In this Issue

- CANVAS Celebration: There Will Be Cake
- Summit Registration and CFP Coming!
- ND@Work Roundtable Job Search Website Up and Running
- IBM Skillsbuild Offers Employment Skills and Credentialing
- $10k Scholarships Available for Internships in Intelligence and National Security
- Dublin City University Launches New App to Find Sensory-Friendly Spaces
- Film About Autism, “In a Different Key,” Available for Campus Screenings
- NASPA Preconference Workshops Offered by CAN Members

CANVAS-versary! A Celebration of Research on Friday, March 10, 1 pm ET

Who says researchers don’t know how to have fun? Not us! Join us to mark the 5-year anniversary of our CAN Virtual Association of Scholars (CANVAS). We have hosted so many monthly presentations on cutting-edge research that we’ve almost lost count, but not quite. We are proud to host the CANVAS 5th
Anniversary Panel: The State of Research on Autism in Higher Education. Panelists include:

- Helen Rottier (Doctoral Student, University of Chicago at Illinois);
- Kristen Gillespie-Lynch (Associate Professor, College of Staten Island),
- Jonathan Vincent (Lecturer, Lancaster University), and
- Theo Bakker (Professor, The Hague University of Applied Science; Researcher, Vrije Universiteit)

And hosted, of course, by our own Brett Ranon Nachman, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas.

- **Meeting Link:** Join us on Zoom: [https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/95999928403](https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/95999928403)
- **Meeting Agenda:** Sign up to attend by listing your name and affiliation here

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**College Autism Summit Registration and Call for Programs to Open Soon**

Speaking of big events, we will open for business on April 1. If you are planning to submit a program proposal, the window opens for submission on April 1. Deadline is June 5. Registration will also open on April 1. For more information, please visit the [CAN website](https://canwebsite).

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**Neurodiversity @ Work Employer Roundtable Announces New Employment Search Resource**

This formidable group of ND-friendly employers has launched a new free tool, the [ND Career Connector](https://ncdcareerconnector). Dozens of employers searching for neurodiverse talent have posted
positions on the Connector. On a related note, Roundtable member IBM offers a number of *job skill courses and credentials* for free. This is a great resource for both candidates and professionals who support neurodivergent students and alumni seeking to upskill in tech fields.

**New $10,000 Scholarship to support Neurodiverse Undergraduates Seeking Careers in Intelligence & National Security**

The Intelligence and National Security Foundation (INSF) is pleased to announce the launch of the Reinventing Geospatial Intelligence, Inc. (RGi) Scholarship, a new scholarship aimed at supporting neurodiverse undergraduates pursuing degrees in an intelligence or national security field of study. “The diversity of our workforce is our nation’s competitive advantage—and that includes neurodiversity,” says INSF President Suzanne Wilson Heckenberg. “Talents that many neurodiverse people possess—such as pattern recognition, processing complex information, visual-spatial tasks, attention to detail, or the ability to sustain focus for long periods of time—are all highly valued analytical skills that can be applied to our national security mission.” This award is one of seven INSF will award to undergraduate and graduate students. Applications are due COB on Friday, April 14. For details, visit [Scholarships](#).

**App from Dublin City University in Ireland Helps Lead Users to Sensory-Friendly Spaces**

Those folks in Ireland: they’ve got some great things going on. The team at Dublin City University is piloting a new app that helps identify sensory-friendly and -unfriendly places around campus. Sound sensors have been
placed at key locations on campus and data will feed into a heat map which will show noise volumes. DCU researcher Mary Rose Sweeney, who was the principal investigator on the research that led DCU to become Ireland’s first autism-friendly campus, said “Many [students] report feeling overwhelmed, lonely, isolated, depressed and challenged with the pace of academic life and the volume of work. Research points to the need for more support and services, particularly quiet spaces to de-stress and stress management strategies, as well as academic supports such as planning, time management and organization around study, lectures and assignments.”

**Filmmakers Offer Screenings of “In a Different Key” for Campuses**

The producers of the documentary “In a Different Key,” which has won multiple prizes and just premiered on PBS, are offering interested groups and organizations an opportunity for exclusive screenings around April Autism Awareness and beyond. For those who have not yet seen the movie, it starts out telling the true story of the first child diagnosed with autism, now a Mississippi man approaching 90. But then it goes bigger, exploring society’s mixed record in accepting autistic people, through lenses like racism,
NASPA Preconference Sessions Still Open for Registration

If you’re planning to attend NASPA in Boston, consider participating in one of two preconference sessions being offered by CAN members. *Starting START URI: How to Anchor a Post-Secondary Autism Transition Program - Workshop - 1-4pm, Saturday, April 1st* is designed to support administrative teams in creating an effective and inclusive transition program for autistic students at their organization of higher education.

*Roadmap for the Development of Inclusive Programming for Neurodivergent Students in Higher Education, 9am-12pm, Sunday, April 2* introduces a pathway to inclusive efforts that impact neurodivergent staff, faculty and students across campus and within their community.

Landmark Offers Professional Development in Supporting Neurodiverse Learners

March 26 is the next application deadline for courses in Landmark College’s highly regarded online certificate program in Learning Differences and Neurodiversity. Participants can take individual, 8-week courses or pursue a graduate-level certificate with a choice of specializations in Autism on Campus and Online, Executive Function, or Postsecondary Disability Services. Upcoming courses that run April 14 – June 11 are:

- “Online, Blended, and Classroom Technologies for Diverse Learners” (soon to be renamed to better reflect its content: “Leveraging Universal Design and Learning Technologies for Student Success”)
- “Academic Strategies and Executive Function Supports for Students with LD, ADHD, and Autism”