

Subject: What's up with CAN this month? Lots.

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College Autism Network News and Notes

February 2024

**COLLEGE AUTISM SUMMIT 2024: PACK YOUR BAGS
FOR COLUMBUS, OHIO!**



When we mention Columbus to people, there is one of two responses:

- 1) I've never been there, or
- 2) I LOVE Columbus!

The conclusion we have drawn is that if you've been there, you love it. And if you haven't, you need to go. So...we're excited to announce that this year's Summit will take place in beautiful downtown Columbus at the lovely Renaissance Hotel with support from our friends at nearby (The) Ohio State University. The dates for the Summit are **October 13-16** with preconference workshops and

Newsletter Highlights

[The Summit! O-H-I-O!](#)

[Virtual Conference--
Halfway to the Summit](#)

[Square One Returns:
Starting a New Program?](#)

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[NYTimes Article Worth
Reading, Sharing](#)



activities taking place on Sunday, October 13 and our opening session first thing Monday morning. As details become available, we'll post them on the [Summit site](#), including the Call for Programs (opens April 1), the opening of registration (March 1) and hotel reservation information (March 1). For now, mark your calendars and start counting the days till the start of the best autism and higher education conference in the country.

Want to know more about the Summit (and CAN)? Need to convince your boss to send you? Enjoy our new [8-minute video](#) that explains it all for you.

MEANWHILE...A NEW VIRTUAL CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY! HALFWAY TO THE SUMMIT: SURVEYING THE LANDSCAPE OF NEURODIVERSITY AND COLLEGE, MARCH 28 AND APRIL 4



We are halfway to the annual College Autism Summit and it's time to stop, catch our breath and look around at the landscape of autism, neurodiversity and higher education. We're excited to announce a two-part *virtual* conference on **Thursday, March 28 and Thursday, April 4 from 12 pm till 4:30 pm ET**. Join your colleagues for *two* virtual half-day professional learning opportunities offering in-depth exploration of some of the most important topics of the day.

[Halfway to the Summit](#) includes six important topics (mental health, disclosure, student readiness and more). Each session will include useful content, presented live and followed by extended opportunity for discussion with presenters and colleagues, all in an easy-to-access and affordable virtual format. Join for one or both days. Come prepared to learn and discuss in a format that allows for a deep dive into important issues in our work.

For more information, including speaker bios and schedule, visit the [website](#), where you can also register. The cost for CAN members is \$75, and \$125 for non-members. Deadline for registration is **March 26**.

SQUARE ONE RETURNS! STARTING A NEW PROGRAM STARTS HERE



If your campus is thinking about developing a new program for autistic and other neurodivergent students, [Square One](#) is the place to start. This is a *two-afternoon* virtual workshop led by experienced program leaders and consultants Jane Thierfeld Brown and Amy Rutherford, designed for higher education professionals. Autism support programs take many forms, from small initiatives in a disability services office to a fully-staffed stand-alone program serving many students. They all started with a plan. [Square One](#) helps you develop that plan and launches you on the road to a successful program implementation.

Square One will take place on **Thursday, March 21st from 12 pm to 5 pm ET, and Friday, March 22 from 12 pm to 2 pm**. Also included in the registration fee are three follow-up sessions in May, June and July to check in on your progress, brainstorm ideas and reconnect with your classmates.

The registration fee for these ten hours of content is \$550 for CAN members (additional team members from the same school: \$350), or \$750 for non-CAN members

(additional team members \$450). This is a very cost-effective way to get excellent support and mentorship, and become part of a cohort of professionals on the same path. For more information and to register, please visit the [Square One website](#). The deadline for registration is **March 15**.

AUTISM SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES



Our friends at Top College Consultants maintain a [list of scholarships, internships and other opportunities](#) for autistic students, and have let us share this valuable info with our readers. If you have any questions about this excellent resource, please contact them directly at info@topcollegeconsultants.com.

CNDEI INTRODUCES A NEW NEUROINCLUSIVE CANDIDATE NETWORK

UConn

CENTER FOR NEURODIVERSITY AND EMPLOYMENT INNOVATION

Our friends at the Center for Neurodiversity Employment and Innovation have launched a new tool to support neurodivergent employment. The Neuro-Inclusive Candidate Network (NCN) helps neurodivergent and autistic students and alumni attain rewarding full-time careers by providing educational content to help them with their job search and connecting them with inclusive employers through internship and job postings. The Network's aim is to help them find suitable roles that align with their skills and aspirations, contributing to a diverse and inclusive professional environment.

College students and recent alumni who identify as neurodivergent can [click here](#) to visit their website and sign up for the NCN. NCN resources include interactive workshops and articles that address topics such as how/when to disclose neurodiversity and how to effectively communicate skills and talents. The NCN also provides alerts for internships and job postings at neurodivergent friendly companies who are committed to hiring, integrating, and valuing people who think differently.

For more information, contact cndei@uconn.edu.

NYT ARTICLE IS A GREAT ONE TO SHARE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The February 1 New York Times featured an [article](#) about an autistic school board member in Enfield, CT who successfully sued the town and school board for failing to accommodate her disability. While she was awarded just \$10 (for reasons the article explains), this situation is an interesting one to discuss with colleagues who are trying to better understand how autism may impact student learning and interactions on campus and in the classroom. Simon Baron-Cohen and John Elder Robinson are quoted, and UDL gets an (unnamed) shout-out.

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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