



# College Autism Network News and Notes

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*July 2026*

## Reach the Summit Early, or Stay Late: Three Pre- and One Post-Summit Opportunities



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

While we build the Summit schedule from among the 120 proposals we received (wow!), we do know this: Our pre- and post-conference opportunities are going to be terrific. Please consider coming a day early or sticking around a little longer to participate in one of these!

### **Preconference (Sunday, November 8, 1:00-5:00 pm ET):**

- **Program Leaders' Collaborative:** Meet with other leaders from autism support programs across the country who will dive into program evaluation to discover how logic models and student-centered outcomes can tell a compelling story of programmatic impact, support funding initiatives, and fuel the growth and sustainability of their program.
- **Building Blocks for New Programs:** Is your campus planning to launch a new autism or neurodiversity support program? Is your program a fledgling that needs help spreading its wings? You'll want to sign up for Building Blocks to learn from experts and meet a new cohort of professionals in a similar place.
- **Summit Student Experience:** This year, the Summit Student Experience will be focusing on graduate students and high achieving undergraduate students with a direct interest in practice or research in autism support in higher education. The Experience will start with a (free) pre-conference workshop focusing on connecting practice to

## Newsletter Highlights

Summit Pre- and Post-  
Conference Opportunities

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Complex Conversation:  
Online Safety

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CANVAS Library Now  
Available

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New CAN Resource:  
SkillFlix Training Videos

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Semeseter-long ND Course  
Offered

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Transition to College Panel  
for Parents

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Recommending the Autistic  
Adult's Toolbox

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research through the lens of policy development. This will provide an opportunity for networking and connection among the next generation of CAN's membership.

### **Postconference (Wednesday, November 11, 1:00-5:00 pm ET): Employers Connection Series**

- Employers and campus/independent program staff: What do you wish the other half of this partnership knew? Local employers will be joining us in the morning to learn more about creating and maintaining neurodiversity hiring programs. The *postconference* afternoon session will invite these employers and Summit attendees, including campus staff and employment specialists, to meet and exchange experiences. You'll hear from autistic employees sharing insights about making the transition from college to employment and hear creative strategies on supporting this transition, and meet employers who are interested in hiring your neurodivergent students

The Collaborative and Building Blocks preconference sessions are \$95 for CAN members and \$135 for non-members if you register by September 7. The Student Experience is free for full-time students who register at the student rate and answer "yes" to the Student Experience question when registering. The Employment postconference is free for registered Summit attendees.

[Registration for the Summit is open](#), and you'll want to book a hotel room early (everything happens at the beautiful Renaissance HarborPlace in Baltimore) because our room block will sell out.

Come for the content, stay for the networking. And the soft-shelled crabs. [See you in Baltimore!](#)

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## **Complex Conversations: Online Safety**



Complex Conversations  
Campus Autism Support

Join us for our Complex Conversations professional development series: Connecting, Relating, and Communicating in the Digital Age.

July 16, 2026: Building Meaningful Relationships Through Online Services

If you've wanted to be more comfortable having those awkward conversations with students who are seeking romance online, you'll want to join us for our next Complex Conversations webinar: "Building Meaningful Relationships Through Online Services", which will examine the relationship skills needed to develop and maintain healthy connections in online spaces.

Participants will learn about online safety including digital boundaries and recognizing red flags along with resources and tools available to assist autistic and neurodivergent college students in recognizing safe and healthy online relationships. Our presenter will be Katherine McLaughlin of Elevatus Training. This webinar is free for CAN members and \$40 for nonmembers. You must [register to attend](#).

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## CANVAS Library Now Available on YouTube



Every month for the past seven years, we've offered a research presentation under the umbrella of CANVAS (CAN Virtual Association of Scholars). These presentations are offered by scholars around the world. We've collected 58 of them in an open-access, easy-to-use [YouTube Playlist](#). We hope these are helpful to practitioners and researchers alike.

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## Introducing SkillFlix AYA



The College Autism Network has partnered with SkillFlix to bring CAN members a curated resource library designed specifically for autistic young adults and the staff who support them in higher education and autism-specific programs. SkillFlix AYA is a video library of 150+ Microskills® videos supporting autistic young adults in developing communication and relationship-focused skills at their own pace. The "CAN Member AYA Playlist" includes 10 SkillFlix videos designed specifically to support autistic young adults to *build career readiness skills and feel more confident navigating relationships* - available exclusively to CAN members at no cost.

These videos value a neurodiversity-affirming approach. There are several characters that show autistic young adults navigating conversations and common situations using specific skills and strategies. We hope these videos offer neurodivergent people a menu of skills to pull from based on their individual needs and capacity to manage different types of social interactions. We include resources such as written information and useful links, to help you build knowledge and understanding to apply the skills steps across various situations. We hope that these videos can help folks meet their goals and communicate with confidence. For more information and to access the videos, [visit our website](#).

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**Semester-long ND Educators' Workshops Offered**



We think the work being done by Sarah Silverman is worth sharing with our readers. Sarah, a friend of CAN, has a semester-long workshop series she can offer to your campuses if you are seeking a more in-depth professional opportunity for you and your colleagues. For more information, [visit Sarah's website](#).

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## Neurodiversity Alliance Offers Free Panels for Parents



**THE**  
**NEURODIVERSITY**  
**ALLIANCE**

CAN's friends at [The Neurodiversity Alliance](#) are hosting a student panel on Monday, July 20th, at 8:30 PM EST for incoming college students and their families. The Alliance's students will share their experiences as neurodivergent folks heading to college for the first time, and provide tips, suggestions, and advice. This event is open to anyone, so if you know of any students/families/connections that may be interested in attending, they are welcome to join! *Campus program staff may want to share this note with the families*

of incoming students. The form for the event can be found here: [Transition to College Panel](#).

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## Great Addition to your A/ND Library



We recently read Natalie Diggins' new book, *The Autistic Adult's Toolbox*, and highly recommend that you buy a carton of them and give a copy to all of your students as they move into adult life. It's also a great choice for a class you might offer to your ND students. It is workbook-y, with a lot of good exercises and discussion questions. It's available wherever you buy your books, and Natalie's [podcast](#) can be found wherever you get your podcasts.

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## Interesting Things From Around the Internet

[This article](#), from Times Higher Education, explores the ways in which autistic individuals experience and express grief. It's definitely worth a read.

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*CAN's 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.*

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

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