

Subject: CAN's May Newsletter: Rounding the Turn, Heading for the Finish!

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College Autism Network News and Notes

May 2025

LAST CALL FOR COLLEGE AUTISM SUMMIT PROGRAM PROPOSALS



What makes the [College Autism Summit](#) (to be held in Pittsburgh November 2-5) an excellent professional development event? You do! The high quality of programs, presentations, panels, posters and a lot of other amazing alliterative activities are what make our event educational, exciting and excellent. *The deadline is days away: May 23.* So, let's review: Propose to present in Pittsburgh. Programs. Posters. Panels. Please.

SQUARE ONE: START HERE TO BUILD A NEW AUTISM/NEURODIVERSITY PROGRAM

Newsletter Highlights

Summit Proposal Deadline
is May 23

"Square One" Course to
Build a New Autism
Program Starts Next Month

Parent Summer Webinar
Series Announced

Resource List to Keep Up
With Trump Administration
Education War Plans

An Impressive New
Resource for Autistic High
School Students and Their
Families

Microsoft Celebrates Ten
Years of Neurodiversity
Hiring Leadership

CANVAS Call for May on
Experiences of BIPOC ND
College Students

Interesting Stuff from
Around the Internet



Are you in the process of developing a new autism support program? Or do you have a new program and want to supercharge it with proven strategies? You'll want to sign up for [Square One](#), a two-day (7-hour) virtual instructional series for higher education professionals interested in launching a campus program or initiative to support autistic and other neurodivergent students. Our faculty this year are Amy Rutherford of College Autism Spectrum (former director of UT-Chattanooga's Mosaic Program) and Lorraine Wolf, former Director of Disability Services at Boston University and co-author of "Students with Asperger's Syndrome: A Guide for College Personnel and co-developer of "Strategic Education for the Autism Spectrum," a widely adopted support model for students on the autism spectrum in higher education.

Sessions will be held June 11th from 12 pm to 5 pm ET and June 12th 12 pm to 2 pm ET. To register, [please use this link](#). Registration deadline is June 1.

PARENT WEBINAR SERIES ANNOUNCED BY CAN AND COLLEGE-READY





The college search landscape can be confusing, especially for families with an autistic student who may need extra support to succeed academically. What can be requested? What's reasonable? How do you know if a student is ready for college? Our summer series, [Autistic Students: College Readiness and Reasonable Expectations](#), is designed to answer some of the most common questions families have--a win-win for families and for the campus-based and other support staff who work with autistic and other neurodivergent students and who want the best transition to college possible.

This low-cost series tackles four areas of questions: housing, mental health, career support and transitional program options. Each webinar will feature four professionals with hands-on experience supporting autistic college students. If you're a parent--[please sign up!](#) If you're a program leader, please [share this resource](#) with families exploring your services (and join us--it's free for CAN members).

RESOURCE LIST TO KEEP UP WITH TRUMP ADMINISTRATION EDUCATION WAR PLANS



This is a handy set of resources to help you keep track of what's going on in the administration's efforts to restructure—dismantle—do something to higher education:

- [Higher Education & The Trump Administration](#) - Resources created in response to President Trump's executive orders related to higher education compiled by the American Council on Education.
- [Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#) - The determined and diligent folks at ASAN, whose advocacy for autistic individuals of all ages has no peer, are great at keeping issues front and center on their website.
- [Protecting Higher Education - A Communications Toolkit: Speak Up for Higher Education](#) - A website created and maintained by the National Education Association offering resources across a variety of public policy topics important to higher education.

And one last link, [an article from Time](#), that makes clear the hypocrisy of simultaneously calling for new research and decimating years of rigorous research on autism.

A NEW RESOURCE FOR AUTISTIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES



We are very excited to share this terrific website, [College for All](#), created by high school student Ellie Rosenthal, for autistic students who are thinking about college but find the usual resources a bit too...formal. Ellie wanted to create a site and a resource that would appeal to students her own age. Kids these days! They do amazing things. We're proud to be Ellie's partner for this effort. Please share it widely.

MICROSOFT CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF NEURODIVERSITY HIRING LEADERSHIP



We extend our thanks and congratulations to Microsoft which is marking ten years of leading neurodiversity employment efforts. Microsoft is a sponsor of the [College Autism Summit](#), and has consistently supported efforts of many organizations by generously sharing their expertise and resources.

As noted on the [Frist Center for Autism and Innovation's](#) website, even their ten-year celebration has produced a [useful guide](#) for those who seek to develop and improve neurodiversity employment practices.

CANVAS CALL FOR MAY ON EXPERIENCES OF BIPOC ND COLLEGE STUDENTS



Date: Wednesday, May 7 at 12 pm EST

Presenters: Dr. Sam Brandsen, Shealtiel Weekes, Liza Tomczuk

Topic: Understanding the Experiences of BIPOC Neurodivergent Students in Higher Education

Description: This study aims to understand the experiences of autistic and neurodivergent people of color at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and community colleges to determine what resources or supports are most needed, challenges encountered, and sources of joy for students in higher education.

Link to join: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/94546142579>

INTERESTING STUFF FROM AROUND THE INTERNET

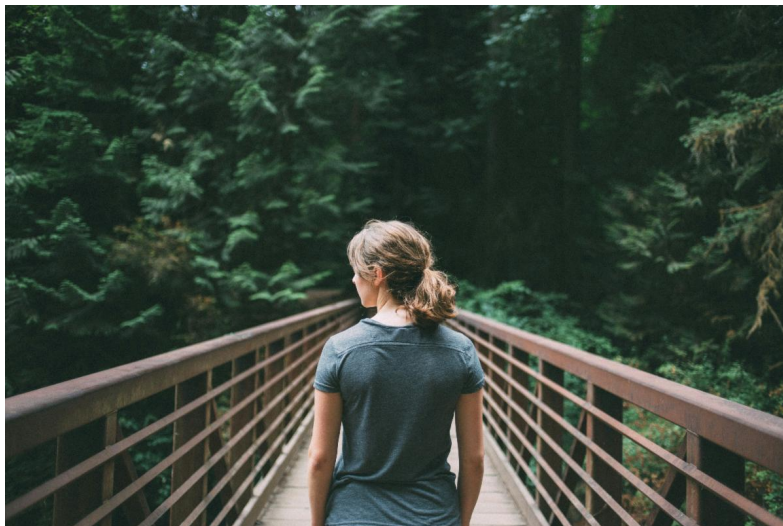


This is a [good summary](#)--accessible and clear--of the most

common challenges neurodivergent candidates for employment face when encountering employers without clear knowledge of neurodiversity, written by Cindi May at College of Charleston. It's based on her research and singles out the interview process as the biggest hurdle.



We're always happy to see CAN friend (and previous Summit keynote speaker) Russell Lehman [mentioned in the news](#). He's an inspiring, provocative and hard-working role model for our autistic students.



This is such a [great piece](#) about one of our U.K. colleagues examining the complexities of gender and autism. We highly recommend you add this to your resource library as an accessible examination of women and autism.



Whether or not you're a Survivor fan, you'll want to [see this clip](#) of an autistic contestant experiencing a high-stress situation, ensuing meltdown, and compassionate response from her teammates. Even Jeff got a little weepy.

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 3000 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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