

**Subject:** CAN's newsletter is better than a bowl of warm oatmeal on a cold morning.  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 10:32:24 AM Eastern Standard Time  
**From:** College Autism Network  
**To:** brittany@collegeautismnetwork.org



# College Autism Network News and Notes

*December 2024*

## NEURODIVERSITY AND UDL: A FRIENDSHIP WORTH FOSTERING



Join instructional designer and neurodiversity consultant Sarah Silverman at 4 pm ET on Wednesday, December 11, as she explores the ways in which Universal Design for Learning and a neurodiversity framework combine to

## Newsletter Highlights

UDL and Neurodiversity  
Webinar, December 11

CAN Leaders Featured on  
The Autism Weekly Podcast

Program Leaders Zoom Call:  
Celebrate With Your CAN  
Community

CAN Member Recognized  
for Outstanding ND Support

CANVAS Calls--A New  
Semester Awaits

CAN Heads to Mesa, AZ in  
February

Seeking Pilot Schools for  
Autism Inclusive Campus  
Designation

Interesting Stuff from  
Around the Internet



create powerful learning environments. Sarah will clarify the areas of overlap between Neurodiversity Theory and UDL, and where these two frameworks may disagree or diverge. She will discuss ways in which Neurodiversity Theory and activism may help to inform and shape the implementation of UDL to support neurodivergent students, with a specific focus on how communication differences can be respected and honored using UDL. The webinar is free for CAN members, and \$50 for non-members. [Register here.](#)

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## BRAD COX AND BRETT NACHMAN APPEAR ON THE AUTISM WEEKLY PODCAST



Grab your earbuds and give a listen to Brad and Brett as they discuss their groundbreaking research, the PEACES Project. How will their research make a difference in the lives and educational experiences of autistic college students? What makes this project particularly challenging, and why is it worth doing? All good questions. These and more will be answered during this [one-hour conversation](#) with Autism Weekly host Jeff Skibitsky. Or, if you like a visual experience, [join them instead on YouTube.](#)

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## PROGRAM LEADERS' CONVERSATION AND HOLIDAY CHEER, DECEMBER 18 AT 4 PM ET



Join your colleagues from autism support programs around the country and beyond for a casual conversation on Zoom. We'll share some of this semester's lessons learned, resources discovered, questions pondered. Bring one, two or all three of these to share with others. Our Program Leaders' Calls are one of the best benefits of being part of the CAN community--a place where you can find others who get you, see you, and cheer you on. If you're not on our Program Leaders' listserv (which is where we'll share the link), please [email Lee](#) to be added to that list.

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## CANVAS CALLS FOR SPRING ARE GONNA BE LIT!



Not entirely sure what that means, but Brett is putting together a great lineup of cutting-edge autism and neurodiversity researchers. If you're not on the CANVAS mailing list but want to be, please email [Brett](#). Otherwise, watch for a schedule to come out soon so you can mark

your calendars.

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## CAN HEADS TO MESA, AZ IN FEBRUARY



## Building Bridges to College and Beyond for Autistic Students

We're excited to head to the warm Southwest for CAN's first "local" conference. "Building Bridges to College and Beyond for Autistic Students" is a 2-day conference for both future autistic college students and their families and higher education professionals seeking to learn how best to support them. This very affordable event, to be held February 20 and 21, is being organized by a multi-campus committee representing Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University and Mesa Community College, which is hosting the conference. Our sponsors include the ASU Schools of Engineering and The Precisionists, Inc. If you're in or near Arizona and would like to join us, or if you would like to sponsor or participate in our Info and Encouragement Fair, you can find more information at our [website](#).

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## INTERESTING STUFF FROM AROUND THE INTERNET

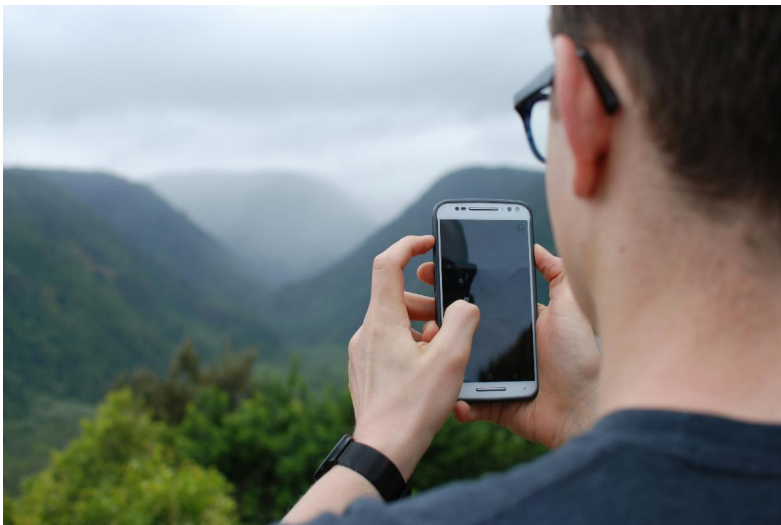
### STUDY SHOWS GENDER IDENTITY AND AUTISM MAY IMPACT SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIOR



[A recent study involving data](#) collected through the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment highlights the suicide risk that autistic and transgender or gender non-confirming (TGNC) individuals experience. “Based on the current findings, students who identify as both TGNC and autistic are at particularly high risk of suicide attempts. Among TGNC students, autistic individuals showed the highest rates of suicide attempts, although their risk did not significantly exceed that of autistic cisgender students or non-autistic TGNC students,” according to the researchers. This study confirms what many autism support professionals already know: that recognizing and responding to mental health difficulties must always be top-of-mind when working with neurodivergent students.

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## SMART PHONES AND AUTISM: A RECENT STUDY



Three Chinese researchers took a look at the relationship between autism and smartphones. Based on the Interaction of Person-Affect-Cognition-Execution (I-PACE) model, [this study](#) aimed to explore the relationship between autistic traits and problematic smartphone use (PSU) among Chinese adolescents and to examine the serial mediation effect of anxiety and executive dysfunction in the association between autistic traits and PSU. Interesting read.

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*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 2900 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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