

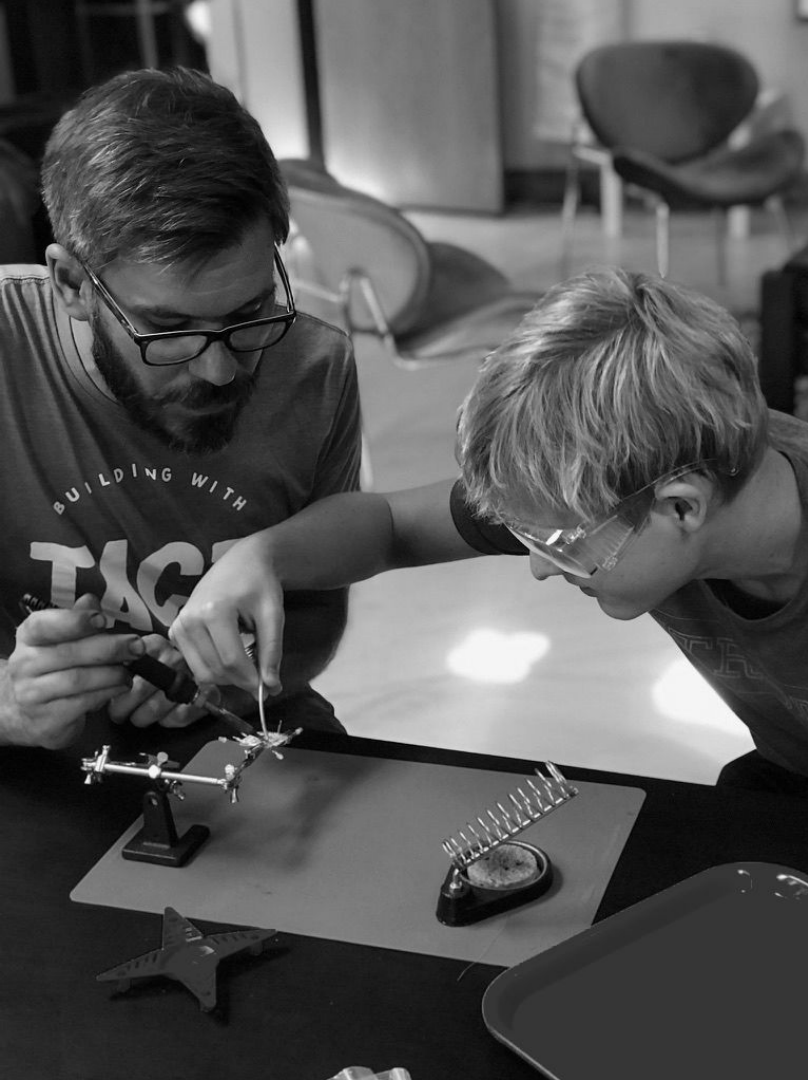


Teaching the Autism Community Trades

Who & What is TACT?

T.A.C.T is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to Encourage and Empower the full spectrum of individuals with autism through Education and Employment in skilled trades.





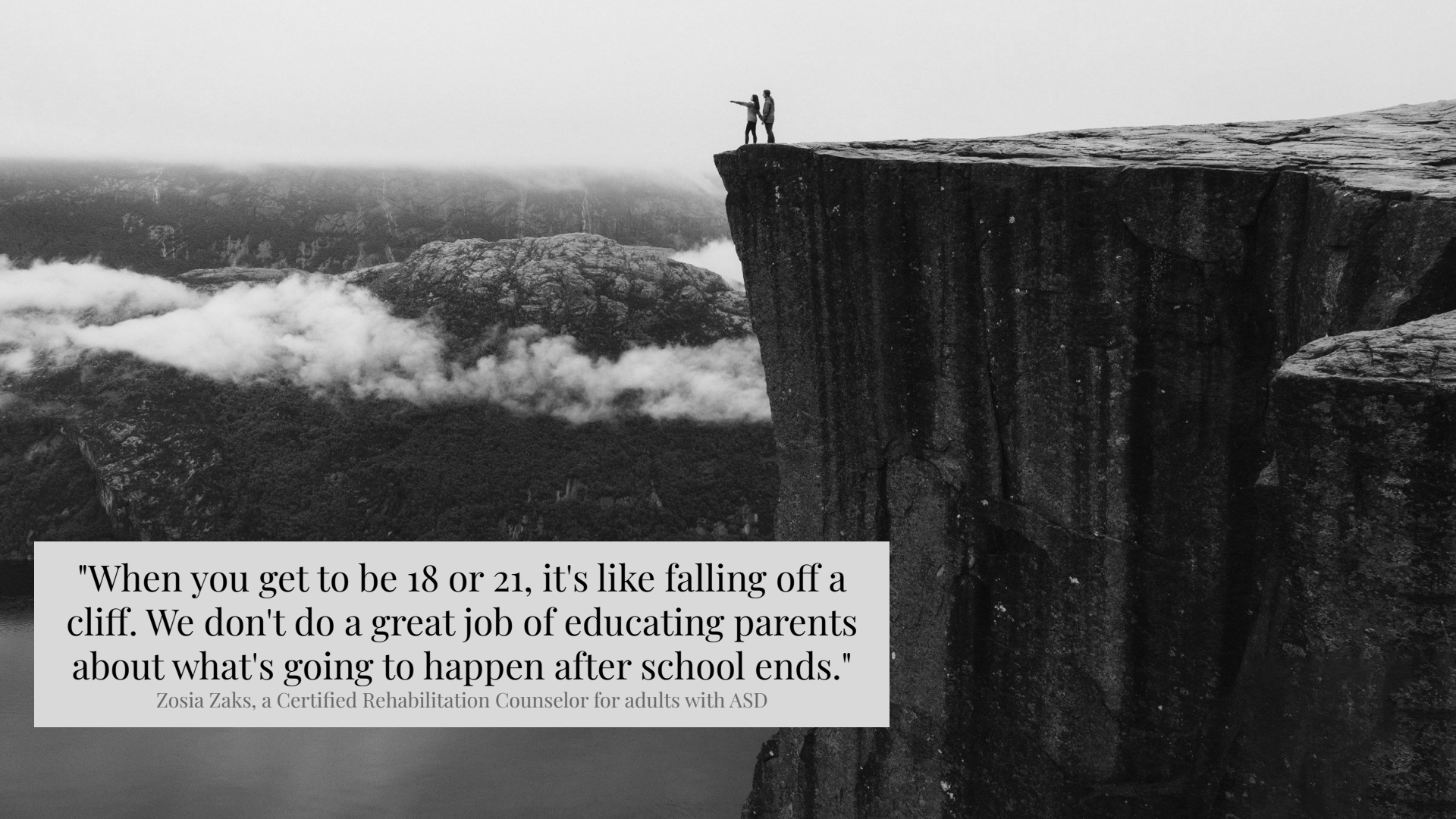
TACT is the
FIRST & ONLY
trade program in the
entire country developed
exclusively for
individuals with autism.

