

THE AUTISM NOW WEBSITE

Katherine Cargill-Willis

Administration on Intellectual and Developmental
Disabilities

Amy Goodman, Kevin Wenzel & Karen Wolf-Branigin

The Arc



Creation

- In October of 2010, the AIDD awarded The Arc of the United States \$1.87 million for fiscal year 2010
- The purpose of this four year grant was to establish a web-based National Resource and Information Center on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities

Beginnings

During the 1st year, The Arc's **Autism NOW** project held regional summits around the country to:

- Listen to questions, challenges, solutions and dreams from people with ASD and family members;
- Encourage people to connect with peers in their communities;
- Discover additional resources needed on the Autism NOW website;

The final report, “Light at the End of the Tunnel,” highlights key findings from regional summits. It can be found at the following link:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/add/AutismNOW-Summit_Final-Report_12-31-11.pdf

Highlights of Autism NOW

- People with autism create resources
- Collaborations between parents of children with ASD and people with ASD
- Collaborations with self-advocacy organizations, including:
 - Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)
 - Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN)
 - National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN)
 - Sibling Leadership Network (SLN)
- Their views can be seen in the underlying themes of the website and tools

The Main Objective is to be a Resource Center on a Fully Accessible Website:

- Fully accessible and 508 compliant
- No charge for resources
- Audio and video resources are available
- *A Curriculum for Self-Advocates* is available in Spanish
- Additional resources in Spanish and Mandarin are coming soon

Sections of the Website

Subject Areas	Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At Home• On the Job• In the Classroom• In the Community• Funding & Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Browse by Topic• Latest News• Latest Resources• Find Help in Your Area• Upcoming Events• Blog• Discussion Boards• Email sign-up form

Questions?

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Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AutismNowCenter>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/autismnowcenter>



Funding & Public Policy

welcome
to [autismNOW.org](#)

Welcome to the Autism NOW Center. The nation's source for resources and information on community-based solutions for individuals with autism, other developmental disabilities, and their families. A national initiative of The Arc.

[» read more](#)



Get Help Navigating College

This handbook offers tips and suggestions about several different issues that people with autism and other developmental disabilities may encounter in college.

[» Learn More](#)



latest news

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Video: Presuming Competence
Wednesday, March 20, 2013
Max Barrows, Kyle Moriarty, and Nicole LeBlanc of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) discuss the idea of presuming competence for people with disabilities. ...
[» read more](#)

Autism NOW Answer Series #9: What is a guardianship and how does it differ from a conservatorship?
Wednesday, March 13, 2013
Here is the ninth video in our Autism NOW Answer Series, embedded below. ...
[» read more](#)



at home

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- » [Family](#)
- » [Learn and Understand](#)
- » [Relationships](#)



on the job



in the classroom



in the community



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at home

HOME | AT HOME

In this section of the site, you'll find information on learning about and understanding autism, living with autism throughout life, how autism can affect your family life, and how it can affect your relationships.

Across the Lifespan

Find introductory information and resources about issues that span across the lives of people with autism and other developmental disabilities.

» [learn more](#)

Family

Explore introductory information about autism and how it effects and impacts families.

» [learn more](#)

Learn and Understand Autism

Deepen your knowledge of autism with introductory information on terminology, self-determination principles and other topics.

» [learn more](#)

Relationships

Find out more about autism and relationships.

» [learn more](#)

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[Autism NOW Webinar: We Are No Longer Silent](#)

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 on the job

HOME | ON THE JOB

In this section of the site, you'll find information on job-related subjects such as employment research and reports, supported employment, transition planning for job opportunities, vocational rehabilitation and more.

Employment Options

Discover your employment options by learning what we mean by employment, what people mean when they talk about employment and day services and a helpful employment glossary of terms.

» [learn more](#)

Employment Research and Reports

Although in recent years the number of people with autism spectrum disorders has been significantly growing, the availability of employment statistics specific to this group is still relatively scarce. Statistics on employment participation vary widely in how well they can identify specific groups such as people with autism spectrum disorders.

