

Subject: College Autism Network News and Notes

Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 5:01:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: College Autism Network

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College Autism Network News and Notes

June 2023



LAST CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Newsletter Highlights

Last Call for Program
Proposals

Special Summit Event for
Program Directors and
Leaders

Summit Student
Experience Brings New ND
Talent to the Community

CAN Award Nominations
Sought

Ohio State Students
Launch New Organization

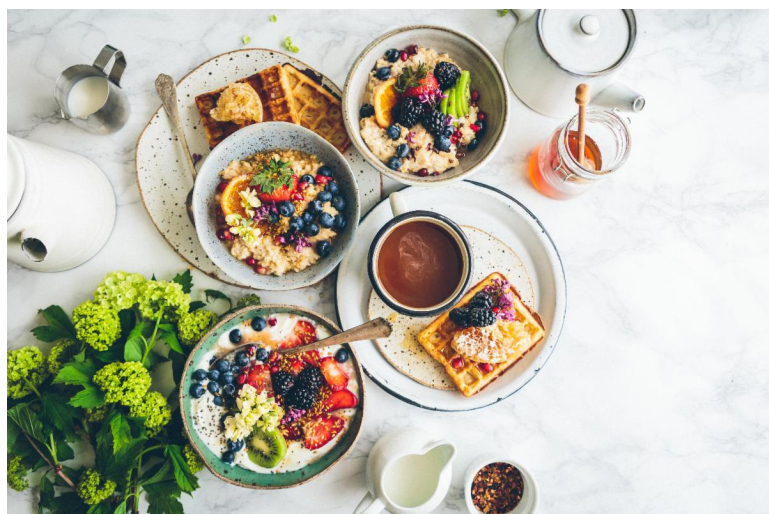
Does Television Fall Short
of Accuracy in Portrayals
of Autistic Characters?

Landmark College Deadline
Approaching for Certificate

If you're still on the fence about submitting a program proposal, you can sit there for the weekend, but that's it. The deadline for submissions is Monday, June 5 at midnight. The [College Autism Summit](#) will be held in Nashville, October 18-20. We seek people and programs that will challenge us to think differently, deeply, and discerningly about our work (points given for alliteration). Our theme this year is "Finding a Balance." In every aspect of our work, seeking the appropriate balance of sometimes- competing factors is essential to excellent work and a healthy life. We are asking you to consider how to find the balance between:

- Research and practice
- Inclusion and rigor
- Individual and community interests
- How it's been done and what might work better
- What is needed and what is desired

[The Summit](#) is a place to *reflect, consider and pursue appropriate balances to improve our commitment* to supporting neurodiversity on campuses and in the workplace. Consider sharing your insights and experiences by presenting a breakout session or a poster.



ARE YOU A PROGRAM DIRECTOR/LEADER HEADING TO THE SUMMIT? JOIN YOUR PEERS FOR BREAKFAST

We're excited to bring you a new Summit tradition:

Breakfast of Champions : Coffee and Collaboration with Program Directors, a preconference session for program directors and leaders only, 9:00-11:45 on Wednesday October 18th.

in Learning Differences

Doctoral Student Seeks Professionals for Survey

Straight from the Heart: Students at the College of DuPage Share Their Stories



Start strong at the Summit by connecting with fellow program directors for breakfast on Wednesday morning! We will have a chance to listen to speaker Dr. Eric Endlich discuss student perceptions and expectations during the college search process . We will then have opportunities for constructive conversations surrounding today's "hot topics" in program management. You will have the opportunity to be both "expert" and "learner" during these discussions, and we will plan to have follow up opportunities during the conference and beyond! We are excited to see you there!



NEW THIS YEAR: GROWING THE NETWORK VIA THE SUMMIT STUDENT EXPERIENCE

This year, the [College Autism Summit](#) will feature the Summit Student Experience, an opportunity for autistic and neurodivergent students to attend the Summit, meet peer advocates from other campuses, learn about the College Autism Network, and share their perspectives on "Finding A Balance" in college autism research and practice. The Summit Student Experience includes:

- A student preconference session focused on advocacy, leveraging lived experience/expertise, and networking,
- An exclusive student roundtable with keynote speaker Russell Lehmann and
- Presenting a student plenary session for all conference attendees.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from [Mansfield Hall](#), the College Autism Network is awarding student travel scholarships of up to \$500 plus a waiver of the \$65 student registration fee. Interested students should apply [here](#) by July 15 or email helen.rottier@wisc.edu with questions.

