



# Disability Support Services Quarterly Newsletter

Please visit our website: [www.ctcd.edu/disability-support](http://www.ctcd.edu/disability-support)

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## Contact Information

### DSS Office Location, Phone &

#### Fax Numbers:

Building 215, Room 111

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#### DSS Office Hours:

Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

Friday 7:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

#### DSS Team:

Dr. Christy Shank  
DSS Director

Wilma Brown-Smith  
DSS Coordinator

Ron Porter  
DSS Coordinator

#### Campus Holidays:

Presidents' Day: February 21

Spring Break: March 14-18

Good Friday: April 15

For this edition of the DSS Quarterly Newsletter, DSS shares information about Autism Spectrum Disorder, with the goal of helping to educate others about this topic.

Our DSS staff is available to service our students, faculty, and staff during business hours.

To schedule a virtual or in person appointment or for assistance with accommodations, please contact one of the following DSS Coordinators:

\*Wilma Brown Smith: [wbrown@ctcd.edu](mailto:wbrown@ctcd.edu) or 254-526-1863

\*Ron Porter: [ron.porter@ctcd.edu](mailto:ron.porter@ctcd.edu) or 254-526-1822

Any questions, comments, and suggestions can be sent to:

[DSS@ctcd.edu](mailto:DSS@ctcd.edu)

#### DSS Mission Statement

DSS is committed to assisting the college so that individuals with disabilities are assured an equal opportunity to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from all college programs, services, and activities. DSS supports individuals with disabilities by coordinating reasonable accommodations and services. We are committed to providing equal access to higher education for academically qualified individuals with disabilities.

#### Quote of the Quarter

*"The only person who is educated is  
the one who has learned how to learn  
and change."*

*~Carl Rogers ~*

## What is a Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior. Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is said to be a “developmental disorder” because symptoms generally appear in the first two years of life. Autism is known as a “spectrum” disorder because there is wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms people experience. ASD occurs in all ethnic, racial, and economic groups. Although ASD can be a lifelong disorder, treatments and services can improve a person’s symptoms and ability to function.

\*According to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), a guide created by the American Psychiatric Association used to diagnose mental disorders, people with ASD have: Difficulty with communication and interaction with other people; Restricted interests and repetitive behaviors; Symptoms that hurt the person’s ability to function properly in school, work, and other areas of life

### Social communication / interaction behaviors may include:

- \*Making little or inconsistent eye contact
- \*Tending not to look at or listen to people
- \*Failing to, or being slow to, respond to verbal attempts to gain attention
- \*Having difficulties with the back and forth of conversation
- \*Having facial expressions, movements, and gestures that do not match what is being said
- \*Having trouble understanding another person’s point of view or being unable to predict or understand other people’s actions

### Restrictive / repetitive behaviors may include:

- \*Repeating certain behaviors or having unusual behaviors. For example, repeating words or phrases, a behavior called echolalia
- \*Having a lasting intense interest in certain topics, such as numbers, details, or facts
- \*Having overly focused interests, such as with moving objects or parts of objects
- \*Getting upset by slight changes in a routine
- \*Being more or less sensitive than other people to sensory input, such as light, noise, clothing, or temperature
- \*People with ASD may also experience sleep problems and irritability.

Although people with ASD experience many challenges, they may also have many strengths, including the following:

- \*Being able to learn things in detail and remember information for long periods of time
- \*Being strong visual and auditory learners
- \*Excelling in math, science, music, or art

**Source:** <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/autism-spectrum-disorders-asd#:~:text=Autism%20is%20known%20as%20a,symptoms%20and%20ability%20to%20function.>

Please visit the DSS website for detailed information on services: [www.ctcd.edu/disability-support](http://www.ctcd.edu/disability-support)