

**Subject:** College Autism Network - December 2021 Updates

**Date:** Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 1:03:28 PM Eastern Standard Time

**From:** College Autism Network

**To:** brittany@collegeautismnetwork.org



**COLLEGE AUTISM NETWORK**  
ADVOCACY | RESEARCH | TRAINING

## College Autism Network Newsletter

December 2021

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- CANVAS Preview for Spring 2022
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### Updates from the College Autism Network: Let's Go Steady! Lee Burdette Williams, Executive Director

It's the time of year commonly reserved for giving thanks, reflecting on the previous year, and planning for the coming year. So in short order: we are thankful for the amazing volunteers, presenters, attendees, scholars and practitioners that make up our loose affiliation of autism-related professionals. I'm especially thankful for our CAN leadership team of Brad Cox, Brett Nachman and Brittany Jackson (my personal Bruh team). And we are beyond grateful for the warm welcome, generous support, and constant encouragement of the **Frist Center for Autism and Innovation** at Vanderbilt University, the new home of the College Autism Network. Many thanks to director Keivan Stassun and his home team of Dave Caudel, Colette Rybinski and Dan Burger.

We've had a good year! We hosted monthly Zoom calls for program directors and, through CANVAS, researchers. We've launched some partnerships or connected with

solid organizations and talented professionals (like the Kennedy Center's team that built our **Autism Career Empowerment** curriculum). And of course, we've published one newsletter a month, just like this one, with the help of our friends at **NASPA**.

Our biggest achievement was our fifth College Autism Summit held at the end of October. Forty sessions led by close to a hundred presenters, 25 exhibitors and ten sponsors helped create an outstanding virtual event (yes--outstanding; we have the receipts in the form of your evaluations) for over 350 individuals, planned by a team of outstanding volunteers. We are especially proud of the growing number of autistic presenters and speakers we've attracted each year as our Summits become more inclusive and (not unrelatedly) provocative.



**And now it's time to grow into an even better organization.** For that, we need you. If you have benefited from the connections and content provided by CAN, we hope you'll find time in your busy schedules to formalize your connection. We are seeking members for advisory boards (research- and practice-focused), as well as volunteers to help us build the organization through effective marketing, membership growth, professional development opportunities and the next College Autism Summit. If you'd like to make a commitment of your time to CAN, please take a few moments to tell us via **this simple form**. We can date casually, see one another exclusively, consider getting engaged: you can choose your level of commitment. But if you want to say, years from now, that you were there when CAN really took off, here's your opportunity. Many thanks in advance for your support.

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# 2022

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## CANVAS Plans in the Works for Spring Semester

If you are a scholar working in the autism arena, or a practitioner interested in staying up to date on emerging research and scholarship in the field, you'll want to participate in our monthly CANVAS (CAN Virtual Association of Scholars) calls. We're finalizing details now for the spring semester, but here's what we know so far:

### *Making a Place for Autism on Campus: Emerging Research*

Join us for our Spring 2022 CANVAS meetings that will feature presentations on recently-published and forthcoming research. Specific times, presenters, and topics will be announced over the coming weeks. For now, save the dates!

- Friday, January 21
- Friday, February 18
- Friday, March 18
- Friday, April 29
- Friday, May 20

To be added to the CANVAS mailing list, email [Brett Nachman](mailto:Brett.Nachman@udel.edu), CAN's Director of Research.

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## Employment Opportunity in Established Autism Program

Our friends at the University of Delaware are searching for a new colleague. Spectrum Scholars is currently hiring an **Assistant Program Manager** to oversee a comprehensive coaching model and support day-to-day operations for our program.

*Do you have an autism-related position to share? **Send Lee an email** and we will post it. Please note our newsletter comes out the first week of the month.*

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## New Job Board for Neurodivergent Employees

Do you have autistic and other neurodivergent students and alumni seeking employment? Jobs for Humanity, creator of job boards for historically underrepresented talent, has launched a job board focusing on *opportunities for neurodivergent employees*. In addition to jobs with employers who welcome neurodivergent applicants, there are training materials developed by the Frist Center for Autism and Innovation at Vanderbilt. **Take a look.**

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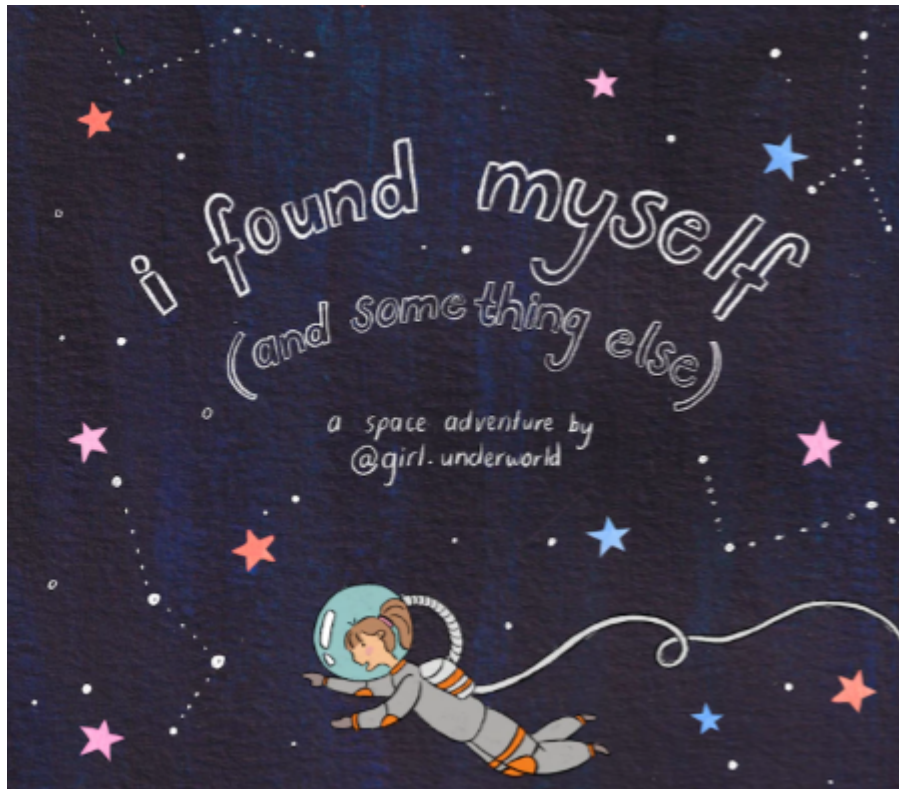
## Resource for Career Services Pros Interested in Learning About Autism

If you have colleagues in the career services arena who would benefit from learning about strategies for working with autistic students to prepare them for internships and employment, please refer them to [Autism Career Empowerment](#), an online, self-administered curriculum developed by CAN, the Frist Center and the Kennedy Center at Vanderbilt. It's free, it's fun, and it will help you help your colleagues to better support your students.

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## This is Lovely

Take a look at this **sweet graphic tale** from an autistic Australian.



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*This newsletter is published monthly by the **College Autism Network**, an organization supporting the success of autistic college students and the professionals who work with them. Want to share an article? Feature an upcoming event? Our monthly newsletter reaches over 1000 self-advocates and professionals. Send it **to Lee** and we'll share it.*