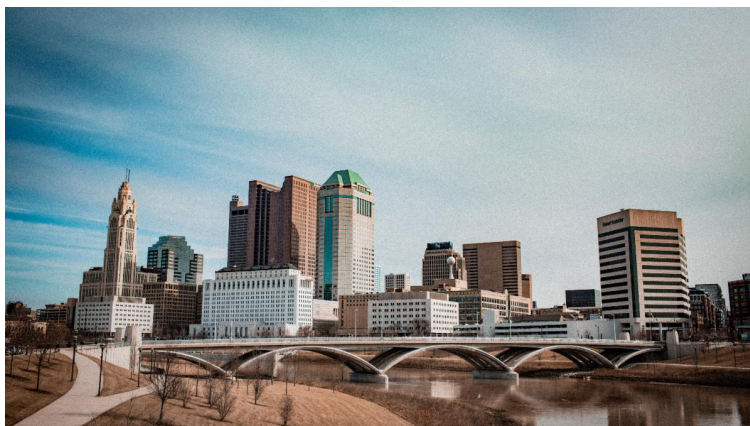
Decisions will be made in early August. Please share with any interested students in your network.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR CAN'S ANNUAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROGRAMS, EMPLOYMENT AND RESEARCH

To recognize the outstanding work being done by our colleagues, the College Autism Network seeks [nominations](#) for our annual College Autism Network Excellence in Autism Practice and Research Awards. Nominations may be submitted by colleagues, though self-nominations will also be accepted. Recipients will be recognized at the [2023 College Autism Summit](#). (You do not need to be present to receive the award). We seek nominations for three awards:

- Outstanding College Autism Support Program
 - Given to a college autism support program or initiative that has demonstrated excellence in implementation of evidence-guided practices.
- Outstanding Neurodiversity Workplace Initiative
 - Given to an employer who has established a workplace initiative that recruits and supports autistic and other neurodivergent employees and encourages professional growth and advancement.
- Outstanding Research on Autism in Higher Education
 - Given to an individual (or research team) who has, in the previous year (2022), produced original scholarship advancing research, policy, and/or practice in ways that facilitate college success for autistic students.

The deadline for nominations: June 15, 2023. Recipients will be notified by August 15.



OHIO STATE STUDENTS LAUNCH NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION

There are great things going on for autistic and neurodivergent students at The Ohio State University, including the [launch of a new student organization](#). We're excited to see where this takes the University!



TV AND MOVIE REPRESENTATION OF AUTISM STRUGGLES TO FIND THE RIGHT TONE

Last year's College Autism Summit included an interesting panel discussion with the cast of the Netflix series, "As We See It." This series is only the most recent television show featuring autistic characters (in this case, they were played by autistic actors). "The Good Doctor" has been around longer, and still generates controversy as reported in this [article from the Washington Post](#).



CERTIFICATE IN LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND NEURODIVERSITY - START THIS SUMMER

Landmark College has extended the application deadline to June 7 for courses in their 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. Summer courses running June 23 - August 20 are:

- “Student Engagement, Self-Regulation, and Motivation”
- “Understanding and Supporting Diverse Learners”

Check out the certificate [website](#) or contact Carol Beninati, Certificate Program Coordinator, at institute@landmark.edu or (802) 387-1662.

DOCTORAL STUDENT SEEKS PROFESSIONALS TO ANSWER SURVEY

Helen Rottier is an autistic PhD candidate in Disability Studies at the University of Illinois Chicago. Helen is currently working on her dissertation exploring similarities and differences between the peer support models employed by programs that support autistic postsecondary students. If you are currently employed by any program (autism-specific campus program, disability services program, disability cultural center) that supports autistic students at a single campus or across campuses in the United States, you are eligible to participate in a brief survey. This survey asks 16 questions, including multiple-choice and short answer, about peer mentoring in your program. Data collected will be used to create a clearer picture of peer support for autistic college students in the US. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. This research has been approved by the UIC Institutional Review Board (#2023-0370).

If you have any questions, please contact Helen at hrotti2@uic.edu or her advisor, Dr. Tamar Heller at theller@uic.edu.

Here is the [link to the online survey](#).



College of DuPage

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE STUDENTS SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES

It's always great when the mainstream media gives autistic students a chance to share what college looks like through their eyes. **Here are three** at the College of DuPage in Illinois willing to tell their stories.

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 2000 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.

The [College Autism Network](#) is supported in part by the [Frist Center for Autism and Innovation](#) at Vanderbilt University.

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