



College Autism Network News and Notes

May 2026

All That a Harbor Can Be: The Tenth College Autism Summit Takes Shape



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

"Over the years, the Summit has provided me a space to brainstorm with other professionals in the field and build lasting relationships that I lean on throughout the year." -- Ashley Richardson Minnitt, University of Texas at Austin

"If you care about autism and college, I can't imagine a better event to attend than the College Autism Summit. It is THE premier event in this space and is not to be missed!" -- Eric Endlich, Top College Consultants

"Every year I look forward to recharging at the Summit- there is nothing more energizing than being around students, researchers, and staff who share the goal of more inclusive higher education." -- Jess Monahan, University of Maryland

Will you join us in Baltimore? The College Autism Summit's Call for Proposals, registration, and exhibitor/sponsor information can be found at our [website](#).

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 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

Newsletter Highlights

**Summit Call for Proposals
and Registration Now Open**

**Square One: Starting a New
Autism Program?**

**CAN Award Nominees
Sought**

**May's CANVAS Call:
Employment Experiences
of Autistic Students**

**CAN's Consultants'
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**Landmark College's
Certificate Programs Open
New Cohort**

**ScenicView Academy
Featured in "Love on the
Spectrum"**

**Stanford Neurodiversity
Project BRIDGE Provides
Summer Opportunity**

**Integrate Advisors Offers
Summer Workshop for
Interns**

**Looking at Autism Through
a Different Lens (article)**



a proposal is May 29, and [you can start here](#). Registration and hotel reservations are also now open. We'll see you at the harbor!

Launching a New Autism Program? Square One Registration Deadline is June 1



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.

CAN Annual Award Nominees Sought



We love awards! Giving them, getting them, watching them on TV. We're pleased to announce that nominations for our annual CAN awards are now open. We ask you to nominate someone (including yourself--don't be shy!) for one or more of the following awards:

- Outstanding Autism Support Program
- Outstanding Neurodiversity Workplace Initiative
- Bradley E. Cox Outstanding Research on Autism in Higher Education
- CAN Contributor of the Year

Criteria for selection and the nomination form can be found at our [website](#). The deadline for nominations is June 15. Award winners will be announced at the 2026 [College Autism Summit](#) in Baltimore, November 8-11.

This Month's CANVAS Call: Employment Experiences of Autistic Students



Join the CANVAS community for this month's call, a presentation on "Autistic Students' Experiences of Employment and Employability Support While Studying at a UK University: Lessons for Higher Education, presented by Dr. Clive Trusson, Senior Lecturer, Loughborough University, and Dr. Cheryl Travers, Reader, Loughborough University. Drs. Trusson and Travers report on a study that was primarily conducted for internal purposes of better supporting autistic students studying business programmes which mandated a one-year placement/internship.

Date: Tues, May 12 at 11am ET
Meeting Agenda: [Sign up to attend here](#)

CAN's Consultants' Collective



Each month we'll tell you a bit about our Collective of stellar consultants available for a variety of supports for your program or institution. When you engage one of our consultants, it's a win-win-win. You get excellent consultation, our consultant shares their knowledge and experience for a very reasonable fee (negotiated individually with the institution), and CAN receives a portion of the fee to help support our outreach to other groups and institutions. This year's featured consultant is Kim Jameson.

Kim is the Founder and Executive Director of STARS (Students Tackling Autism-Related Syndromes), Inc., a nonprofit organization based at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tennessee. For more than a decade, she has supported neurodivergent college students and graduates through social, academic, and career coaching. Her passion for this work is deeply personal, inspired by her experience raising her son, Joseph, an autistic college graduate. In addition to her leadership at STARS, Kim is a sought-after speaker and consultant, educating audiences on neurodiversity and inclusion on college campuses and within corporations; recently presenting to the Olympus Corporation of Americas and consulting for the College Autism Network (CAN) with their Autism-Inclusive Campus Designation initiative for Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Interested in engaging Kim or one of the other members of our Consultants' Collective? Contact Matt Segall,

Landmark College Invites You to Start Your Graduate-level Neurodiversity Certificate This Summer



June 1 is the application deadline for summer courses in Landmark College's highly regarded, online [certificate program in Learning Differences and Neurodiversity](#). Participants can take individual, 8-week courses for graduate credit or pursue a 5-course certificate with a choice of specializations in Autism on Campus and Online, Executive Function, or Postsecondary Disability Services.

