and movies. Katims is the father of an autistic young adult himself, and has used his own perspectives and experiences in that role to inform previous productions, including “Parenthood,” which featured an autistic character as well.

If you're a TV watcher and a Prime member, we recommend this show!

*Jason Katims did an interview about Changing the Narrative Around Autism with his new series. Katims, was a featured speaker at the first College Autism Summit in Burlington, Vermont in 2017.*

[Katims Interview](#)

## UConn's *Twice-Exceptional with ASD Study* Will Be Featured in Upcoming CANVAS Call

Students with autism who are academically talented are sometimes referred to as 2e (twice exceptional) or 2e/ASD.

[2e/ASD Study](#)

Three scholars from the University of Connecticut, Sally Reis, Nicholas Gelbar and Joseph Madaus recently had their work with 2e/ASD students featured in UConn's in-house magazine.

Their recent article in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* is also available as an open source resource.

[Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders Article](#)

We are excited to have Sally, Nick and Joe share their work on the next call of our CANVAS (CAN Virtual Association of Scholars) call. Join us on Friday, February 18 at 3 pm ET. To receive the link and be added to our CANVAS mailing list, contact **Brett Nachman**, CAN's Director of Research.

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## College Autism Summit Planning is Underway

Remember to mark your calendars for the 2022 Summit, the premiere professional development event for practitioners, scholars and self-advocates who care about the experiences and outcomes of autistic college students. We'll see you in Nashville, October 12-14. Watch this space and the CAN website for more information, including our Call for Programs which will open in the spring.



[CAN Website](#)

## Mentra: An Employment Platform for Neurodiverse Candidates

We're happy to share a few words from our friends at Mentra, a group of talented neurodiverse individuals committed to improving employment outcomes for autistic and other ND candidates:

Mentra's solution is simple: To tap into the potential of neurodiverse individuals by matching them with employers that CARE about their diversity thought. We've spent the past year building an AI-driven hiring platform to bridge the 'Disability divide' and empowers jobseekers to reach their full career potential, regardless of gender, race, or cognitive ability. Today, our mission has grown into a global movement to empower neurodivergents across the nation to bring their full selves to work.



[I'm Interested!](#)

In 2022, we've initiated a partnership with an award-winning company, auticon—100% of their technologists are on the autism spectrum & they are looking to hire 15 people through the Mentra platform. If you are interested in roles from Data Analysis, Software Engineering and Data Science, we are inviting autistic job seekers to indicate job interest!

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## Summer Internship Opportunities for ND Students

[Apply](#)

The Frist Center for Autism and Innovation at Vanderbilt University announces its fourth annual Summer Autism Internship Program. They are seeking a cohort of neurodivergent research interns who will focus on science and engineering-related projects. Applicants can be recent graduates or currently completing their bachelor's degree. Interns will be compensated (\$5000 for the summer) and given a housing/travel stipend (though remote opportunities will be considered). **Apply**

by Monday, February 28.

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## KPMG Rise Leadership Institute Accepting Applications

[Apply](#)

Rise is a multi-day leadership program and year-round virtual support sponsored by KPMG that provides career development and networking opportunities. Rise includes a leadership conference in Summer 2022, unique inclusive leadership development and a variety of scholarship and career opportunities. KPMG seeks neurodiverse applicants who are first- or second-year undergraduates with a major in accounting, finance, engineering or IT and have a minimum 3.3 gpa.

**Applications are due by February 25.**

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**Please Consider Joining CAN as an Individual or Organizational Member!**

