

Subject: CAN would like to be your Valentine. Please say yes.
Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 8:16:01 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: College Autism Network
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College Autism Network News and Notes

February 2026

**SUMMIT SPOTLIGHT COMING TO A ZOOM
SCREEN IN FRONT OF YOU**



Maybe you wanted to go to the College Autism Summit in November, but couldn't make it. Or maybe you went to the Summit but were frustrated that you had to choose between sessions and missed some you wish you'd attended. Or maybe the Summit isn't part of your schedule, but its content is, or could be, part of your professional development efforts.

If any of those are true, mark your calendars for [Summit Spotlight: Insights and Innovations](#). We have selected ten well-attended, well-reviewed sessions from this past Summit and created a schedule we hope makes sense. For five consecutive weeks, we'll provide outstanding content-

Newsletter Highlights

Spotlight! Summit Quality in a Virtual Package

Seeking College Autism Summit Volunteers

CANVAS Call Scheduled for February

BroadFutures Internship Opportunities

Film and TV Representation: Loyola Marymount University



-two 30-minute sessions plus a 30-minute discussion with the presenters, for 90 minutes of excellent content that will fit into your work day. Beginning Thursday, February 12, we'll gather at 3 pm ET. We'll hear from two presenters whose Summit sessions are connected to a theme, and then have a chance to talk with the presenters and each other, wrapping up at 4:30 pm ET.

The Summit Spotlight is *free* for anyone who attended the Summit in Pittsburgh. If you weren't there, but are a member of CAN, the ridiculously low price for five weeks of learning is \$50. If you're not a member, it's \$125. All sessions will be recorded and available asynchronously if you can't make one of these weeks (February 12, 19, 26, March 5 and 12). If you attended this past Summit in Pittsburgh, watch for an email with a registration code, or [contact Lee](#) if you don't receive that email. We're excited to offer this opportunity and hope you'll join us. Please visit our [registration site](#) for a list of sessions and presenters and to sign up.

SEEKING COLLEGE AUTISM SUMMIT VOLUNTEERS



This year's Summit will take place in Baltimore, November 8-11. The Call for Proposals and Registration will open in April. Right now, we're seeking additional volunteers to help build the program, either by reviewing proposals or working on preparations (or both). And yes--it is as much fun planning the Summit as it seems. If you'd like to join our merry band, please fill out this [short survey](#) and we'll be in touch.

CANVAS CALL SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY



Join the CANVAS (CAN Virtual Association of Scholars) community for our February call, *Thursday, February 19 at 3pm EST*. Presenters will be Ren Butler (PhD Student, Carnegie Mellon University), JiWoong Jang (PhD Student, Carnegie Mellon University), and Dr. Andrew Begel (Associate Professor, Carnegie Mellon University), presenting *“Preparing Autistic Students for the AI Workforce: Weaving Technical Skills with Social-Emotional Learning.”*

As AI becomes more central to society, autistic people risk being left out of AI careers—not because of ability, but because of communication differences and unspoken workplace norms. Many computing programs focus on technical skills while overlooking teamwork and social learning. The presenters will describe an NSF-funded program that supports autistic community college students through a multi-week experience combining AI learning, communication practice, and social-emotional skill building, followed by internships. They will share lessons from the first year: what worked, what was challenging, and how they adapted in year two. The talk offers practical insights for creating inclusive, neurodiversity-affirming pathways into AI careers.

Use this meeting link to join the call:
<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/94678534725>

BROADFUTURES INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



BroadFutures' DC-based Summer Internship Program application is open! Young people (18-26) are placed with a wide range of employer partners such as Brookings (research), The Willard Hotel (hospitality), and DCTV (communications/production), all of whom are committed to creating structured, inclusive, and meaningful work experiences for neurodivergent folks, paired with ongoing training and individualized mentoring. Internships last from June 8 to August 7. [Apply here by March 6](#)

Another opportunity offered by BroadFutures is their Spring Success Summit (May 8-10). If you're looking for a way to help a young person build career momentum, encourage them to consider this three-day, in-person experience designed for neurodivergent young adults ages 18-26. Held in Washington, DC, the Summit offers a condensed version of our signature training week, featuring interactive workshops, guest speakers, peer collaboration, and community-building- all in a supportive setting. [Apply here by April 1](#)

FILM AND TV REPRESENTATION ON THE AGENDA AT LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY



Loyola Marymount University
School of
Film and Television

The School of Film and Television at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles is thinking, talking about, and analyzing neurodivergent representation in television and film. They recently hosted a panel on the topic, and followed that with an interview with the panelists. It's an [interesting read](#).

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!

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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