» [learn more](#)

Planning for Employment

Discover how to plan for employment if you have autism or another developmental disability.

» [learn more](#)

Supported Employment

Getting a job is an important milestone for most of us. For individuals with autism spectrum disorders, however, it is a milestone that is often not easily reached. Supported employment is an approach that can facilitate access to employment in typical work environments.

» [learn more](#)

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Our Local Agencies Map and Directory provides an easy-to-use way to find agencies

 in the classroom

HOME | [IN THE CLASSROOM](#)

In this section of the site, you'll find information on classroom and education-related subjects such as individualized education programs, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, transition planning for students, information for college students and more.

College Students

A college, university, or technical school education is increasingly recognized as a very real option for many young people on the autism spectrum (Adreon & Durocher, 2007; Briel & Getzel, 2009). This includes many who are described as having "intellectual impairments" (Hart, Grigal, & Weir, 2010). Although we do not know the exact number of people with ASD who attend college or graduate, we do know that most do not participate in post-secondary education (Briel & Getziel, 2009), often making it difficult for them to achieve their career and life goals.

» [learn more](#)

Individualized Education Programs

The Individualized Education Program or IEP is a written statement describing a child with a disability's learning goals and the supports that the school will provide to help the child achieve those goals. IEPs were first mandated under Education of All Handicapped Children Act in 1975 - now called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

» [learn more](#)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the federal legislation that entitles children with disabilities to a free public education. The law has been amended three times since 1975, when it was first enacted as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act.

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Post-Secondary Education

Find out more information on going to college, the opportunities available for people with autism and other developmental disabilities at college, how to look for the right college and much more.

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HOME | [IN THE COMMUNITY](#)

In this section of the site, you'll find information on community-related subjects such as promoting inclusion, recreation, safety, transportation, travel and more.

Nutrition

Our bodies are incredible machines that are fueled by the foods we eat. Think of your body as a car and the food you eat as the gasoline. To be healthy and keep your body running smoothly, you'll want to put the best fuel in the tank.

» [learn more](#)

Promoting Inclusion

Inclusion, at its core, focuses on “enabling people with learning disabilities to do those ordinary things, make use of mainstream services and be fully included in the local community.” Inclusion also refers to the “delivering person-centered services, equality of access, support to use services and social inclusion.” Here is more. Inclusion, at its core, focuses on “enabling people with learning disabilities to do those ordinary things, make use of mainstream services and be fully included in the local community.” Inclusion also refers to the “delivering person-centered services, equality of access, support to use services and social inclusion.”

» [learn more](#)

Recreation

Enjoying recreation activities in one's community not only brings opportunities for relaxation, focused skill building, and fun, but it has an added impact of developing social skills and relationships. Learning that occurs in inclusive settings increases social interactions, and children with autism spectrum disorders can take the social skills that develop to other settings and use them.

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Safety

Safety—from being protected from abuse and being a victim of a crime to knowing where to go in an emergency—is important for all people. However, people on the autism spectrum or

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funding and public policy

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Find information on public policy and funding opportunities.

Family Support Grants and Cash Subsidies

Browse a list of states that provide a family support grant or cash subsidy to families who have children with developmental disabilities. Each state has different eligibility criteria based on level of disability, family income, age of child, current services being received, and amount of state funds available.

» [learn more](#)

Funding and Public Policy Intro

In general, people who have autism or other developmental disabilities tend to have additional needs for financial resources or opportunities as a result of additional costs (i.e. for health care services) that they may have over their lifetime.

» [learn more](#)

Individual Development Accounts

Get information on Individual Development Accounts and how to locate programs.

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Social Security Benefits

There are two main programs of social security benefits for children and adults who have disabilities. They are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Retirement, Survivor's, and Disability Insurance (RSDI).

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State Assistance Programs for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients

Find information on State Assistance Programs for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients.

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Here, you can browse the site's content by topic and narrow it down by subject.

