

Subject: December: The nights are long. At work, the days are also long. How is that possible?

Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 at 10:12:33 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: College Autism Network

To: brittany@collegeautismnetwork.org



College Autism Network News and Notes

December 2025

THE VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT



**COLLEGE AUTISM
SUMMIT 2025**

About 375 attendees gathered in Pittsburgh for the 9th College Autism Summit, and boy, did they have fun. Highlights were an excellent opening keynote from Jess Monahan and a truly inspiring send-off from Pennsylvania State Representative Jessica Benham.

In between, there were 48 breakout sessions, a lively poster session and reception, therapy dogs, a night at an improv theater, hearty lunches and amazing conversations over meals, in hallways and other comfortable spots afforded by our venue, the Pittsburgh Westin Downtown. Attendees painted their stress away, got their headshots taken, opened the elevator door to find a surprise happy hour party, met and connected with 21 exhibitors, and learned, learned, learned a ton of great stuff. We celebrated our award winners and raffled off important books.

Was it our best Summit yet? Those who've been to a few say yes, absolutely. Can we do even better? The planning

Newsletter Highlights

The View from the Summit
Is Always Amazing

CAN's Consultants'
Collective: Ready to Assist

Journal Features CAN
Members

St. Joe's Kinney Center
Launches New Professional
Courses

NEXT for Autism Announces
New Tool, Mentoring
Program

PEACES Study Heads for the
Finish Line (But Still Needs
Data!)

Mitsubishi Offers
Scholarships for
Neurodivergent Students

Stanford Neurodiversity
Project Launches Summer
Program

team says yes, absolutely. So please mark your calendars for Summit number 10, November 8-11 in Baltimore, MD.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CAN CONSULTANTS' COLLECTIVE?



The Consultants' Collective is a group of CAN members with experience, expertise, and interest in working with institutions of higher education that seek to develop or improve their programs, services and environments so that they are more inclusive, effective, welcoming and accessible. Members of the CAN Collective are available to provide trainings, consultation, technical assistance and ongoing support for initiatives and projects.

Whether you have questions about developing a program, are planning a training for your campus faculty or staff, or want ongoing support for your autism support program, the CAN Collective has outstanding professionals who would be pleased to work with you for very reasonable fees.

Learn more at [CAN Consultants' Collective](#), and feel free to reach out to Matt Segall at matt@collegeautismnetwork.org with questions or interest.

JOURNAL FEATURES CAN MEMBERS IN SPECIAL EDITION



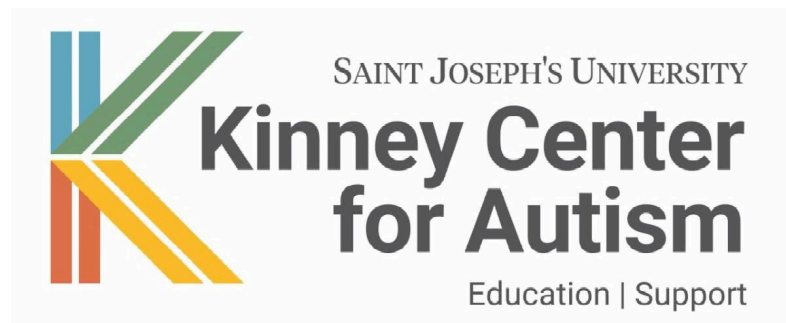
The Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics: A Journal of Qualitative Research recently published an edition



primarily focused on the unique experiences of neurodivergent individuals, called "It's a Neurodiverse World: Stories from Neurodivergent People." It features sixteen narratives, as well as commentaries written by experts in anthropology, bioethics, psychiatric disability, and parenting neurodivergent children.

Several CAN members and associates were contributors to this symposium, including M. Ariel Cascio, Florencia Ardon, Brittany L. Jackson, Summer West, Mark Tapia, and David James "DJ" Savarese. You can find it and read it [here!](#)

KINNEY CENTER LAUNCHES NEW COURSES FOR WORKPLACE AND CAMPUS



[The Kinney Center at Saint Joseph's University](#) is now offering [two new professional development courses](#) aimed at supporting neurodiverse populations in the workplace and on college campuses.

[Colleges Learn about Autistic Student Support \(CLASS\)](#) is currently enrolling its foundational course, An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Neurodiversity. This training series is aimed specifically at faculty and staff in higher education and equips learners with the knowledge and tools to create a more inclusive, supportive campus experience for autistic and neurodivergent students.

[Neurodiversity at Work \(N@W\)](#) is currently enrolling its first foundational course, The Benefits of a Neurodiverse Workforce. Created for corporate leaders, managers and HR professionals, the multi-course series explores the value of neurodiversity through practical, research-based strategies and empowers organizations to recruit, acknowledge and support neurodivergent talent, creating stronger, more inclusive workplaces.

