

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

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## COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK

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### College Autism Network News and Notes November 2022

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*Keynote speaker Eric Garcia*

#### **Wrapping Up the 2022 College Autism Summit**

Almost 200 autism support professionals, self-advocates, researchers and allies came to Vanderbilt University's Student Life Center to attend the 6th College Autism Summit. We started off with a bit of a hiccup: a tornado warning that sent us

scurrying to the basement level of the SLC, but once the skies cleared, we carried on with an outstanding opening session. Eric Garcia, author of “We’re Not Broken: Changing the Autism Conversation” challenged us to reconsider the definition of success for autistic students and employees in all settings. We learned from 40 concurrent sessions, multiple networking opportunities, ten exhibitors, several meals together and some singer-songwriter performances courtesy of the Commodore Grill. Friends were made! Strategies were suggested! Pros were inspired! If you were there, you know. If you weren’t, we hope you’ll join us in 2023 to learn more about what several people called “the best conference I’ve ever attended.”

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## **CAN Award Winners Announced**

We are excited to share the announcements of our 2022 CAN Award winners, announced at last month’s College Autism Summit.



*Research Symposium chair Brett Ranon Nachman and Katie Tobin McDermott, winner of CAN's Contributor of the Year Award*

### ***Outstanding Autism College Support Program***

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga’s Mosaic Program, Michelle Rigler, Executive Director, Amy Rutherford, Director

### ***Outstanding Research on Autism in Higher Education***

Kate Viesel, Director, Metropolitan Campus COMPASS Program, Fairleigh Dickinson University

### ***Outstanding Neurodiversity Workplace Initiative***

Neurodiversity@IBM

### ***CAN Contributor of the Year***

Katie Tobin McDermott, Transition Coach and Student Support Specialist, McDermott Autism Services

## Research Symposium a Highlight of This Year's Summit

This year's format, a three-parter with the theme "Pitch, Partner, Publish" was a great way to connect researchers with one another and with practitioners looking for potential data on interventions, initiatives, and new ideas. The Research Symposium team would like to especially recognize three Summit attendees who attended all events as part of the Symposium, as well as turned in their "passports:"

Carolyn O'Laughlin, Tamara Leeper and Lauren Mathews



*Emily Raclaw (Marquette), Bridget McElroy (Neurodiversity in the Workplace) and Amy Radochonski (College Living Experience) enjoyed an in-person reunion.*

## New Online Opportunity Launched by Stony Brook University

[Register Today](#)

Stony Brook University recently launched a new course to help educators, human service professionals and family members deepen their understanding of the lived experience of autistic individuals. This program was developed and is directed by Dr. Matthew Lerner, professor of psychology, psychiatry, and pediatrics and research director of the Stony Brook Autism Initiative, alongside other autism clinicians and researchers as well as autistic self-advocates. The Introduction to the Science and Lived Experience of Autism (ISLEA) is an online program consisting of self-paced video lectures and live instructor lead presentations. The course runs for 7.5 weeks. Qualified professionals are able to earn a microcredential upon completing the ISLEA course.

## ABA and Autism Advocacy: A Worthwhile Read/Listen

**This article** is from The Pulse, a weekly health and science podcast. It looks at the history and current status of ABA, autism advocacy, clinical effectiveness, and the

difficulty of change in any field where both training and revenue are reasons for resistance. I learned a lot from this piece, and recommend it to anyone seeking a reasonably balanced and well-researched analysis of the ABA/autism controversy. --  
Lee

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*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.*