Summer is a great time to start because the overview course, "Understanding and Supporting Diverse Learners", which is required in all three specializations, runs June 26 – August 23. For more courses and start dates, and full program information, see the [certificate website](#) or contact Carol Beninati, Certificate Program Coordinator, at institute@landmark.edu or (802) 387-1662.

ScenicView Academy Featured in Netflix Series *Love on the Spectrum*



The folks at [ScenicView Academy](#) in Provo, Utah are friends of CAN and do some excellent work supporting autistic individuals, including hosting [AutCon](#), an "unconventional convention for adults with autism." We were excited to see this bit of news: SVA's students and campus are featured in Season 4 of the Emmy Award-winning Netflix series *Love on the Spectrum*.

The series is widely recognized for its authentic and respectful portrayal of autistic individuals navigating relationships. Season 4 features Utah native Emma Miller, her roommates and friends at ScenicView Academy as they pursue connection, independence, and personal growth. The new season launched on April 1, marking the first day of Autism Awareness Month—a meaningful alignment that underscores the importance of visibility, understanding, and acceptance of autistic individuals.

Stanford Neurodiversity Project Offers Summer Opportunity



Stanford | Stanford Neurodiversity Project

Speaking of friends of CAN, the fine people of the Stanford Neurodiversity Project invite you to refer your students to SNP-BRIDGE, which stands for "Bridging Resilience, Inclusive Dialogue, Growth in advocacy, & Empowered leadership." SNP-Bridge centers on leadership growth and strengthening advocacy skills tailored to college and future professional settings. It is a two-week summer program specifically for college-bound and early college students to engage in neurodiversity advocacy. A student may be a good fit for SNP-BRIDGE if they are currently a high school senior expecting to graduate in Spring 2026, a gap year student expecting to start college in Fall 2026, or in their first or second year of college. Both Remote and In-Person Student Experience Available (June 15 to 26, 2026). [For details about SNP-BRIDGE, including how to apply, please visit our website.](#)

But wait! There's more! Students who participate in SNP-BRIDGE will have a special opportunity to receive additional mentorship on their neurodiversity-advocacy project beyond the program, as the Stanford Neurodiversity Project is a collaborator on the [2026 Inclusive Coding Festival \(ICF\)](#). ICF is an accessibility-focused tech initiative that provides mentor-guided technical project experiences for college students and new graduates. Selected projects will be invited to present in a hybrid format on the day of the conference and will be judged for awards. [Contact the SNP team](#) for more info.

Integrate Advisors Launch Social Connection & Workplace Navigation Program



Build confidence and make the most of a summer internship with Integrate's interactive summer workshop series. This program provides practical support to help interns succeed through guided discussions and practice-based activities, equipping participants to navigate the hidden curriculum of the workplace while strengthening their communication and networking skills.

Participants will also have the opportunity to engage in peer networking sessions to practice skills introduced in the workshops, discuss real-life workplace experiences, and build meaningful connections. Running June 1–August 13, limited to 10–15 participants. The fee is \$525. Contact Liz Gallardo at liz@integrateadvisors.org for additional information.

Looking at Autism Employment Through a Different Lens

THE CATALYST



Here's an [interesting piece from](#) The Catalyst about the importance of taking a strengths-based approach to autism employment. "Simply put, the autistic employment crisis is not the product of autistic people's lack of effort, and it is not an issue of mass unemployment. It is the product of systems that have refused to conceptualize disabled people as anything except background characters in society, and it is an issue of systemic underemployment and ignorance."

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.

The [College Autism Network](#) is supported by the [Frist Center for Autism and Innovation](#) at Vanderbilt University.

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