Additional courses are coming soon in each series. For more information, please reach out to kinneyautism@sju.edu.

NEXT FOR AUTISM OFFERS TOOLS AND A MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



NEXT for Autism is an organization that develops and supports innovative programs that serve autistic individuals. These are two recently-developed programs that may be of interest to autistic college students and the professionals who work with them:

[Free eLearning + Networking Toolkit](#)

This is a short eLearning and downloadable tool to support students in building networking skills.

[Free Virtual Mentorship Program – Students Needed](#)

Today's most successful businesses are embracing neuroinclusive hiring and employment practices. There are still many opportunities for businesses to incorporate inclusive practices in a meaningful way. In fact, 85% of autistic college graduates are unemployed. That's where *NEXT CONNECTS* comes in. *NEXT CONNECTS* is a bi-directional mentorship program that supports both prospective employees as well as employers - with the common goal of workplace inclusion and employment success. It empowers aspiring professionals with autism while simultaneously promoting workplace inclusion in businesses of all sizes. We currently have more established professionals than student mentees, which means students have an excellent chance to be matched quickly.

We have mentors ready in fields including:

Accounting, Business, Communications, Economics, Education, Engineering, Finance, Fine Arts, Health Studies, Hospitality, HR, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Marketing, Math, Music, Nursing, Philosophy, Psychology, Social Work, Theater, and more. **If students register by *December 15*,**

participation is completely free, fully virtual, and flexible.

PEACES STUDY SEEKING RESPONDENTS



Autistic college students, how do YOU define success?

Postsecondary Education: Autistic Collegians' Experiences of Success (PEACES)

Eligibility

- Currently enrolled as an undergraduate college student
- Identifies as autistic (formally, self-diagnosed, in process of diagnosis, etc.)
- Lives in the United States of America

Activity

Participants will be asked to complete an online survey that takes roughly 15-30 minutes to finish. Questions focus on students' personal, social, and psychological experiences. Participants will receive a \$25 gift card following survey completion. *Plus an opportunity to participate in an interview and photovoice activity for an additional \$75 gift card.

Participate Now

Please visit <http://bit.ly/4mo4ejj> to participate.



Questions? Contact lead researchers Dr. Bradley E. Cox and Dr. Brett Ranon Nachman at CED.PEACES@msu.edu

Logos: University of Pittsburgh, MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, THE FIRST CENTER FOR Autism AND INNOVATION, SPENCER FOUNDATION, The FAR Fund

The PEACES (Postsecondary Education: Autistic Collegians' Experience of Success) is one of CAN's most important projects. The study, which honors the holistic lived experiences of autistic college students, has one particularly important goal: to create a publicly-accessible national database that will provide information and resources on autistic students' experiences and ways in which postsecondary education institutions can support them. Over the last 3 years, nearly 1,300 students from more than 150 institutions have participated in the PEACES Project. This year is the final wave of the study, and the team hopes to reach as many eligible students as possible with this final push.

Please support these important efforts by sharing study

information with autistic students in your networks or, at the very least, individuals who are directly connected with them. Students are eligible if they are enrolled in an undergraduate program at a U.S. college or university, and identify as autistic (formally or self-diagnosed). Study participation is voluntary. Students will first complete a quick screening tool to determine their eligibility. Here is the link: <http://bit.ly/4mo4ejj>

KICKSTART YOUR MANUFACTURING CAREER WITH A \$20K SCHOLARSHIP!



The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation Scholarship--created in partnership with the SME Education Foundation--offers multiple awards ranging from \$5k to \$20k to help neurodivergent students thrive in manufacturing careers.

Deadline to apply: February 1, 2026

Dreaming of a career in manufacturing? Let us help you get there. Apply now at smeef.org/scholarships

STANFORD NEURODIVERSITY PROJECT ANNOUNCES SUMMER PROGRAM

This year, the Stanford Neurodiversity Project is piloting Building Resources for Independent Development, Growth, & Empowerment (SNP-BRIDGE): a two-week summer program for college-bound and early college students to maximize their potential in college and engage in neurodiversity advocacy.

A student may be a good fit for SNP-BRIDGE if they are currently a:

- High school senior expecting to graduate in Spring 2026
- Gap year student expecting to start college in Fall 2026
- First year in college
- Second year in college

Both Remote and In-Person Student Experience Available (June 15 to 26, 2026). Please see the website for more details about SNP-BRIDGE, including how to apply, [here](#).

You can reach out to us with questions at snp-reach@stanford.edu. We give acceptances out on a rolling basis and encourage early applications.

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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