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**AHEAD.org to Celebrate First National Adult Autism Awareness Day  
on April 18 with Education, Employment, and Legislation Panels**

**Pittsburgh, PA** – March 27, 2009 – AHEAD.org, the first and only private program to provide support for students with autism and Asperger's Syndrome in college, today announced a series of expert panel discussions to commemorate the first annual celebration of Adult Autism Awareness Day on April 18.

Co-presented by the Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD), the national conference will be held at the University of Pittsburgh and includes sponsorship by Autism Speaks, the Bureau of Autism Services, Carnegie Mellon University, Community College of Allegheny County, Duquesne University, the Pennsylvania State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and UPMC. Topics include post-secondary education and employment, as well as research and legislation.

According to Carolyn Komich Hare, AHEAD.org's director and founder, "The goal is to create awareness of our Adult Autism Community, demonstrate the importance of transition planning, promote inclusiveness through education, and improve social and employment outcomes for adults with autism." Speakers include Congressman Mike Doyle (D-PA), founder of the Coalition for Autism Research and Education (CARE), as well as university officials, licensed specialists, and young adults with autism. A complete program is available at <http://www.ahead.org/adult-autism-day.html>.

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**ABOUT AHEAD:** AHEAD.org is the official national sponsor of Adult Autism Awareness Day. Founded in 2002, by mother-of-two and Pittsburgh resident Carolyn Komich Hare, AHEAD.org provides mentoring and personal advocacy for college students with Asperger's Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder, High-Functioning Autism, and Non-Verbal Learning Disorder. The program currently exists in DC, FL, MA, NY, PA, and TX and is rapidly expanding to higher-education environments across the country.

The AHEAD Model™ of individualized support was recently featured in *USA Today* and the *Wall Street Journal*. One hundred percent of college students who participated for one semester improved their GPA by at least .5 (and sometimes by as much as two) points. Ninety percent of students who were on academic probation were able to successfully continue their college careers with the program's support. Additional information is available at <http://www.ahead.org>.