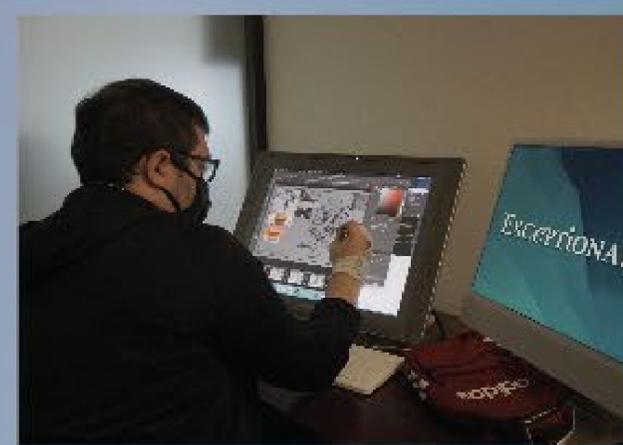


NIMH/OARC SPECIAL EVENT FOR AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH:

Animating the Future for Exceptional Minds



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 • 1:00 PM TO 2:30 PM
VIRTUAL EVENT • [HTTPS://IACC.HHS.GOV](https://iacc.hhs.gov)



EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

Welcome

Joshua Gordon, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
Chair, Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC)

Susan A. Daniels, Ph.D.

Director, Office of Autism Research Coordination, NIMH
Executive Secretary, IACC
Acting National Autism Coordinator



National Institute
of Mental Health

OFFICE OF
AUTISM RESEARCH
COORDINATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

exceptional-minds.org



EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

An academy and studio preparing young adults on the autism spectrum for careers in digital arts and media

EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

Meet Today's Team



David Siegel
Executive Director



Isaiah Strum
VFX Artist



Becca David
Animation Student



David Miles
Animation Artist



Kat Cutright
Academic Consultant

Agenda

1. General overview
2. Programs Overview
3. Best practices for job seekers
4. Best practices for employers
5. How you can get involved

Q&A!



