

**Subject:** CAN is having a great summer! Thanks for asking.  
**Date:** Monday, August 4, 2025 at 10:31:51 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** College Autism Network  
**To:** brittany@collegeautismnetwork.org



# College Autism Network News and Notes

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*August 2025*

## WHO'S PRESENTING AT THE SUMMIT? AND WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?



**COLLEGE AUTISM  
SUMMIT 2025**

Our [Summit schedule](#) has been mostly built, and now you can begin to see what your time in Pittsburgh promises. Here are just *some* of the titles of our 50 general sessions:

- Creating Spaces, Not Boxes: Lessons from a Gender-Diverse and Neurodivergent Student Group
- Sexuality and the Spectrum: Lessons on Sex, Dating, and Love, Autism Style
- Building a Bridge to the Classroom: Golden Apple's Strategy for Creating a Neurodiverse Teacher Pipeline
- Bridging the Gap: Embedding Neurodivergent-Focused Career Counselors in College Career Readiness Programs
- The Art of Disclosure at Work: Accommodations Requests and Workplace Preferences

## Newsletter Highlights

College Autism Summit  
Lineup Comes into Focus

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Summit Preconference  
Opportunities--Register  
Soon!

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Seeking Undergraduate  
Students for Summit;  
Scholarships Available

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CAN Announces Participants  
in First Autism-Inclusive  
Campus Designation Cohort

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CANVAS Researchers'  
Lineup for Fall Announced

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Landmark College Gears Up  
for Next Certificate  
Program

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Interesting Stuff from  
Around the Internet

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Membership Option for CAN  
Community Members in  
Need

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- Preparing Autistic Students for the AI Workforce: Weaving Technical Skills with Social-Emotional Learning
- The Psychological Toll of Masking in Autistic College Students and How to Combat It
- It Was Just a Misunderstanding: Exploring How Neurodivergent Youth End Up in Legal Gray Zones

And so many others! We have five “tracks” to help you identify the best sessions for your professional goals: Intersectionality and Identity, Advocacy and Research, Best Practices and Innovation, Employer/Employee Support and Readiness and Campus Life. Or you can mix it up. We also have networking activities, sponsors and exhibitors eager to meet attendees, therapy dogs, plenary speakers and panels, a button-maker, a Quiet Room, and posters reflecting some of the most interesting work going on in this field.

[Registration is now open.](#) Early bird rates apply till September 7, so register soon for the best rate and a chance to book a room in our conference hotel.

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## SUMMIT PRECONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES -- REGISTER SOON!



We are offering three preconference activities on Sunday afternoon, November 2:

- *Program Leaders' Collaborative*: a chance to network, learn from and encourage one another,

sponsored by Dell Technologies;

- *Employers Connection Series*: a collection of sessions, conversations and networking opportunities for those who have neuroinclusive employment initiatives and those who want to have them (Sunday afternoon and all day Monday), sponsored by PNC Bank;
- *Summit Student Experience*: a learning and networking opportunity for autistic undergraduates who want to become leaders and scholars in this field, sponsored by Mansfield Hall;

Join us in Pittsburgh, November 2-5, for an outstanding professional development opportunity. [Register now](#) to get our early rates and a reasonably-priced Heavenly Bed™ at the Westin. Special thanks go out to our Diamond Sponsor, Landmark College, our Platinum Sponsors LifeWorks and PNC Bank, and our Student Scholarship Sponsor, the Frist Center for Autism and Innovation!



**LANDMARK**  
COLLEGE



**LifeWorks**



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## SEEKING STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT



If you know an autistic or similarly neurodivergent undergraduate student who is interested in developing their national network and leadership skills, please encourage them to attend the College Autism Summit. Our Student Experience track is designed to connect autistic students across the country and beyond and amplify autistic voices in campus conversations. We are offering travel stipends of \$500 each and a registration waiver for ten students. We also offer a 50 percent registration discount (\$250) for undergraduates who participate in the Student Experience at the Summit.

