Community of Practice on Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disabilities

**Becoming an Adult**
October 1, 2016
Madison College, Truax Campus

**Today’s Expert Panel**

**Alex Shariff**
Alex is a 2015 graduate of UWGB where he received a bachelor’s degree in Design Arts. He was also awarded a Student Leadership Award for his contributions to the disability community. He is currently a freelance graphic designer and will soon be starting a job experience with a Madison graphic design company that he obtained through DVR. Alex is active in the Autism Society through which he has made many friends. He has done several presentations on overcoming challenges and is the illustrator of the soon-to-be published book, "Proud to be a Kid Like Me!"

**Zach Shariff**
Zach received his Associates of Arts Degree from UW-Manitowoc in 2014. He is currently in his last year at UWGB where is working toward his B.S. in both Political Science and Philosophy with a Minor in International Relations. Zach is active in the Autism Society where he is a past member of the Autism Society of the Lakeshore board of directors. He has been a vocal self-advocate since high school and has participated in and presented at a variety of state-wide and national disability events. He is the co-author of the soon-to-be published autobiographical book, "Proud to be a Kid Like Me!"

**Matt Ward**
Matt Ward was born in 1978 and diagnosed with autism when he was 18 months old. He graduated from the UW Madison with a mathematics degree in May, 2005. Matt has lived in his own apartment in Madison since 2003. He works 2 afternoons a week at the Madison Library. Matt also has a small business selling math related artwork such as origami and fractal graphics plus original color pencil drawings based on his imaginary world. He works in his art studio 3 afternoons a week. He has done extensive public speaking since 1996 on his life and autism awareness. His many interests include fractal mathematics, origami, Nintendo Games, Disney cartoons, Weird Al Yankovic, multi-lane freeways, Legos and dogs. mattiward@charter.net