

Subject: What's up with CAN this month? Lots. No, Really. Lots.
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College Autism Network News and Notes

March 2024

**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

Newsletter Highlights

Meet us Halfway! A Virtual Mini-conference for Higher Ed Autism Pros: Register by March 26

New Autism or ND Program in the Works? Start at Square One to Find Success: Register by March 15

Come to Columbus! College Autism Summit Registration Opens March 15

Neurodiversity Teaching Workshop for STEM Faculty at UConn May 22-23

Where Does That Money Come From? Learn About VR and Other Funding Sources

Free Online Autism Support Course for Career Services Pros

A Great Listen: The Special Needs Voice Podcast with Dr. Keivan Stassun

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.

As we like to say at CAN: Content+Connection=Professional Growth

For more information, including speaker bios and schedule, visit the [website](#), where you can also register. The cost for CAN members is \$50, 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

Summer Asperger's/Autism
Employment Coach
Certification Offered

Rolling Stone Talks TV and
Autistic Characters

Eye Contact: Does it
Matter?



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**.

COLLEGE AUTISM SUMMIT REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 15



Join us in Columbus, OH, October 13-16. The Call for Programs Opens on **April 1**. We are excited to explore a new city and bring the Summit to a new community. Watch for a special email announcing the opening of registration, and start thinking about the amazing program proposal you're going to submit. [The Summit](#) is the premier higher education autism event, thanks to the generosity of our many presenters who share the excellent work going on across the country and beyond.

ND TEACHING WORKSHOP AT UCONN



The UConn INCLUDE project announces the launch of its first Summer Institute for Neuroinclusive Teaching! This 1.5-day in person workshop (**May 22 and 23**) will prepare faculty across STEM disciplines to support and empower neurodiverse students in the classroom, sharing best practices and insights learned from the NSF INCLUDE project. Information and registration can be found at [this link](#).

WHERE DOES THAT MONEY COME FROM?



Sometimes we hear about a program that gets financial support through state or federal programs, including vocational rehabilitation services. How does that work? What do we know about these funds and whether they can be tapped to support college students? Liz Green, Occupational Therapist and founder of LinkTalent, will join us on the next Program Directors' call on **Tuesday, March 12 at 4 pm ET**. Watch your email for the meeting link. If you're not on our Program Leaders' list but would like to be so you can hear about our fun and informative Zoom calls, [email Lee](#) and request to be added to the list.

FREE ONLINE AUTISM SUPPORT COURSE FOR CAREER SERVICES PROS



Autism Career Empowerment (ACE) is a 13-module asynchronous curriculum designed to assist career services professionals who want to better understand the goals and needs of autistic students seeking support for post-graduate career opportunities. This free resource is supported by the [Frist Center for Autism and Innovation](#) and CAN. If you have career services colleagues who could use some tips on working more effectively with autistic and other ND students, encourage them to take advantage of this amazing resource. [Register here](#). Just scroll down to the “Autism Career Empowerment Link.”

A GREAT LISTEN: THE SPECIAL NEEDS VOICE PODCAST WITH DR. KEIVAN STASSUN



Speaking of the Frist Center, director Keivan Stassun recently appeared on a podcast, *The Special Needs Voice*, [found here](#) on Spotify. Keivan talks about own childhood (including his dream to be an astronaut), his son (who inspires his work), and the Frist Center’s efforts to partner with others to improve employment opportunities for neurodiverse individuals.

SUMMER ASPERGER'S/AUTISM EMPLOYMENT COACH CERTIFICATION OFFERED



Summer 2024 Group Begins June 13! This comprehensive, 8-week program features weekly, live sessions over the Internet, plus a 6-week supervised practicum. It is approved for 19.5 Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF) credits.

Learn how to coach individuals with Asperger's Syndrome and similar autism spectrum profiles to choose the right job or career, find an internship/employment, and stay hired. The program combines instruction, mentoring and weekly assignments with personalized feedback. A variety of spectrum profiles are presented, along with tools and techniques to address communication, executive function and sensory processing difficulties.

The program is presented by Barbara Bissonnette, Principal, Forward Motion Coaching. She shares tips and techniques honed during her work with more than 1,000 clients.

Group size is **limited!** For details and to request an application, visit the Forward Motion Coaching website (www.ForwardMotion.info) or email Barbara@ForwardMotion.info.

ROLLING STONE WEIGHS IN ON VALUE OF AUTISTIC REPRESENTATION IN TELEVISION



Are shows like “The Good Doctor” and “Love on the Spectrum” helping or hurting autism awareness? RS journalist Kalia Richardson offers an opinion in this interesting article. The article cites this more academic article, [Examining the Authenticity of Autistic Portrayals in US Adult and Children’s Television Shows Using Medical and Social Models of Disability](#).

EYE CONTACT STUDIES IN AUTISTIC ADULTS



Here’s another [interesting article](#) that summarizes some recent studies on the topic of eye contact from the Healthline website. Is eye contact important? Or overrated?

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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