For more information, visit our [website!](#)

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## CANVAS SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR FALL



Get out your calendars and hold these times for our outstanding CANVAS lineup for the Fall semester, including the first one in just a couple of weeks:

- **Tuesday, August 12, 1 pm ET:** *“Uncovering the Subtle Differences and Commonalities in the Workplace Experiences of Autistic and ADHD Librarians.”* Dr. Hala Annabi and Dr. Christine Moeller (University of Washington Information School); Meeting Link: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/96705018309>
- **Thursday, September 18, 12 pm ET:** *“Belonging on Their Terms: Friendship Experiences of Autistic College Students.”* Katie Tobin McDermott (Consultant) and Dr. Karly Ball Isaacson (Michigan State University).
- **Tuesday, October 14, 10 am ET:** *“Transitions, Adjustments and Persistence: Autistic Undergraduates Navigating Higher Education.”* Dr. So Yoon Kim (Korea University) and Dr. Shannon LaPoint (Florida State University).
- **Friday, November 21, 11 am ET:** *“The Role and Impact of Family in Autistic Students’ University Journeys.”* Elinor Kim, University of Portsmouth (UK).

If you are not currently on the CANVAS list, please [email Dr. Brett Nachman](#) to be added to the list. You’ll then get reminders of each presentation with a link to join the session.

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## CAN ANNOUNCES AUTISM-INCLUSIVE CAMPUS DESIGNATION PILOT INSTITUTIONS



The College Autism Network (CAN) has launched its inaugural Autism-Inclusive Campus Designation™ (AICD), a first of its kind in North America. The AICD is awarded to US and Canadian colleges and universities—regardless of size, type, classification, or mode of delivery—that strive in all aspects of their community and mission to create and maintain environments that ensure the inclusion and success of autistic and other neurodivergent people. The vision of an inclusive campus is one where autistic and other neurodivergent people are able to live authentically, whether or not they choose to disclose their neurodiversity; develop personally and professionally; contribute as valued members of a diverse community; and experience a sense of belonging.

When the pilot phase began, postsecondary institutions applied to be assessed for the designation. They will now work with CAN’s AICD team to achieve it. Throughout the designation-seeking process, CAN will provide pilot institutions with trained reviewers, evidence-based resources, and iterative feedback. After the designation is achieved, postsecondary institutions may continue to work with CAN to improve autism inclusion on their campuses and participate within a community of other AICD institutions to share their journeys. Pilot postsecondary institutions include

- Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ)
- Hiram College (Hiram, OH)

- Pacific University (Forest Grove, OR)
- Rowan University (Glassboro, NJ)
- Towson University (Towson, MD)
- St. Joseph's University (Philadelphia, PA)
- University of Cincinnati - Clermont College (Batavia, OH).

For more details, please see our official press release, which you can [find here](#).

CAN will open the application process this fall for the second cohort of participants. Check our September newsletter for more information.

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## LANDMARK COLLEGE OFFERS ONLINE NEURODIVERSITY CERTIFICATE



# LANDMARK COLLEGE

August 24 is the application deadline for fall courses in Landmark College's highly regarded online certificate program in Learning Differences and Neurodiversity. Participants can take individual, 8-week courses or pursue a graduate-level certificate with a choice of specializations in Autism on Campus and Online, Executive Function, or Postsecondary Disability Services. The certificate program draws an engaged group of educators, counselors, disability services professionals, parents, and neurodiversity advocates.

Fall courses running September 12 - November 9 are:

- "Understanding and Supporting Diverse Learners"
- "Leveraging Universal Design and Learning Technologies for Student Success"

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

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## INTERESTING STUFF FROM THE INTERNET



CAN member and Vanderbilt graduate student in Neuroscience Hari Srinivasan had this [interesting piece](#) published in Science Direct. It suggests a new paradigm for considering neurodiversity based on multiple disciplinary approaches. Definitely worth a read.

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## MEMBERSHIP OPTION FOR CAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN NEED



If you have lost your position or your program has lost its funding due to the current political climate, we've got you covered. You can join or renew your CAN membership for just \$25 for the coming year. We want to keep you connected to the CAN community!

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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 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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