



College Autism Network

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For immediate release:

Gillespie-Lynch Receives Outstanding Researcher of the Year Award

On Tuesday, October 15, the College Autism Network named Kristen Gillespie-Lynch the recipient of its 2024 Outstanding Research on Autism in Higher Education award.

Dr. Gillespie-Lynch is Professor of Developmental and Educational Psychology at the College of Staten Island (CSI) and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is the Director of CSI's Advanced Certificate Program in Autism, and leads and evaluates a mentorship program for autistic college students at CSI. Her research topics are wide-ranging, including employment skills, identity development, and mentoring. Dr. Gillespie-Lynch is known among her peers as "both generous and talented, always working to elevate emerging scholars around her with wisdom, humor and great mentorship," according to one nominator. "She is one of the foremost scholars on issues around autism and education, with a particular focus in higher education spaces. She conducts major endeavors, many of which have a participatory action research lens, while also working to elevate emergent scholars around her. She inspires us all to boost the perspectives of autistic college students, practice an ethic of care, and collaborate with intentionality and passion."

The College Autism Network is a national nonprofit organization that links varied stakeholders engaged in evidence-guided efforts to improve access, experiences and outcomes for autistic college students. Founded in 2016, CAN supports research, training and advocacy with a goal of helping colleges and universities improve their services to autistic students.

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