BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ASD SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS ON YOUR CAMPUS

April 18, 2013

Name _____

Title _____

College _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please note if you have any:

Dietary restrictions ☐ _____

Accessibility concerns ☐ _____

A block of rooms has been reserved at:
Clarion Hotel and Conference Center
2800 W. 8th St. • Erie, PA 16505
(814) 833-1116

Rate: $66/night
Hotel reservations must be made by March 14, 2013.

Feel free to duplicate this form for additional registrants.

CREATING EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

Topics to be covered include:

- **Examining the Autism Spectrum Diagnosis**
  Gerard Tobin, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Life
- **History of the Asperger Initiative at Mercyhurst**
  Dianne Rogers, Director, Learning Differences Program
- **AIMing High: An Analysis of the Program**
  Bradley McGarry, Coordinator, Asperger Initiative at Mercyhurst
- **Faculty Perspectives**
  Panel of Mercyhurst faculty members
- **Behavioral Expectations**
  Representatives of Counseling Center and Student Conduct Office
- **The Residence Hall Experience**
  Representatives of Residence Life Office
- **Support Staff Involvement**
  Representatives of Police and Safety, Campus Involvement Center, Library, Counseling Center and Dining Services

Building an Inclusive ASD Support Program for Students on Your Campus

April 18, 2013

MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ASD SUPPORT PROGRAM

In December 2003, Dr. Jane Thierfeld Brown, one of the most highly regarded post-secondary authorities on autism in the United States, was interviewed for the professional journal *Disability Compliance for Higher Education*. In this interview Dr. Brown cautioned colleges to "get ready to handle an influx of students with Asperger Syndrome." In response, Mercyhurst University – with its 25+ years of commitment to serving students with disabilities – initiated a cross-campus collaboration to meet the unique needs of the growing number of college students diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome (AS) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The Asperger Initiative at Mercyhurst (AIM) was designed to emphasize both academic and social competence. We have discovered that AS/ASD students need help navigating the residence hall and the cafeteria, as well as the classroom and the library. Through our program they have learned how to communicate effectively with teachers and roommates, as well as how to research and write a term paper. We believe that development of social skills is as important to their eventual success as mastery of academic skills.

In celebration of our 10-year commitment to this population, Mercyhurst University's Division of Student Life invites you to attend a one-day conference on our campus on Thursday, April 18, 2013. We'll share "lessons learned" relative to our research and programming for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Learning Outcome:

After attending this conference, you will be able to develop an action plan for improving service delivery to students with ASD on your campus.

Who Should Attend:

This program is ideal for institutional teams who want to know more about or are developing a program for students on the autism spectrum. Professionals who would gain from this experience include administrators who oversee student success services including:

- **Academic support**
- **Retention initiatives**
- **Academic advising**
- **Disabilities services**
- **At-risk student programs**

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- How do you start a conversation about individuals on the autism spectrum attending your college?
- Who do you involve and how?
- How do you build partnership on your campus?
- How can you build upon your current structures?
- What space and staffing issues can you anticipate?
- How do you anticipate and prepare for challenges in developing this initiative?

COST: *The conference fee is $100, which includes continental breakfast and lunch.*

TO REGISTER: Tear off registration form on back and send it with your check (payable to Mercyhurst University) to:

Dianne Rogers
Learning Differences Program
Mercyhurst University
501 E. 38th St.
Erie, PA 16546

PLEASE REGISTER BY MARCH 14, 2013

For more information, call (814) 824-2450 or email *drogers@mercyhurst.edu.*