

Subject: College Autism Network - October 2022 Updates

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COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK
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College Autism Network News and Notes

October 2022

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Last Chance to Register for the College Autism Summit

Looking for an excuse to get out of town? Need a Nashville Hot Chicken fix? Join us at the 6th College Autism Summit for learning, networking and a good time with some of the nicest people in the field. The Summit is happening October 12-14 at Vanderbilt University. Registration is open through October 7.

PEACES Research Project Seeks Participants to Help Build Autism Database



Project PEACES, consisting of an interdisciplinary team of scholars, practitioners, and self-advocates from across the U.S., is conducting a study on autistic college students and their experiences of success. This research study, supported by grants from The FAR Fund and the Frist Center for Autism and Innovation, aims to gather insights from autistic undergraduate college students on what they view as factors that contribute to their success. The goal of this study is to create a publicly-accessible national database, which will provide information and resources on autistic students' experiences and how institutions can support them.

We encourage individuals in the CAN community to help spread the word to eligible participants in your networks: undergraduate college students in the United States who identify as autistic.

Participation in this study is voluntary and involves completing a (30-minute) survey; following participation, students will receive a \$25 gift card. To learn more about the study, [visit this page](#).

If you would like to participate, please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/3P08dAF>

For any questions, you may contact lead researchers Dr. Bradley E. Cox (brad.cox@fsu.edu) or Dr. Brett Ranon Nachman (bnachman@uark.edu).

Mercyhurst Celebrates Brad McGarry's Legacy

This is a **terrific story** about our colleague and friend Brad McGarry who has done remarkable things at Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA. As if his work on campus isn't enough, Brad has helped to launch **Raise the Roof for Autism**, an organization that offers an adventure education and world travel curriculum for autistic college students, inspired in part by Brad's adventures with his son Connor. Your work continues to inspire us, Brad!



Are you a Program Director or Leader?

CAN offers some unique opportunities to autism program leaders. We have monthly calls for professional learning, networking and resource-sharing, and a listserv to exchange ideas, ask questions and disseminate useful information. If you're not on our program director list, please **contact Lee** and ask to be added. You don't have to have "director" in your title, or "autism" in the name of your campus initiative. We want representation from all programs, large and small.

Year-round Job Opportunity with Autism-focused Summer Program

Beyond Akeela is a residential summer program that provides neurodivergent teens structured and scaffolded opportunities to practice the social-emotional, executive functioning, and independent living skills needed to thrive in college. Most Beyond Akeela teens have Asperger's, ASD, or a similar social communication disorder. We are hiring a year-round full-time Assistant Director who will be primarily responsible for leading Beyond Akeela's communication and programming efforts with families, their teens, and staff candidates, with a goal of increasing family and staff engagement/retention. **Full job posting can be found here**. Candidates can submit their resume and cover letter to Kevin Trimble (kevin@campakeela.com) to apply!

*This newsletter is published monthly by the **College Autism Network**, an independent 501(c)3 organization supporting the success of autistic college students and the professionals who work with them. Want to share an article? Feature an upcoming event? Post a job opportunity in autism support services? Our monthly newsletter reaches over 1500 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.***

*If you appreciate our work, please consider **joining CAN** to receive additional information and discounts on some of our resources and to support our work. Individual and organizational memberships are available.*