

**Subject:** What's up with CAN this month?  
**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 2:26:30 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** College Autism Network  
**To:** brittany@collegeautismnetwork.org



# College Autism Network News and Notes

*January 2024*

## SUMMIT ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE WORKS



We are very close to knowing where and when the 2024 College Autism Summit will happen. Watch for an email from us in the next two weeks, or keep an eye on our website where we will post this information as soon as we have everything firmed up.

## UNDERSTANDING ID/DD CAMPUS PROGRAMS: A WEBINAR FOR AUTISM AND ND PROFESSIONALS

## Newsletter Highlights

[Summit Update](#)

[Webinar on ID/DD Campus  
Programs January 29](#)

[Square One Returns!  
Starting a New Autism/ND  
Program](#)

[CANVAS First Call of the  
New Year January 19](#)

[Remembering and  
Forgetting One's Autism](#)

[Autism Comes to  
Broadway \(Again\)](#)

[Inside Higher Ed Takes a  
Look at Neurodiverse  
Employment](#)

[Funding Available for  
Autistic College Students](#)

[Landmark College Offers  
Exceptional Professional  
Development Opportunities](#)



Join us on Monday, January 29 at 3 pm ET for an informative [webinar](#), *Different Students, Distinct Programs: College Autism Support Programs for Enrolled Students Compared with Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability*. College campuses are experiencing growth in two distinct areas: programs that support autistic and other neurodivergent students who are working toward a degree, and inclusive non-degree programs for students with intellectual disability with a goal of competitive employment through university and industry-recognized credentials. Some campuses have one or the other, and other campuses have both types of programs. These programs differ in several ways (e.g., goals, structures, funding sources) and are often located in different parts of the institutional organizational chart. But from the outside, the existence of these programs can cause confusion for families of prospective students. Even within the university, faculty, staff and students might struggle to understand the differences, especially when the word “autism” is sometimes used in both programs’ marketing and descriptive language.

In this webinar, we will hear from directors of both types of programs, including several whose campuses host both. Panelists will articulate the differences (and similarities) and share their thoughts about how to best portray, and market, these programs to a public that is eager to find the best fit for a student. Attendees will learn about ID/DD programs, what makes them effective, how they differ from autism support programs, and how to effectively collaborate across programs to serve students successfully.

This webinar is *free* for members of the College Autism Network, and \$50 for non-

members. [Register here.](#)

## SQUARE ONE RETURNS! STARTING A NEW AUTISM SUPPORT PROGRAM



Back by popular demand! Square One is a two-day virtual instructional series for higher education professionals interested in launching a campus program or initiative to support autistic and other neurodivergent students. Facilitated by Jane Thierfeld Brown (College Autism Spectrum) and Amy Rutherford (UT Chattanooga's MOSAIC Program), the sessions will be held *March 21st from 12 pm to 5 pm ET and March 22 from 12 pm to 2 pm ET.*

Autism support programs take many forms, from small initiatives located in a disability services office to a fully-staffed stand-alone program serving many students across campus. All of these programs have one thing in common: they began with an idea and a plan to implement that idea. This two-day live instructional series is designed for campus-based professionals who are interested in launching a new program, or taking an existing program or initiative to a new level.

On Day One, the presenters will assist participants in determining campus needs, setting goals, gaining buy-in, budgeting and financing options, and exploring different staffing models. After a short break, presenters will share insights on transitional programming, the role of parents, mentoring and coaching supports, and effective campus training.

On Day Two, the presenters will focus on ensuring the success of the program, including information on gathering data to evaluate success, improving existing supports, and working towards continuous improvement. Day Two will conclude with a Q&A session for participants.

In addition to the dates in March, participants will attend three one-hour follow-up sessions with the instructors and fellow participants for additional support and informative discussion. The schedule for these sessions, which will take place in May, June and July, will be shared at the conclusion of Square One.

The cost for Square One is \$550 for CAN members (additional participants from same school: \$350) and \$750 for non-CAN members (additional participants from same school: \$450)

Square One participants will receive a 20 percent discount if their institution joins the College Autism Network (a \$60 or \$40 value, depending on membership), and a 20 percent discount to attend the College Autism Summit in October (an \$80 value if registering at the full price).

Registration will open on January 22. Space is limited. Please check the CAN website on or after that date.

## **CANVAS CALLS RESUME FOR 2024**



Join us for the first CANVAS call of the new year! Our first topic: *Exploring the Mental Healthcare Experiences of Autistic LGBTQIA+ Young Adults: Colleges as Facilitators to Care & Community*

- **Date:** Fri, Jan 19, 2024 at 2pm EST
- **Meeting Agenda:** [Sign up to attend here](#)
- **Meeting Link:** <https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/96569019954>
- **Presenter:** Lauren Baczewski, PhD (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Autism at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC.) and Project Advisory Board Members
- **Presentation Description:** This community-partnered project collected reflections of autistic LGBTQIA+ young adults on their mental health and mental healthcare experiences. A total of 20 autistic queer and trans young adults (ages 18-28 years old) from across the United States took part in oral or text-based interviews with our team. This presentation will give an overview of barriers and facilitators to accessing mental healthcare for our participants. In particular, we will highlight findings related to autistic queer and trans college students and how colleges can act as facilitators to help students get connected to affirming mental health care and

community. We look forward to hearing your reflections and invite your feedback.

## REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING ONE'S AUTISM



This is an [interesting read](#) from Psychology Today: “*Why I Sometimes Forget I’m Autistic*,” by Claire Jack, Ph.D. “These are the times when things are going well; when I’m [sleeping](#) reasonably, when I’m not challenged by anything out of the ordinary, and when I have time to care for myself creatively and physically. Given the unpredictability of life, inevitably something happens that triggers a response that is so extreme and derailing that it is a sharp reminder that I face significant struggles because of being autistic.”

## AUTISM COMES TO BROADWAY (AGAIN)



Who wouldn't love to go to New York City to see a musical about a group of autistic young adults from Columbus, OH? Here's your chance! ["How to Dance in Ohio"](#) opened in December at the Belasco Theatre. Based on Alexandra Shiva's documentary film of the same name, the musical has received great reviews. The New York Times called it a "feel-good milestone." You need one of those in your life! So buy your tickets, book your hotel room and make your way to Manhattan. Maybe you can even write it off as a business expense.

## INSIDE HIGHER ED GETS INTERESTED IN ND EMPLOYMENT ISSUE



There are lots of CAN friends mentioned in this [article in Inside Higher Ed](#), "Creating Career Pathways for Neurodiverse Students." The rest of the world is discovering what we've known for a while: "Disability advocates and college administrators whose institutions are increasingly enrolling neurodivergent students say businesses may be overlooking these potential job candidates to fill their employment needs,

especially at a time when the [labor market is relatively tight](#).” Kudos to the folks who are leading the way, on both the employment and campus sides.

### FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR AUTISTIC COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM THE ORGANIZATION FOR AUTISM RESEARCH (OAR)



Every year, OAR awards scholarships to support autistic students in the pursuit of their postsecondary educational goals. OAR offers three types of scholarships: the Schwallie Family Scholarship, the Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarship, and the Synchrony Scholarship for Autistic Students of Color. These \$3,000 scholarships support eligible students in their postsecondary education, including four-year undergraduate colleges; two-year undergraduate colleges; life skills or postsecondary programs; or vocational, technical, or trade schools. These are one-time scholarships. Applicants are limited to one application submission per cycle. OAR is accepting applications for the 2024 Scholarship Program now until April 22, 2024, at 11:59 pm EST. [Apply now.](#)



### LANDMARK COLLEGE HOSTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

See below for two outstanding opportunities: an 8-week online course leading to a certificate and an online event

focused on neurodiversity and employment.

**[Certificate or PD Courses in LD & Neurodiversity - Apply by Jan. 18](#)** (deadline extended)

The new year is a great time to take an 8-week online course in “Social and Emotional Supports for Autistic Students” or to start Landmark College’s highly regarded, graduate-level online certificate in Learning Differences and Neurodiversity with one of three specializations:

- Autism on Campus and Online
- Executive Function
- Postsecondary Disability Services

January 18 is the application deadline if you’re interested in any of the following four courses, each running February 2 - March 31:

- Understanding and Supporting Diverse Learners
- Social and Emotional Supports for Autistic Students
- Student Engagement, Self-Regulation, and Motivation
- Understanding Disability Documentation, Accommodations, and ADA Compliance

For details visit [landmark.edu/certificate](https://landmark.edu/certificate), or email [institute@landmark.edu](mailto:institute@landmark.edu).

**[Workplace Neurodiversity Summit: Preparing Neurodivergent Students for the Job Market](#)**

Online, February 6, 2024

Hosted by Landmark College, this online Workplace Neurodiversity Summit is essential for career services and internship program directors, diversity and inclusion coordinators, transition staff, neurodiversity program managers, disability resource professionals, and more.

**Featuring:**

**Keynote: “Transitioning from College to Work with ADHD”** Ari Tuckman, PsyD, MBA, Author and Psychologist

**“Things Every Neurodivergent Student Seeking Employment Should Know”** Courtney Carroll, Manager, Hire Autism, Organization for Autism Research

**“Neurodiverse Spoon Theory: An Examination of Burnout and Employee Wellbeing”** Marlee Bickford-Bushey and Natascia M. Pica, M.Ed. Career Connections, Landmark College

**“Spotlight on Neurodivergent Employees: Personal Experiences and Strategies”** Panel of neurodivergent

employees. Moderated by Jan Coplan, Director of Career Connections, Landmark College

[Learn more and register at this link](#), or email [institute@landmark.edu](mailto:institute@landmark.edu)

*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.*

College Autism Network | 19 Ocean View Ave, Mystic, CT 06355

[Unsubscribe](#) [brittany@collegeautismnetwork.org](mailto:brittany@collegeautismnetwork.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [lee@collegeautismnetwork.org](mailto:lee@collegeautismnetwork.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!