



Media Alert

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LaSalle University's Annual Autism Conference to Feature Top Researchers, Educators, and Advocates

What:

For the ninth consecutive year, LaSalle University will present its **Annual Autism Conference** – the region's longest-running educational event focused on creating pathways to brighter futures for individuals and families affected by autism.

This year's theme centers on the critical area of **transition**. Prominent educators and researchers from the autism community will lead content-rich workshops and discussion panels. They will share insights and best practices for helping individuals diagnosed with autism prepare for workplace and educational opportunities and build toward independent lives. Approximately 350 autism professionals/teachers, caregivers, and self-advocates are expected to attend.

When

Friday, May 5, 2017
 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Where:

LaSalle University (Union Building)
 1900 West Olney Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA

Timelines for Media Opportunities

Time	Subject	Location
9:00 <i>Opening Remarks</i>	Dr. James Connell , renowned researcher and clinician	Dan Rodden Theater
9:30: 10:45 <i>Keynote Address</i>	Kerry Magro , award-winning disability advocate; Diagnosed with autism at age 4, Magro is a best-selling author, movie consultant, and founder of a non-profit organization that awards college scholarships to students with autism	Dan Rodden Theater
11:00 – Noon Conference Co-Chair Interviews	Dr. Eric Mitchell (Director, Ruttenberg Autism Center) and Dr. Carole Patrylo (Professor, LaSalle University Education Department) – co-chairs for the 2017 Autism Conference – are available for questions and comments on the scope and significance of this year's event.	Ballroom

12:30 – 1:30 <i>Honored Guests</i>	Former Philadelphia City Councilman Denny O'Brien , Nina Wall (Director of the Bureau of Autism Services, PA Department of Human Services), and current Philadelphia City Councilman Derek Green will share insights with attendees during lunch.	Ballroom
12:30 – 1:30 <i>Autism: A Poster Session</i>	Conference Co-Chair Dr. Carole Patrylo moderates discussion among LaSalle students, who present artwork to reflect an aspect of their studies associated with Autism Spectrum Disorder.	Ballroom
1:45 – 3:00 <i>Plenary Session</i>	Ari Ne'eman , Founding President of the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN), is the featured speaker for the plenary session.	Dan Rodden Theater
1:45 – 3:00 <i>Panel Discussion</i>	Conference Co-Chair Dr. Eric Mitchell facilitates a special panel (<i>Transitioning to Adulthood with Moderate-Severe ASD Needs</i>) comprised of experts from multiple disciplines.	Olney 101

Why It Matters

An estimated 50,000 Americans diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) turn 18 each year. In Pennsylvania, the proportion of adolescents with ASD transitioning to adulthood is growing rapidly – from 7.1% in 2005 to a projected 21.1% by 2020. LaSalle's Annual Autism Conference is an important venue for information exchange and creating a network of support and assistance for the autism community.

About LaSalle University's Annual Autism Conference

The Annual Autism Conference presented by LaSalle University is the area's longest-running educational event focused on advancing the lives of individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Each year, it addresses themes related to the critical area of transitions, and attracts the most respected practitioners and presenters from the regional autism community. Prior conferences have featured famous self-advocate Dr. Temple Grandin as keynote speaker, and U.S. Senator Arlen Specter as Honorary Chairperson.

Visit <https://lasalle.edu/autism-conference>.

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