

Subject: April showers bring...large puddles and the occasional CAN newsletter
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From: College Autism Network
To: brittany@collegeautismnetwork.org



College Autism Network News and Notes

April 2026

ALL THAT A HARBOR CAN BE: SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE! YOUR EXPERIENCE! YOUR CHALLENGES! PRESENT AT THE COLLEGE AUTISM SUMMIT



**COLLEGE AUTISM
SUMMIT 2026** ∞
BALTIMORE, MD // NOV. 8-11

The College Autism Summit's Call for Proposals is now open. This is our tenth Summit, which will take place November 8-11 in Baltimore, MD. Over the years, presenters have shared an amazing amount of best practices, cutting-edge research and provocative discussion. What makes the Summit a valuable event is the consistent quality of our breakout sessions. This year, we will offer three ways to present: 25-minute sessions paired with another 25-minute session, 50-minute sessions for those whose content and format requires a longer block of time, and posters highlighting research and programs for our poster session and reception.

This year's theme is "All that a Harbor Can Be," and we seek programs that reflect the many purposes of a harbor: a safe place during a time of tumult, a location full

Newsletter Highlights

All That A Harbor Can Be: Share Your Knowledge! Your Experience! Your Challenges! Present at the College Autism Summit

Launching a New Autism Program? Start at Square One

This Month's CANVAS Call: Victimization Among Autistic College Students

CAN Recommends New Workbook to Share with Families

Suicide Rates Among Autistic People is Subject of UK Study



of meaningful exchanges, and a home port that prepares you with all you'll need for a journey.

The Summit is a place for professionals of all experience levels to learn from one another, to encourage connection and conversation, and to have your perspectives both encouraged and challenged. Please consider submitting a proposal and joining us in Baltimore. The deadline to submit a proposal is May 29, and [you can start here](#). We'll see you at the harbor!

LAUNCHING A NEW AUTISM PROGRAM? START AT SQUARE ONE



We are excited to offer another edition of our Square One online curriculum on Thursday and Friday, June 11 and 12. Designed to help colleges and universities launch a new autism/ND support program, or take an early program to the next level, Square One offers a virtual two-day curriculum that asks and answers the most common questions about a new initiative: how to create it, staff it, market it and evaluate it. Square One also provides a chance to be part of a cohort of other professionals getting a new program off the ground, colleagues you will remain connected with in the future.

Square One is taught by autism support program experts Amy Rutherford of College Autism Spectrum and Dr. Lorre Wolf from Landmark College. The cost for these 9 hours of content is \$350 for CAN members (\$550 for non-CAN members), and then a reduced rate (\$250 for members, \$450 for non-members) for each additional person from the same institution.

For more details and to register, [visit our website](#). The

registration deadline is June 1, but we encourage you to register early as space is limited for this intensive curriculum.

THIS MONTH'S CANVAS CALL: VICTIMIZATION AMONG AUTISTIC COLLEGE STUDENTS



Please join the CANVAS community for April's research presentation on Tuesday, April 14 at 12pm ET.

Autistic college students face elevated risks of multiple forms of victimization. This presentation examines the victimization experiences among autistic college students. It concludes with implications for campus policy, prevention programming, and tailored supports to better protect and support autistic college students.

Our presenters are Dr. Brittany E. Hayes (Associate Professor, University of Cincinnati) Francesco DiRienzo (Graduate Student, University of Cincinnati), Dr. Cooper A. Maher (Assistant Professor, Michigan State University), and Dr. Leah E. Daigle (Professor, Georgia State University)

Here is the meeting link:
<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/93794054859>. Please sign up on the [agenda here](#).

CAN RECOMMENDS NEW WORKBOOK TO SHARE WITH FAMILIES

COLLEGE READINESS FOR NEURODIVERGENT STUDENTS



STUDY RESULTS & WORKBOOK

Our first workbook, *College Readiness for the Neurodivergent Student*, is a tremendous resource for families trying to sort out the complexities of determining how ready a student is for college, created by our partner College-Ready. And now that workbook now has a companion: *Manager to Consultant: Parenting Your Neurodivergent College Student*, designed to answer the many questions parents have about support strategies once a student is enrolled. Learn more about this new workbook by watching this [short video](#). To order, visit the [College-Ready site](#). These are practical and affordable resources for campus and independent autism support programs to recommend to parents of prospective and enrolled students.

SUICIDE RATES AMONG AUTISTIC PEOPLE ARE SUBJECT OF UK STUDY



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

[This is a sobering piece](#) about an important study done in England. The suicide rate among autistic individuals is alarmingly high, but this article makes clear that creating neuroinclusive environments impacts the likelihood that an individual would consider suicide. "If we consider suicide in autistic people as a societal issue rather than an individual one, then we can do something about it," said one of the study's research team members.

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.

College Autism Network | 19 Ocean View Ave | Mystic, CT 06355 US

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