Autism 101

Find information on the basics of autism across the website.. This includes terminology, diagnosis and screening and more.

[» More](#)

Civil Rights

Search through information across the website on the civil rights of people with autism and other developmental disabilities. This includes federal and state laws and more.

[» More](#)

Education

Browse information and resources across the website that relate to the education system, classroom resources, colleges and more.

[» More](#)

Employment

Find news, information and resources on employment issues across the website. These include topics like transition issues, job search strategies and more.

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Benefits And Services

Browse information and resources across the website that relate to qualifying for state and federal benefits and other special services.

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Community Life

Find news, information and resources on living in the community across the website. These include topics like community living, religion and more.

[» More](#)

Emergency Preparedness

Search through information and resources across the website on how to prepare for potential emergency situations. This includes natural disasters and more.

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Family And Relationships

Browse information and resources across the website on family issues and how to manage other important relationships in life.

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Video: Presuming Competence

Max Barrows, Kyle Moriarty, and Nicole LeBlanc of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) discuss the idea of presuming competence for people with disabilities. This video can also be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#).



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Autism NOW Webinar: Think College Vermont: College Options for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Think College Vermont at the University Vermont is a small, innovative, inclusive, academic, social, and vocational program for students with intellectual disabilities seeking a college experience.

» [read more](#)

Autism NOW Webinar: We Are No Longer Silent

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

This presentation will focus on a topic that is often left out of the mainstream dialogue on autism and disability rights.

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Autism NOW Webinar: Look Through Our Eyes

September 25, 2012

Register for this webinar to learn how self-advocates in Vermont are teaching others to "Look Through Our Eyes." Green Mountain Self-Advocates will demonstrate and share training activities that they do with support workers, college stu

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Autism NOW Webinar: Moving Beyond Subminimum Wages

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

On August 23, 2012, President Obama's National Council on Disability (NCD) released a report calling for the phase-out of the 14(c) program that allows employers to pay less than federal minimum wage to workers with disabilities.

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Autism NOW Webinar: Meeting, Making, and Keeping Friends and Connections

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

In this webinar, Andee Joyce will offer a glimpse into the mind of an individual with autism! She will draw from her own experiences to discuss the thoughts and emotions that a person with autism may experience during social situations.

latest resources

Handbook: Relationships and Sexuality

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

This anthology aims to take readers on a thought-provoking journey about relationships and sexuality through the eyes of self-advocates.

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Guide: Autism NOW Health Promotion

Thursday, February 7, 2013

This guide from the Peer to Peer HealthMessages Program focuses on people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and caregivers/support persons of individuals with disabilities.

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Article: National Center on Secondary Education and Transition: Bullying and Teasing of Youth With Disabilities: Creating Positive School Environment for Effective Inclusion

Thursday, January 24, 2013

This article provides information on bullying, teasing and disability harassment.

» [read more](#)

Website: The University of Oregon: Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

Thursday, January 24, 2013

The University of Oregon engages in education, research and various projects pertaining to developmental disabilities.

