College Autism Summit is Just Around the Corner!

If you are a professional educator, coach, researcher, family member or self-advocate committed to improving the college experience of students with autism, you need--**NEED**--to be part of the 2020 College Autism Summit, a virtual event that begins on **October 27** and is three days packed with learning, conversation, networking and fun.

Here are some teasers:

- Listen in as our own Brett Ranon Nachman interviews "Atypical" creator Robia Rashid about the evolution of her thinking when it came to casting autistic actors for this popular Netflix series.
- Meet the current and recent students John Sheehan has gathered for an enlightening conversation about the experiences of navigating college life with autism--where it has gone smoothly and where it has run aground.
- Listen to some of over 50 (yes, 50!) recorded sessions on topics ranging from social distancing to universal design to assisting faculty to supporting parents of new students to preparing students for job-searching, then log in for live follow-up sessions with presenters to ask your questions and share your own observations.
- View Program Spotlights created by autism support programs, sponsors and others with exciting information to share.
- Meet Taxi, the official Summit mascot, and introduce your own canine and feline co-workers.

Taxi

If you haven't registered for the **Summit**, put that at the top of your to-do list. It is a reasonably-priced, proven way to stay at the top of your game.

Registration is $149 for NASPA/CAN Members and $75 for NASPA/CAN Student Members.

CANVAS Working Group Launches New Website on Autism and Universal Design

by Claire Barnett

CAN is excited to announce the launch of the new **Autism & Universal Design training/research website**. This research project aims to improve university faculty and staff knowledge and attitudes towards autism and increase awareness of Universal Design via an online training program. The training has been developed using participatory methods, with autistic people involved in all aspects of its development and related research. There are pre- and post- questionnaires, an online training portion, and a maintenance questionnaire one month later. Kristen Gillespie-Lynch and TC Waisman have been leading this effort, alongside a robust team of 16 collaborators from 14 universities around the globe. These individuals initially came together in one of our CANVAS (College Autism Network Virtual Association of Scholars) working groups.

More about Autism and UD Training: (Paid) Opportunity to Participate in Training Opportunity

by TC Waisman

Are you a member of the teaching staff at an institution of higher education (e.g., faculty, teaching assistant, etc.)? If so, we would like to invite you to participate in a participatory autism and Universal Design training we developed to help educators better support their autistic students. Our training, which provides information about autism, Universal Design, and online teaching, was developed by a participatory team of autistic and non-autistic scholars. The training highlights video clips developed by autistic students and academics to share their insights about how to better support

their autistic students and their students more generally. We hope to attract participants representing a wide variety of colleges and universities around the world.

Participants will receive a $50 US Paypal payment in their local currency as a thank you after completing all study components.

The training evaluation consists of four components which should take two to three hours total to complete online at a pace that suits each participant.

The components include a pre-test questionnaire, training, post-test questionnaire, and a maintenance questionnaire one month after completing the training.

The final deadline to enroll in this training evaluation is November 6th, 2020.

If you'd like to join our study or know someone who wants to learn more about autism and Universal Design, please check out our website and email us on the contact page at: **www.autismresearch.international** or email: **autismhigheredtraining@gmail.com**

Upcoming CANVAS Call Offers Insights from Editor of *Autism*

Thursday, October 15 at 2pm ET

Dr. Julie Lounds Taylor (Vanderbilt University) discusses serving as an editor of the *Autism* journal: "Pulling back the curtain: tips from the editorial desk".

To join the CANVAS listserv and access these monthly presentations, please contact Brett at **bnachman@wisc.edu**.

Autism As Seen on TV

Check out this **great article** about the television show **Community**and its character Abed Nadir, whom the author calls "the best representation of an autistic individual" on television she has seen. This article was authored by Jude Clee and can be found on the terrific website **Neuroclastic: Information about the Autism Spectrum from Autistic People**.

The College Autism Network (CAN) is a division of **NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.** If you have questions about CAN, the College Autism Summit, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact **Lee Burdette Williams**.

NASPA, 111 K Street NE, 10th Floor, Washington, District Of Columbia 20002, (202) 265-7500