

Subject: CAN's newsletter: Doing its part to get 2025 off to a good start
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College Autism Network News and Notes

January 2025

JOIN US AT THE SUMMIT IN NOVEMBER!



It's a city with 446 bridges (more than Venice). It has several nicknames including the Steel City and Picklesburgh. It's the home of the Andy Warhol Museum and was the site of the world's first Ferris wheel. That's right! WE'RE GOING TO PITTSBURGH! Mark your calendars for our ninth annual College Autism Summit, November 2-5, in the beautiful City of Bridges, home of the Steelers, Pirates, Penguins and 27 colleges and universities.

The [Westin](#) will be our host venue. Stay tuned for more details including our Call for Proposals, the opening of registration and hotel reservations. For now, save the dates and start dreaming of America's best pierogies.

Newsletter Highlights

The 2025 College Autism Summit Will Be Held In...

CAN Heads to Mesa, AZ in February

CANVAS Calls--A New Semester Awaits!

Summer Internships with Southwest Airlines

Landmark College Offers ND Certificate

Interesting Stuff from Around the Internet



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 Presenting Partner is [Landmark College](#) and our sponsors include the ASU [Fulton Schools of Engineering](#), the University of Arizona's [SALT Center](#), [Scottsdale Community College](#), [FirstPlace-Phoenix](#) 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](#).

SPRING CANVAS PRESENTATIONS PROMISE TO DAZZLE AND INFORM



We told you! Romance, pedagogy, burnout, well-being. Our CANVAS lineup has it all. Here is the schedule for this semester:

Thursday, Jan 16 at 12pm EST

Meeting Agenda:

[Sign up to attend here](#)

[Meeting Link](#) is here.

“Exploring Romantic Experiences of College Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Seeking and Maintaining Relationships.”

Presenters: Nicole Noble, PhD, LPC-S (Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center) and Carlos Castañeda, PhD, LPC, NCC (Assistant Professor, St. Edward's University)

This session explores the romantic experiences of college students with ASD, focusing on their efforts to seek and maintain romantic relationships. Drawing from nine years of data, including 1,805 written reports from monthly meetings with support personnel working with 124 college students with ASD, the presentation identifies key themes, such as the perceived benefits of engaging in romantic relationships and the barriers encountered throughout the process of seeking, attaining, and maintaining them.

Tuesday, Feb 25 at 12pm EST

“Integrating Neuroinclusive Pedagogy into Practice”

Presenters: Anirudh Subramaniam (Student, The Ohio State

University) and Andrew Buck, PhD (Research Scientist, Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center)

This presentation examines the prospects of a faculty and staff self-paced neurodiversity training program that is informed by literature, survey research, and student voice. The purpose of the training program is to promote awareness of neurodiversity and neurodivergence and cultivate neuroinclusive pedagogy amongst faculty and staff members, in order to foster an accessible, inclusive, safe, and equitable learning environment for all students.

Friday, March 21 at 12pm EST

“Managing Academic Burnout: A Qualitative Study of Neurodivergent College Students”

Presenters: Adam Lalor, Ph.D. (Vice President of Neurodiversity Research and Innovation, Landmark College) and Rick Bryck, Ph.D. (Senior Director, Institute for Research and Training, Landmark College)

This session will describe both the process used to mentor a student-led research project—undertaken by neurodivergent college students—and the methods, results, and implications of the study results. Previous research highlights that academic burnout significantly affects college students' academic performance and that neurodivergent students encounter unique challenges in higher education compared to their neurotypical peers. Yet, there is a lack of research addressing the coping mechanisms utilized by neurodivergent students to manage academic burnout.

Tuesday, April 15 at 1pm EST

“Neurodivergent Students' Perceptions of Their Social-Emotional Well-Being and Related University Support Services”

Presenter: Lauren Mathews M.S., CCC-SLP (Clinical Professor, Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, University of North Texas)

This presentation provides the results of a qualitative pilot study examining four neurodivergent college students' perceptions regarding their social-emotional well-being and university supports. Their descriptors and perceptions of their lived experiences provide real-life examples of their social-emotional strengths/challenges experienced

while attending a 4-year university located in the north Texas area. The gained insight into their experiences and support preferences/deterrents can facilitate informed decision-making on what should be in place to best support all facets of their well-being.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES OFFERS SUMMER INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Here's a note from our friends at Southwest Airlines:

It's time to start thinking about your summer plans. Southwest Airlines is proud to offer many great internship opportunities, where you contribute to meaningful work and help our Teams make real business decisions that impact our Employees and Customers daily.

One opportunity that might interest you is our Campus Reach Neurodiversity Internship Program designed for neurodivergent individuals with autism. This summer internship focuses on careers in technology and is tailored to provide valuable work experience, career coaching, and mentorship. From the time an application is submitted, to the end of the summer internship, students will be supported to showcase and grow their strengths, abilities, and potential.

Join us from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. CT on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, for an information session to learn about the program, eligibility requirements, and more. Please visit [this site](#) to register. After the information session concludes the hosts will be happy to answer any questions you have.

LANDMARK COLLEGE OFFERS ND CERTIFICATE



LANDMARK COLLEGE

The new year is a great time to take an 8-week online course in “Social and Emotional Supports for Autistic Students” or to start Landmark College’s highly regarded, graduate-level online certificate in Learning Differences and Neurodiversity with one of three specializations:

- Autism on Campus and Online
- Executive Function
- Postsecondary Disability Services

January 19 is the next application deadline if you’re interested in any of the following courses, each running February 7 - April 6:

- Understanding and Supporting Diverse Learners
- Social and Emotional Supports for Autistic Students
- Student Engagement, Self-Regulation, and Motivation
- Understanding Disability Documentation, Accommodations, and Legal Compliance

For details, visit the [certificate website](#) or contact Carol Beninati, Certificate Program Coordinator, at institute@landmark.edu or 802-387-1662.

INTERESTING STUFF FROM AROUND THE INTERNET



Here's a great [local news piece](#) about a University of Alabama student who participated in the UA-ACTS program and credits it for her success. These one-off stories are incredibly important in making sure the public knows that autistic students have options if they find the right support system.

Please encourage families to take advantage of CAN's [Autism Specific College Support Program](#) database as well as [Inclusive Academia's YouTube Channel](#) and [College-Ready's College Readiness Checklist](#) (and workbook) for Neurodivergent Students. Getting students onto the right path for academic success is one of CAN's most important goals. Like Belle, who found her way to UA-ACTS and CAN member Megan Davis's team, autistic students constantly demonstrate their capacity to succeed in the right environment.

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

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