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Website: AskEarn.org

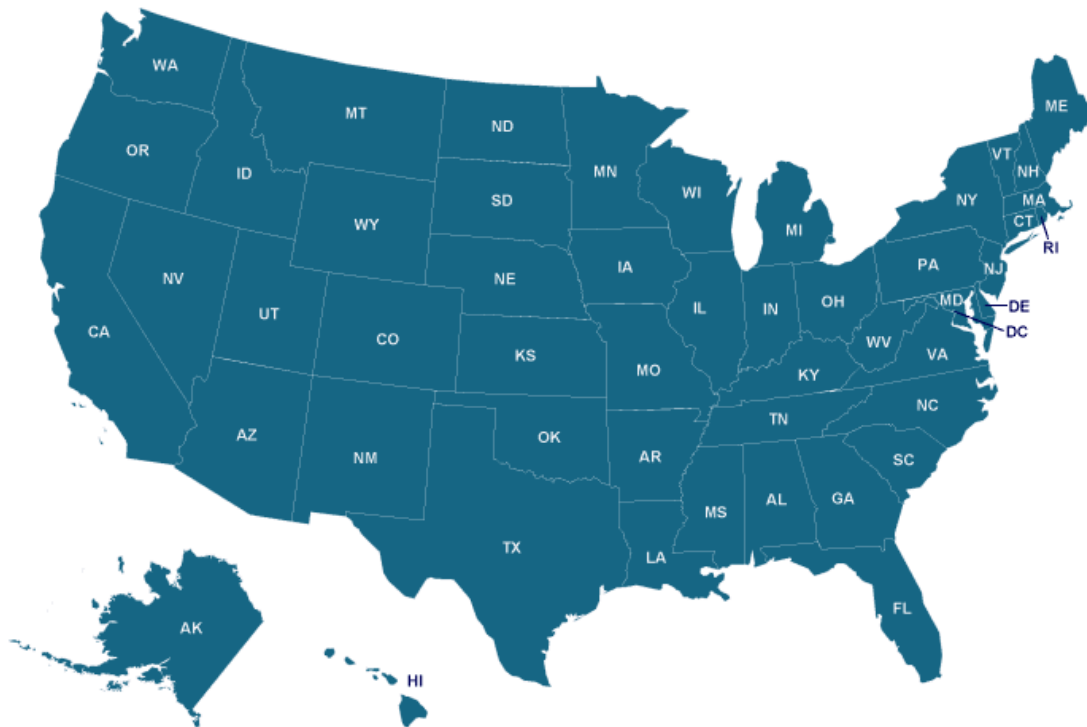
Thursday, January 24, 2013

EARN supports employers in recruiting, hiring, retaining and advancing qualified individual with disabilities through consultation and technical assistance, customized training, online resources and links to state and local community-based

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» [all resources](#)

District of Columbia ▾



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District of Columbia

City

County

Service Type

[Autism Society District Of Columbia](#)

N/A

N/A

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[Easter Seals Greater Washington-Baltimore Region](#)

N/A

N/A

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N/A

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blog

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Becoming Whole: A Sibling's Story

Standing in solidarity with Willie is the boldest statement I can make. I'm saying: not only is my brother worthy of love and belonging, not only is he uniquely gifted...he's akin to me, and he's my friend.

What advice would you give a family member about the importance of a person getting involved in self advocacy?

In the fall of 2011, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered collaborated with six self-advocacy organizations to run focus forums with 10 to 30 peer leaders with developmental disabilities. Here are their responses.

Asperger's Means That

Not having Asperger's would mean not being me.

The Important Issues Self-Advocates are Speaking Up About

In the fall of 2011, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered collaborated with eight self-advocacy organizations to run focus forums with 10 to 30 peer leaders with developmental disabilities. Here are their responses.

Empowerment

The way you are is OK. You don't need to hide it.

Growing Up in an Institution

Disclaimer: The following contains the author's recount of graphic events and may not be suitable for all ages.

Plants Outside the Shade

This is a personal description of some of what autism means to me.

My Washington DC Internship

During the summer of 2012, I was awarded the wonderful opportunity to intern at the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) as part of The Washington Center (TWC) Internships and Academic Seminars Program.

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forums





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Forums

Welcome to our forums. You must first create an account in order to post and/or reply to topics. Please be sure to read our [Online Community Guidelines](#) before posting. Thanks for participating!

Register

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Forum	Topics	Posts	Freshness
Autism NOW Center Give us feedback on our programs, initiatives and the website.	22	39	4 months, 1 week ago  LinZ
General Talk about general news, events and issues in the autism and developmental disabilities community.	3	3	3 weeks, 6 days ago  Bell
Network with Others Meet other people like you, and share your personal stories and triumphs.	1	1	9 months, 2 weeks ago  David Kennedy
Resources Share resources and information that have helped you, and can help others.	1	2	9 months, 2 weeks ago  David Kennedy

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