

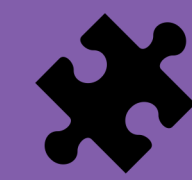
Autism Awareness and Inclusion Week at Furman University:

A SC LEND Leadership Project

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Furman University



Purpose



The aim of Autism Awareness and Inclusion Week was to help create and foster a community of inclusion and acceptance on Furman University's campus.

Financial Support



We sought funding to support this event from campus organizations and local retailers. Additionally, we submitted a success proposal to the SC Developmental Disabilities Council for a conference grant and were awarded \$5000.

Outcomes and Challenges

- High attendance
- Positive conversations with students who have ASD
- Connections and lasting relationships

- Weather conditions
- Managing the budget
- Finding panelists
- Time

Advice for Future Trainees



- Plan ahead.
- Manage your time wisely.
- Create a realistic leadership project. (Even a small project can have a lasting impact)
- Set concrete and realistic goals.
- Build strong relationships with your advisors and mentors.

Timeline of Events

Keynote Speaker

Alix Generous is an international self-advocate who came to campus to talk about the importance of neurodiversity and mental health.



- Events included:
- A keynote address which had 134 attendees
 - A faculty and staff workshop on how to better accommodate students on the spectrum
 - Classroom presentations

Family Panel



The panelists included two self-advocates, a mother whose son had ASD and a sister whose brother has ASD.

Four community members came to campus and participated in a panel to speak about how ASD has affected their lives.

There were about 40 attendees.

Puzzle Color Fun Run

This was a fundraising color run. Proceeds will go towards campus' Student Office for Accessibility Resources and Project HOPE, a local non-profit that provides resources for families affected by autism.

We had about 89 people register for the run and around 40 volunteers.



Tuesday, Sept 18



Thursday, Sept 20



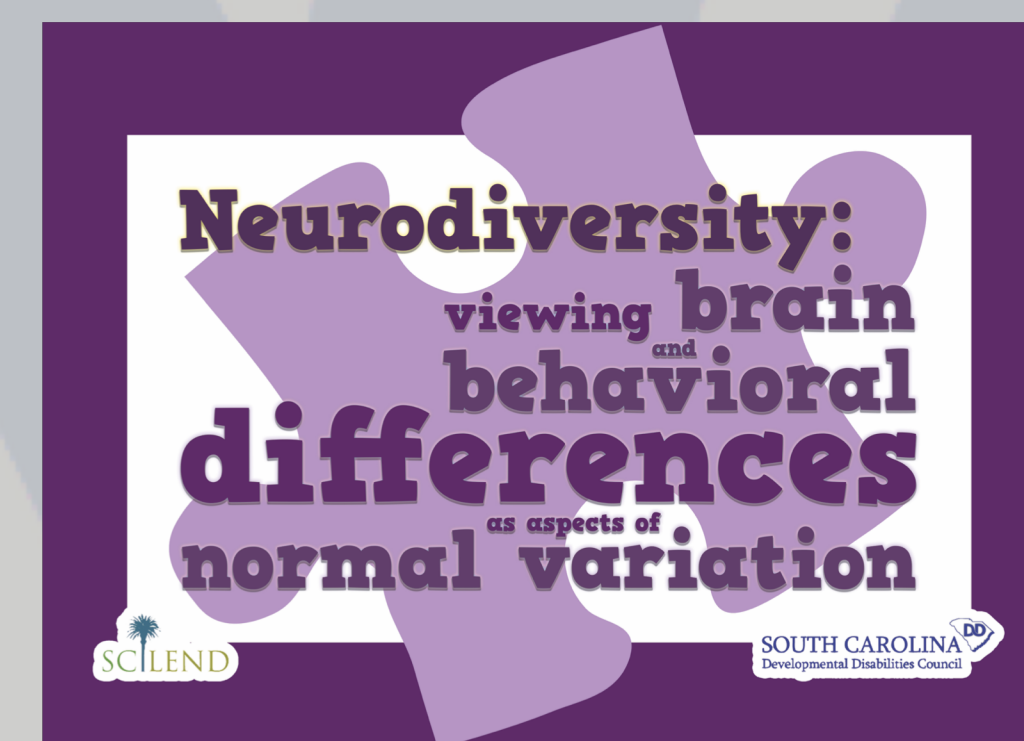
Saturday, Sept 21

Publicity



Information Tables:

During Autism Awareness and Inclusion Week, we set up tables around campus and offered a small prize to anyone who volunteered to learn a fact about Autism Spectrum Disorder.



Lawn Signs:

We posted lawn signs with facts about Autism Spectrum Disorder and survey results throughout campus.

Survey



Before the events, we sent a survey to gauge how inclusive, accepting, and knowledgeable Furman Students were of Autism Spectrum Disorder.



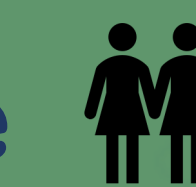
We are currently analyzing the results of a post-test survey to see if our events had any measurable effects on Furman University students.

Furman University



Furman University is a small, private coeducational liberal arts college in Greenville, South Carolina.

The Undergraduate LEND Experience



We were the first undergraduate LEND trainees in the nation. It was a unique and rewarding experience because we were able to learn and expand our knowledge and leadership skills beyond the classroom. We also had the opportunity to study and work alongside graduate students and professionals in the neurodevelopmental field.



Acknowledgements



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