

Subject: Ba-dee-ya, Dancin' in September
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College Autism Network News and Notes

September 2024

**SUMMIT EARLY RATES END
SEPTEMBER 23!**



If you're planning to join us at this year's [College Autism Summit](#), don't forget to register by September 23 to get our early rate. See you in Columbus!

**THE SUMMIT PLANNERS HAVE
SOMETHING TO SAY**

Newsletter Highlights

The Summit Planners Have
Something to Say

New Federal Guidance on
Voc Rehab Funding

Next CANVAS Call: Faculty
Response to Autistic
Students, Sept 13, 2 pm

Next CAN Program Leaders'
Call: So, How are you
Doing? Sept 18, 4 pm

Facilitator Opportunity -
Neurodiversity and the
Workplace - with
Mitchell College

CAN Programs in the News:
Mercyhurst University

Interesting Stuff from
Around the Internet:
Connecting with ND Girls





You've heard from past [College Autism Summit](#) attendees and presenters about why the Summit figures into their professional development plans. But there's another important group: the professionals who spend ten months planning the next Summit. Why, of all the things they could be doing, would they choose to help plan an outstanding Summit? If you're still on the fence about attending, maybe their words will convince you:

“I believe strongly in the importance of creating inclusive and supportive experiences and environments for autistic college students. This Summit is a wonderful opportunity to be in a space with researchers and practitioners who are all focused on the same goal, sharing best practices and developing meaningful connections.” --*Jodi Duke, George Mason University*

“This is my 8th summit and 5th year being part of the planning committee. I have watched it grow from 70 attendees to over 300, increase the involvement of autistic leaders, and welcome students as attendees and presenters. It's so amazing to be surrounded by greatness.” --*Cherie Fishbaugh, West Chester University*

“Helping plan the Summit is a fulfilling experience, not only as a means of facilitating the development of an event that provides education about, supports, and honors the perspectives of autistic college students, but also in reflecting my own lived experiences as someone autistic in higher education.” --*Brett Nachman, University of Pittsburgh*

“The work of the Summit is important. It represents the best opportunity for Neurotypical and Neurodivergent researchers, practitioners, and students to collaborate on this critical area.” --*John Caldora, Sacred Heart University*

“Before I joined the Summit Planning Committee, I had attended and presented at two virtual Summits. I had the

chance to meet and learn from brilliant researchers and practitioners who were doing similar work. I joined the planning committee to get more involved and connected with what I consider my professional home base.” --*Helen Rottier, University of Wisconsin*

“The conversations that are generated at this conference always spur new ideas and help me identify new ways I can assist the autistic students at my own institution, which is invaluable!” --*Brittany Jackson, Hiram College*

And the *best* part of the Summit for me is working with these and the other planning team members to put on an amazing event. We hope you’ll join us in Columbus, October 13-16. [Register online.](#) --*Lee Williams*

NEW FEDERAL GUIDANCE ON VOC REHAB FUNDING



One of the most vexing problems faced by our members, specifically autism support program leaders, is how to help families obtain funding to cover the cost of a fee-based autism program. New guidance from the U.S. Department of Education’s Rehabilitation Services Administration outlines the way that state-based VR agencies should respond to requests for out-of-state services.

[This article from Disability Scoop](#) describes in more detail how students seeking to enroll in out-of-state programs might be able to receive funding. It may be too early to tell how well this will actually work, but it is cause for some guarded optimism among program leaders and families seeking to cross state lines to find the best match

for an autistic college student.

NEXT CANVAS CALL: FACULTY RESPONSE TO AUTISTIC STUDENTS, SEPT 13, 2 PM ET



Join our CANVAS research community on Friday, September 13 at 2 pm ET for a presentation by Dana Kanhai (Ph.D., Higher, Adult & Lifelong Education at Michigan State University, Talent Development Specialist), who will share some key findings from their dissertation research which explored faculty perceptions of their supportive behaviors toward autistic college students.

[Sign up here](#) and view the agenda if you plan to attend. And here's the [meeting link](#).

NEXT PROGRAM LEADERS' CALL: SO, HOW ARE YOU DOING? SEPTEMBER 18, 4 PM ET



First few weeks of the semester feel like you're riding an excitable horse? Join your fellow program leaders for a relaxed and interesting conversation about how the year is starting off. Share some ideas and concerns, hear about some new strategies, reassure yourself that you are not alone doing this important work! Take a few minutes to complete this [short Google form](#) to contribute to the conversation. The meeting link will be shared through the Program Directors' list. If you're not on that list and should be, please contact [Lee](#) to be added.

**FACILITATOR OPPORTUNITY -
NEURODIVERSITY AND THE WORKPLACE -
WITH MITCHELL COLLEGE**



MITCHELL HUB

**Digital Innovation &
Educational Excellence**

The Mitchell Hub, the professional learning and upskilling arm of Mitchell College, provides online learning and learner support for individuals and employers seeking to develop employee professional and industry skills. In keeping with Mitchell College's commitment to transformative and inclusive learning communities, the Hub is developing neuro-equitable and accessible online learning to advance learners, workers, and leaders within their professional and personal spaces.

The Mitchell Hub is seeking professionals with experience in the intersection of neurodiversity and the workplace to facilitate workshops and hybrid courses for business partners and working professionals. These are compensated opportunities. Learning can range from one-time webinars and workshops (stipend is \$200) to multi-week video conferencing sessions. On-site session facilitators receive a stipend of \$300, and seminar facilitators receive a stipend of up to \$1000.

Neuroequity Mentors need to have experience and academic/training background in neurodiversity in adults and in business skills/productivity. Experience as a workplace coach, facilitator, or other similar experience is valued. Facilitators will bring their lived experience to the sessions and seminars to share with learners and respond to questions.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Karen Bellnier, bellnier_k@mitchell.edu. You can learn more about Mitchell College (www.mitchell.edu) and the Mitchell Hub (hub.mitchell.edu) online.

PROGRAMS IN THE NEWS

**MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY CONTINUES
TRADITION OF PREPARING STUDENTS
FOR WORK**



MERCYHURST
UNIVERSITY

We're glad to see longtime program AIM at Mercyhurst University get some [local recognition](#) for the great work it does, especially in the area of workforce transition.

INTERESTING ARTICLES FROM AROUND THE INTERNET AND OTHER PLACES

AUSTRALIA SEES IMPROVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF NEURODIVERGENT GIRLS



Many neurodivergent girls grow up to be neurodivergent college students. Our Australian friends are [recognizing the benefits](#) of early connections and support for the many autistic and ND girls who spend too much energy masking who they are.

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 2400 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 large part by the [Frist Center for Autism and Innovation](#) at Vanderbilt University.

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