

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE  
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION**

**IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

1           WHEREAS, Student Senate is the official voice of the student body at the University of  
2 Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC); and  
3           WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is committed to promoting and supporting  
4 equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) efforts; and  
5           WHEREAS, April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> is recognized as “National Autism Awareness  
6 Month” (NAAM); and  
7           WHEREAS, every April 2<sup>nd</sup> is recognized and highlighted as “World Autism Awareness Day”; and  
8           WHEREAS, “In 1970, the Autism Society launched an ongoing nationwide effort to promote  
9 autism awareness and assure that all affected by autism are able to achieve the highest quality of life  
10 possible”<sup>1</sup>;and  
11           WHEREAS,“ In 1972, the Autism Society launched the first annual National Autistic Children’s  
12 week, which evolved into NAAM”<sup>1</sup>;and  
13           WHEREAS, the Autism Society is a grassroots organization that advocate through their efforts to  
14 spread awareness, promote acceptance, and ignite change, and  
15           WHEREAS, their program this year for NAAM 2020 was “Celebrating Differences”, a  
16 campaign “designed to build a better awareness of the signs, symptoms, and realities of autism”<sup>1</sup>;and  
17           WHEREAS, through this campaign the Autism Society also hopes to “provide information and  
18 resources for communities to be more aware of autism, promote acceptance, and be more inclusive in  
19 everyday life”<sup>1</sup>;and  
20           WHEREAS, departments in our University provide resources and services for this population on  
21 our campus such as Student Services for Disability, Equity in Student Matters, Academic Skills Center,  
22 and Counseling Services; and  
23           WHEREAS, with recent studies indicating there has been an increase of individuals born with  
24 autism in the United States with “1 in 125 children in 2010, to 1 in 59 children in 2020”<sup>1</sup>;and  
25           WHEREAS, individuals with autism are highly discriminated against them across all cultures and  
26 lived experiences; and  
27           WHEREAS, *HealthDay News* reported: “British researchers found that 72 percent of the  
28 psychological distress reported in 111 adults with autism was linked to social stigma, including  
29 discrimination and rejection”; and

1. <https://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/national-autism-awareness-month/>

2. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/10/181022122910.htm>

30 WHEREAS, discrimination such as social isolation, othering, and peer rejection has been clinically  
31 tested and has been determined to have major effects on individuals with autism to causing higher rates  
32 of mental health issues and higher rates of suicide<sup>2</sup>; and

33 WHEREAS, it is vital we support this identity on our campus and our communities; and

34 BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, the University will continue to work towards providing  
35 resources and support to individuals living with autism; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Senate recognizes this month of April as well as National  
38 Autism Awareness Month; and

39 BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED, Student Senate encourages the University to continue  
40 providing educational opportunities and information for the community; and

41 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Johnson will transmit a  
42 copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor, Equity, Diversity,  
43 Inclusion and Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Klein, Provost and Vice  
44 Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Dang Yang, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Chris  
45 Jorgenson, Director, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; Teresa O'Halloran, Director, Affirmative  
46 Action; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers, Evan Weiher, University Senate, Vicky  
47 Thomas, Director, Services for Students with Disabilities, Miranda Ricci, Student Body President, UW-  
48 ECBC;

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Jackie Buttafuoco, Off-Campus Senator

1. <https://www.autism-society.org/get-involved/national-autism-awareness-month/>

2. <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/10/181022122910.htm>