



Media Contact:

Daphne Plump
Public Relations Manager
Telephone: (661) 478-6512
Email: d.plump@centerforautism.com
19019 Ventura Blvd, Tarzana, CA 91356

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LAUSD Selects Center for Autism and Related Disorders' to Provide Behavioral Health Training to 6,000+ Staff

The CARD eLearning program will provide professional online training to over 6,000 LAUSD educators and support staff in evidence-based principles of behavioral health treatment for children with autism spectrum disorders.

LOS ANGELES, CALI JUNE 22, 2012 - The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the second largest school district in the nation, has selected the Center for Autism and Related Disorders' CARD eLearning™ program to provide the district with intense training in evidence-based principles of behavioral health treatment for individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Over 6,000 LAUSD teachers and support staff will participate in the training.

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders, Inc. (CARD) is the world's largest provider of state-of-the-art, early intensive behavioral intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. In addition to providing treatment for thousands of children worldwide, CARD develops and utilizes technology to increase access to training for professionals who work with individuals who have been diagnosed with ASD. The CARD eLearning™ program (www.cardelearning.com) trains educators and other professionals in the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), which has been empirically proven to be the most effective treatment for individuals with ASD and is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the U.S. Surgeon General.

CARD eLearning™ is a 20-hour online training course designed to facilitate effective intervention for children with autism spectrum disorders by equipping users with foundational knowledge in ABA. The training consists of nine video-based training modules which feature online note taking, quizzes, a final exam, and a certificate of course completion.

LAUSD currently has approximately 919,000 students, including adult education.

"We are honored to become partners with the Los Angeles Unified School District. We're confident that the district's teachers and their support staff will acquire valuable knowledge about teaching skills to children with autism spectrum disorders using CARD eLearning," says CARD Founder and Chief Executive Officer Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D. "This program provides a strong foundational skillset and facilitates the work of professionals who design and direct treatment plans for children with autism spectrum disorders."

Preliminary research into the effectiveness of CARD eLearning™ was published in 2010 in the peer-reviewed journal, *Research in Autism Spectrum Disorders*. The study, "Evaluation of an eLearning Tool for Training Behavioral Therapists in Academic Knowledge of Applied Behavior Analysis," was a randomized comparison of performance on a written test of knowledge of ABA principles and procedures for two groups of newly-hired behavioral therapists. One group received traditional didactic training and the other received training through the eLearning program, followed by a brief discussion session. Knowledge of ABA principles and procedures increased substantially for both groups, with the traditional didactic group achieving scores only slightly higher than the eLearning group.

About the Los Angeles Unified School District:

Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) mission is to believe in the equal worth and dignity of all students and is committed to educate all students to their maximum potential. LAUSD is the largest (in terms of number of students) public

school system in California. It is the 2nd largest public school district in the United States. It is the second largest employer in Los Angeles County, after the county government. In enrollment breakdown by ethnic group, 73% of its students were of Hispanic origin and 11% of its students were African American. White American students comprise 9% of the student population, while Asian American students comprise 4%; students of Filipino origin form 2% of the student population. Native Americans and Pacific Islanders together are less than 1%. The school district consists of Los Angeles and all or portions of several adjoining Southern California cities. LAUSD has its own police force, the Los Angeles School Police Department, which was established in 1948 to provide police services for LAUSD schools. The LAUSD enrolls a third of the preschoolers in Los Angeles County, and operates almost as many buses as the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. For more information about LAUSD, visit <http://notebook.lausd.net>.

About the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD):

CARD treats individuals of all ages who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) , with 23 treatment centers around the globe and a staff of nearly 1,000. CARD was founded in 1990 by leading autism expert and clinical psychologist Doreen Granpeesheh, PhD, BCBA-D. CARD treats autism spectrum disorders using the principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis (ABA), which has which has been empirically proven to be the most effective method for treating individuals with autism and is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the US Surgeon General. For more information about the Center for Autism and Related Disorders, visit: www.centerforautism.com or call (855) 345-2273.