Michael & Marie
\$200

\$2,000,000



\$1,185,370.85



C O L O R 
THE SPECTRUM





Kotite

WarnerMedia

NETFLIX



MARVEL



Disney

nickelodeon



2,000+ Enrollments

94%

Graduation rate

87%

Job placement rate

39%

Full-time students on
tuition assistance

48%

Non-white
enrollment

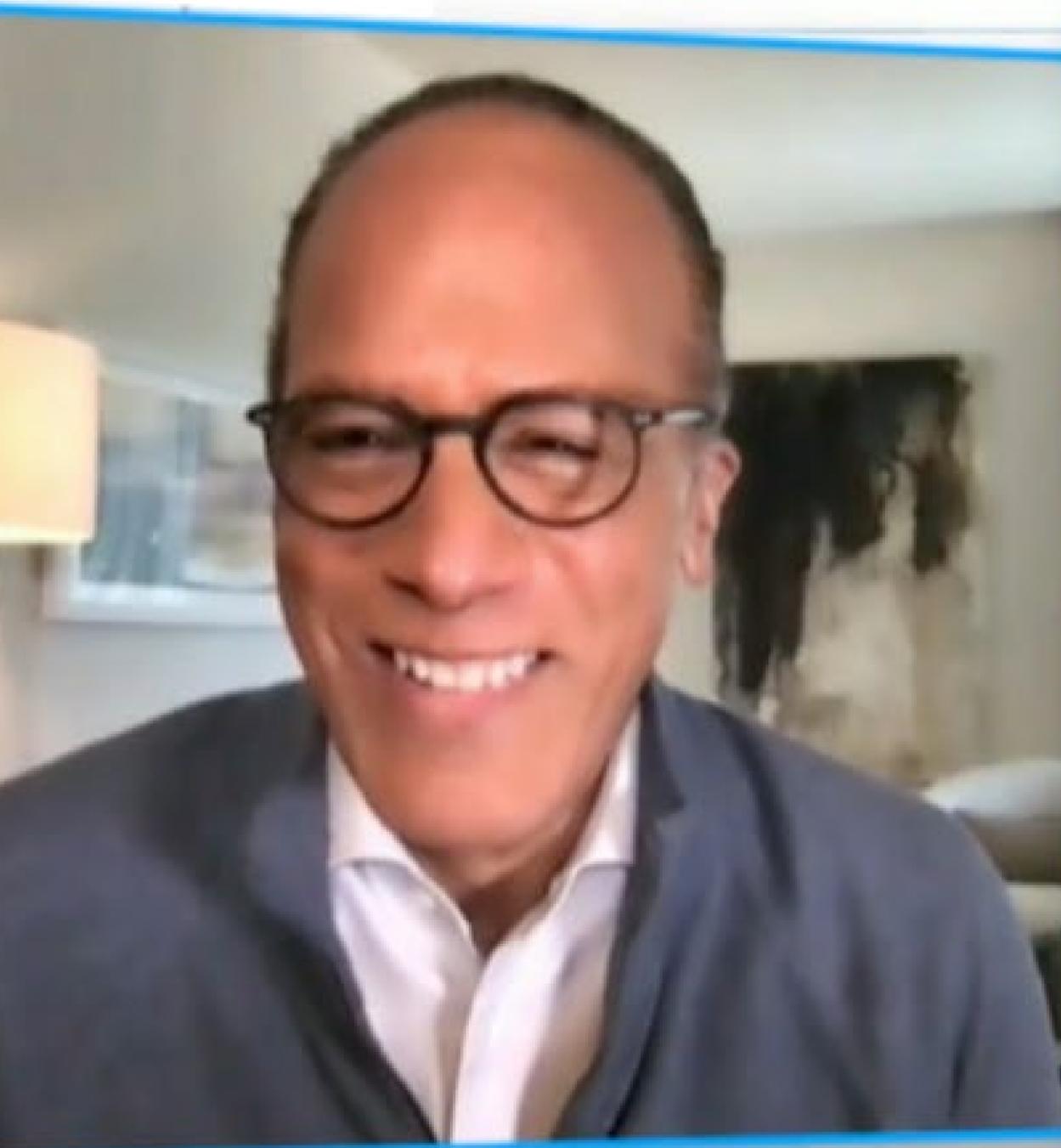
29%

Female/Non-
Binary enrollment

\$1.25 million in scholarships granted



"Exceptional Minds Awards Scholarship..."



2X

Over the next five years we will double
the # of students across all programs



Xavier

Four Years at Marvel

Job Outcomes 2022!



GHOSTVFX



nickelodeon™



EXCEPTIONAL MINDS



DREAMWORKS

Agenda

1. Programs Overview
2. Best practices for job seekers
3. Best practices for employers
4. How you can get involved

Q&A!

“



A person with glasses is looking at a computer monitor. The monitor displays a software interface with various panels and text. The background is a blurred office setting. The text "EXCEPTIONAL MILITARY" is visible on a wall in the background.

“

Being on the spectrum expands the horizons of the entertainment industry. Autism allows us to help solve problems in new ways and with a new perspective on creativity and storytelling.

A Decade of Training, Careers, and Community



Kat Cutright
Academic Consultant



A student and a teacher are sitting at a desk in a classroom, looking at a computer monitor. The student is pointing at the screen while the teacher looks on. The background shows a bulletin board with various posters and papers.

ACADEMY

Full-Time

Workshops

CAREER READINESS

EXCEPTIONAL
HANDS

The whiteboard features several hand-drawn sketches and text. At the top, a woman is drawing a character with a red tuft of hair. To the left is a pink, round character with blonde hair and a pink bow. To the right is a triangular character with large eyes and a wide, toothy mouth. Below these are various other sketches including a dinosaur-like creature, a character with a large head, a character with a large nose, and a character with a large mouth. The text 'EXCEPTIONAL HANDS' is written in a stylized font. There are also some smaller text elements like 'I AM THE CHEESE' and 'MY LITTLE PONY'.

Flounder
Mermaid

yes

Fishmaid
Dream
girl

The whiteboard shows a drawing of a fish character with a red collar and a red heart. The text 'Flounder Mermaid' is written above the drawing. Below the drawing, the words 'Fishmaid Dream girl' are written. There are also some small decorative elements like stars and a heart.

STUDIO

Animation

Post

About our Students and Graduates

Passionate!

Special Interest in the areas we teach can drive learning, creativity, and discovery

Diligent!

Detail-oriented individuals who care for their craft will get the job done

Reliable!

Placing importance on routine means keeping organized and on schedule



Best Practices For Job-Seekers



Becca David ('22)
Animation Student





COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION

MYTH-LOGIC

MARVELS OF
MEDIA

2022

JURY AWARD

Mythlogic: Behind The Scenes Video

Job-Seeker Best Practices

1. Be clear on the job description
2. Practice “potential” interview questions in advance
3. If virtual, do a run-through with all tech and in your space
4. Have all resumes and reel materials prepared
5. Prepare questions to ask
6. Let the interviewer know of any accommodations you may need





“

For an interview, an outline of the planned structure and clear expectations are what help me prepare.

Best Practices For Employers



David Miles
Animation Artist



Isaiah Strum
VFX Artist



The background features a stylized illustration of children camping. In the center, a child with green skin and large blue eyes is reading a book. To the left, a child with green skin and a blue star on their forehead is smiling. In the bottom left, a child is sitting on the ground with a basket of colorful Easter eggs. In the bottom right, a child is sitting on the ground with a plate of food. The background is a mix of teal and blue tones with a laurel wreath framing the central text.

