



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 7, 2014**

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**INSTITUTE FOR AUTISM AND BEHAVIORAL STUDIES SPONSORS FORUM  
TO ADDRESS DISPARITIES IN AUTISM DIAGNOSES AND SERVICES  
IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

**June 3, 2014, Noon to 3 p.m.**

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. (June 3, 2014)– The Institute for Autism and Behavioral Studies at the University of Saint Joseph will sponsor a forum, “The Autism Multicultural Project: Addressing Disparities and Needs in Underserved Communities.” The forum will be held on Tuesday, June 3, from noon to 3:00 p.m. in Mercy Hall, Crystal Room at the University’s West Hartford Campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue. Admission is free. Registration is required.

The forum will highlight the latest research on disparities in autism diagnoses and services in underserved communities often due to social, economic, language, and other barriers. Panelists and attendees will also address what is needed in these communities to provide more information, early diagnoses and support services, as well as social, recreational, educational, and cultural programs outside of school for children with autism and their families.

Keynote speakers for the event will be: Jamitha S. Fields, vice president, Community Affairs, Autism Speaks-National, New York; Dr. Helen Newton, executive director of Connecticut Commission on Health Equity. Panelists will be: Brenetta Henry, advocate at AFCAMP (African Caribbean Parents of Children with Disabilities) in Hartford; Solandy Forte, Center for Children with Special Needs in Glastonbury and an adjunct professor at USJ; and John Molteni, Ph.D., director, Institute for Autism and Behavioral Studies at University of Saint Joseph. The forum will be moderated by Hena Daniels, anchor/reporter, Eyewitness News at WFSB TV 3 Connecticut.

The Autism Multicultural Project (AMP)™ is a new initiative founded by Grace Clark, a parent, journalist, and advocate, who is a Communications Specialist/Writer at the University of Saint Joseph. To register for the forum, email [gclark@usj.edu](mailto:gclark@usj.edu) or call 860.231.5548. For more information about The Autism Multicultural Project, email [autism.multicultural@yahoo.com](mailto:autism.multicultural@yahoo.com).

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring*

*environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, visit our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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UNIVERSITY OF  
SAINT JOSEPH  
CONNECTICUT

## "The Autism Multicultural Project: Addressing Disparities and Needs in Underserved Communities"

Tuesday, June 3, 2014 | Noon to 3 p.m.  
(Registration Noon to 12:30 p.m.)

University of Saint Joseph  
Mercy Hall in the Crystal Room  
1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT

Free event | Lunch provided | Handicap Accessibility

The forum will highlight some of the disparities in Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnoses and resources in underserved communities, and introduce The Autism Multicultural Project."



**MODERATOR**  
**Hena Daniels**  
WFSB-TV 3 Connecticut – Anchor/Reporter, Eyewitness News

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Jamitha S. Fields** Vice President, Community Affairs, Autism Speaks National – New York  
**Dr. Helen Newton, MD** Executive Director of Connecticut Commission on Health Equity

### PANELISTS INCLUDE

**Brenetta Henry** Family Advocate, Parent, African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities (AFCAMP) – Hartford, CT  
**Solandy Forte** Senior Program Coordinator, Center for Children with Special Needs – Glastonbury, CT



**John Molteni, Ph.D.**  
Director, Institute for Autism  
and Behavioral Studies at  
University of Saint Joseph



**Grace Clark**  
Founder,  
Autism Multicultural Project,  
Connecticut

Registration is required no later than Tuesday, May 19.

To register, email [gclark@usj.edu](mailto:gclark@usj.edu) or call 860.231.5548. For more information about the Autism Multicultural Project, email [autism.multicultural@yahoo.com](mailto:autism.multicultural@yahoo.com)

