NIMH/OARC SPECIAL EVENT FOR AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH:

Animating the Future for Exceptional Minds

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022 • 1:00 PM TO 2:30 PM
VIRTUAL EVENT • HTTPS://IACC.HHS.GOV
Welcome

Joshua Gordon, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
Chair, Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC)

Susan A. Daniels, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Autism Research Coordination, NIMH
Executive Secretary, IACC
Acting National Autism Coordinator
Exceptional Minds

An academy and studio preparing young adults on the autism spectrum for careers in digital arts and media.
Meet Today’s Team

David Siegel
Executive Director

Isaiah Strum
VFX Artist

Becca David
Animation Student

David Miles
Animation Artist

Kat Cutright
 Academic Consultant
Agenda

1. General overview
2. Programs Overview
3. Best practices for job seekers
4. Best practices for employers
5. How you can get involved

Q&A!
2,000+ Enrollments

- 94% Graduation rate
- 87% Job placement rate
- 39% Full-time students on tuition assistance
- 48% Non-white enrollment
- 29% Female/Non-Binary enrollment

$1.25 million in scholarships granted
“Exceptional Minds Awards Scholarship...”
Over the next five years we will **double** the # of students across all programs
Xavier
Four Years at Marvel
Job Outcomes 2022!

PPC

GHOST VFX

MATTEL

nickelodeon

Exceptional Minds

Diamond Game

DreamWorks
Agenda

1. Programs Overview
2. Best practices for job seekers
3. Best practices for employers
4. How you can get involved

Q&A!
Being on the spectrum expands the horizons of the entertainment industry. Autism allows us to help solve problems in new ways and with a new perspective on creativity and storytelling.
A Decade of Training, Careers, and Community

Kat Cutright
Academic Consultant
ACADEMY

Full-Time Workshops

CAREER READINESS
STUDIO
Animation Post
About our Students and Graduates

Passionate!

Special Interest in the areas we teach can drive learning, creativity, and discovery

Diligent!

Detail-oriented individuals who care for their craft will get the job done

Reliable!

Placing importance on routine means keeping organized and on schedule
Best Practices For Job-Seekers

Becca David ('22)
Animation Student
Job-Seeker Best Practices

1. Be clear on the job description
2. Practice “potential” interview questions in advance
3. If virtual, do a run-through with all tech and in your space
4. Have all resumes and reel materials prepared
5. Prepare questions to ask
6. Let the interviewer know of any accommodations you may need
For an interview, an outline of the planned structure and clear expectations are what help me prepare.
Best Practices For Employers

David Miles
Animation Artist

Isaiah Strum
VFX Artist
Best Practices: Overall

1. Presume competence in an individual’s ability: an employee is able to perform a task until challenges arise

2. Offer a variety of training methods

3. Open, honest, consistent feedback

4. Do not make assumptions, ASK!
Best Practices: Communication

1. Meetings and feedback
2. Rewarding good work
3. Be direct about culture and expectations
4. Avoid invisible concepts
5. Ask!

Good Management!
Best Practices: Considerations and Supports

1. Making small changes in an environment can make a huge difference
2. Allow time in any training for follow-up conversations
3. Allow for the independence of employees to manage their time
Considerations and Supports

What accommodations have been helpful to you in school or work?

- Increased Training Time
- Flexible Work Space
- Flexible Break Times
- Hybrid/Remote Work Option
- Flexible Work Schedule
- No Accommodations
- Flexible Dresscode
I would like the industry and employers to know that I used to think of autism as a curse. Throughout my time at EM, I have learned that my autism is actually a gift, and a unique way of viewing the world.
Thank you!
Exceptional Minds

Summer Workshops

June 20th – August 19th 2022

www.Exceptional-Minds.org
Let’s Chat.

Please connect with us!
Q&A Session
Thank you for joining us!