ANIMATED SHORT

BACKYARD CAMPING

MARVELS OF
MEDIA

2022

HONORABLE
MENTION



Backyard
Camping



Best Practices: Overall

1. Presume competence in an individual's ability: an employee is able to perform a task until challenges arise
2. Offer a variety of training methods
3. Open, honest, consistent feedback
4. Do not make assumptions, ASK!



Best Practices: Communication

1. Meetings and feedback
2. Rewarding good work
3. Be direct about culture and expectations
4. Avoid invisible concepts
5. Ask!

Good Management!

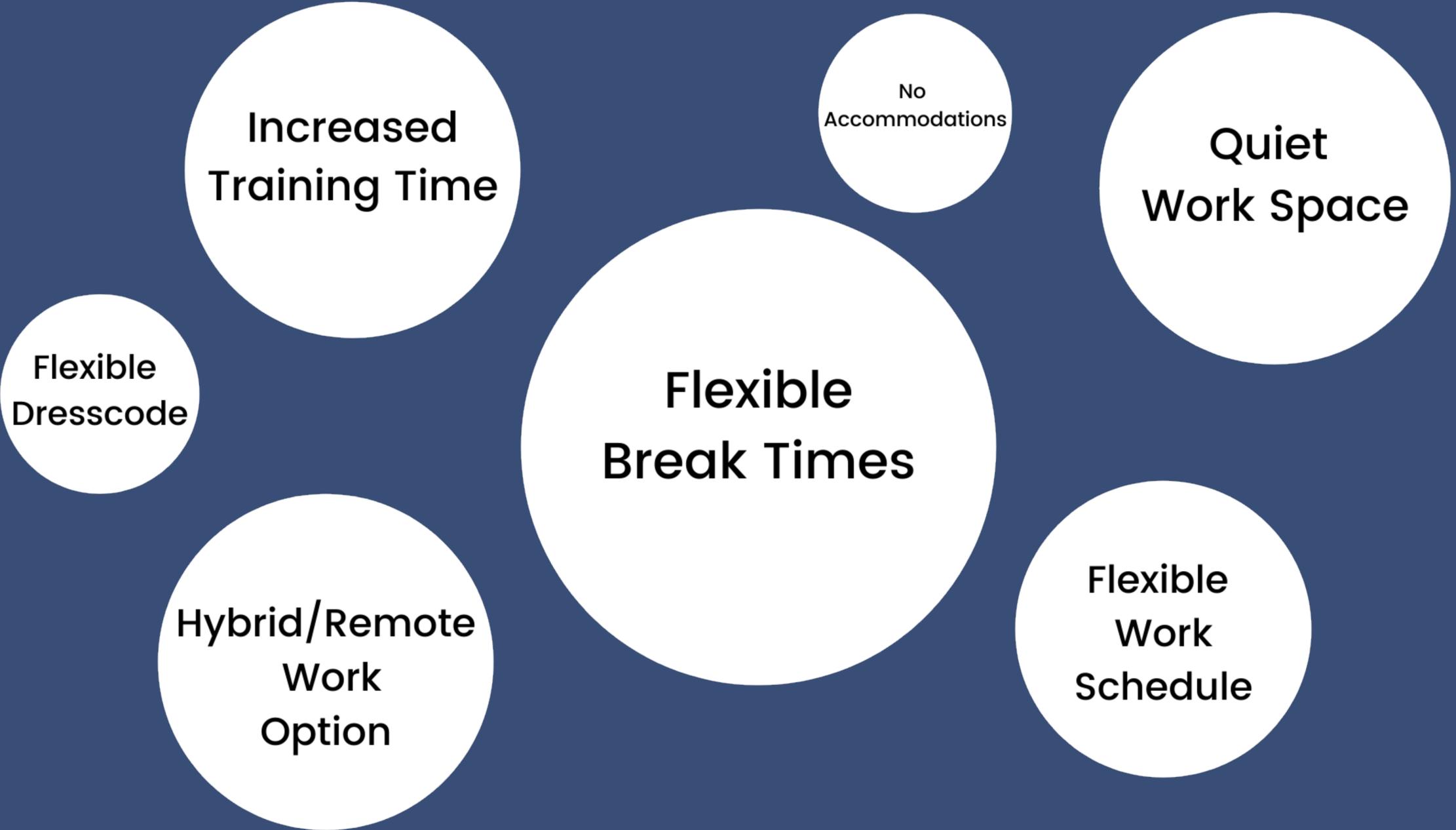


Best Practices: Considerations and Supports

1. Making small changes in an environment can make a huge difference
2. Allow time in any training for follow-up conversations
3. Allow for the independence of employees to manage their time



Considerations and Supports



What accommodations have been helpful to you in school or work?

“

I would like the industry and employers to know that I used to think of autism as a curse. Throughout my time at EM, I have learned that my autism is actually a gift, and a unique way of viewing the world.



Thank you!

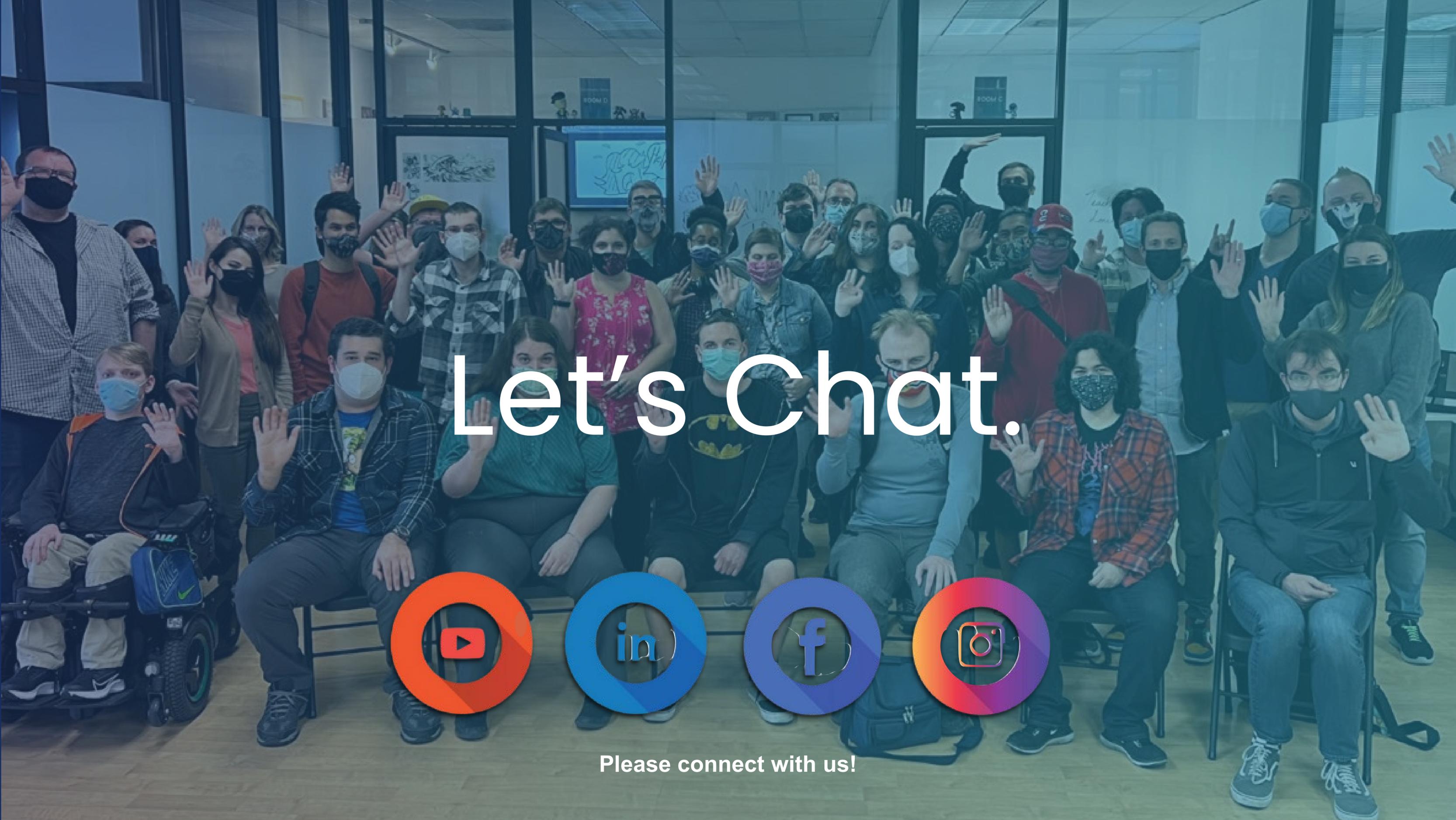


EXCEPTIONAL MINDS

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

| JUNE 20TH - AUGUST 19TH 2022 |

www.Exceptional-Minds.org



Let's Chat.



Please connect with us!

Q&A Session



National Institute
of Mental Health

OFFICE OF
AUTISM RESEARCH
COORDINATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

EXCEPTIONAL MINDS



Thank you for
joining us!



National Institute
of Mental Health

OFFICE OF
AUTISM RESEARCH
COORDINATION
.....
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

EXCEPTIONAL MINDS