**In the next decade alone, nearly
500,000 children with ASD will age
out of the special education system**

**- more if prevalence continues to
increase-**

**leaving parents and children asking
what's next?**





"When you get to be 18 or 21, it's like falling off a cliff. We don't do a great job of educating parents about what's going to happen after school ends."

Zosia Zaks, a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor for adults with ASD

What Happens After Highschool?

More than **half** of youth with ASD had no job and no postsecondary education in the two years after leaving high school.

Unsurprisingly, these same individuals had significantly higher rates of complete social isolation than people with other disabilities.

83% of those with ASD and a college degree are unemployed

The autism community has a

90%

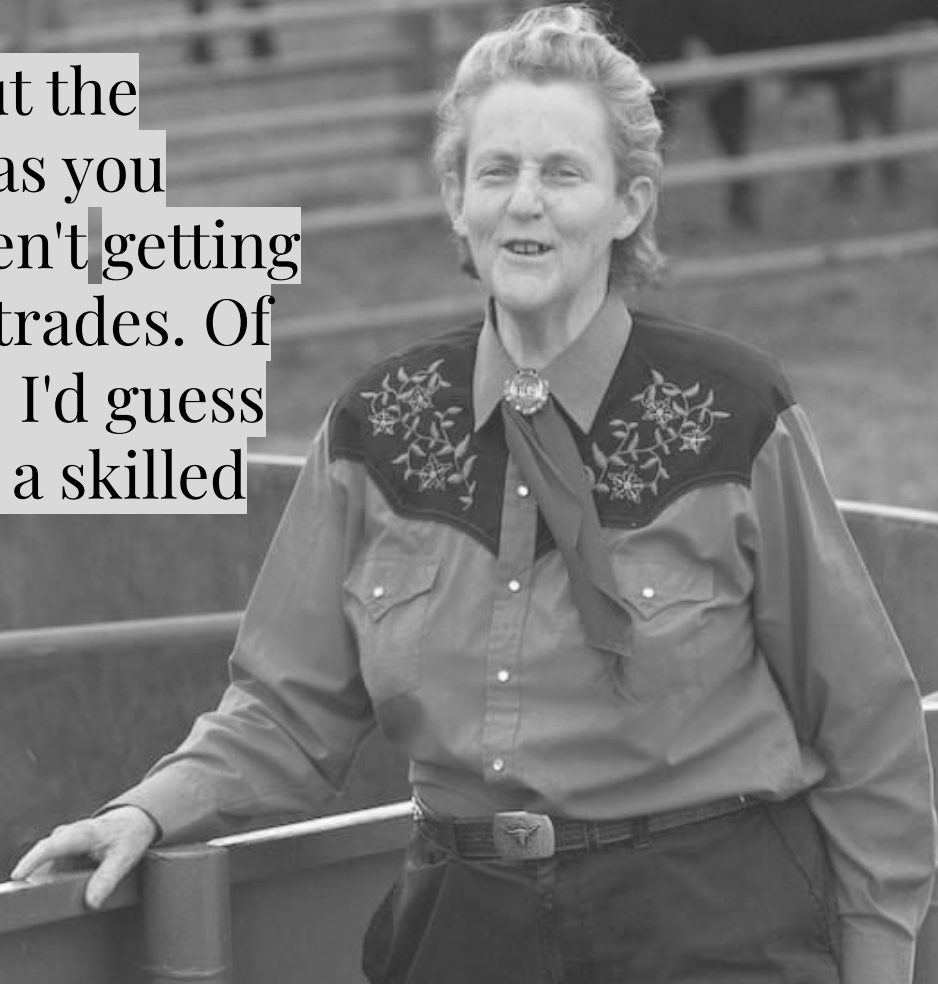
un(der)employment rate

Leonard Abbeduto: Director of the UC Davis MIND Institute

“The staggering costs identified in this study should serve as a call to action. We need to ensure that all children have access to intensive early intervention; that school-based interventions to support academics, as well as social and language skills, are adequately funded; and that supports are put in place to ensure **better postsecondary and vocational options for adults**. Investing in these areas, I believe, will actually reduce the costs to society.”

The Skilled Trades

“Schools have taken out the skilled trades classes, as you know, so these kids aren't getting exposed to the skilled trades. Of the autism population, I'd guess 45% could be placed in a skilled trade.”





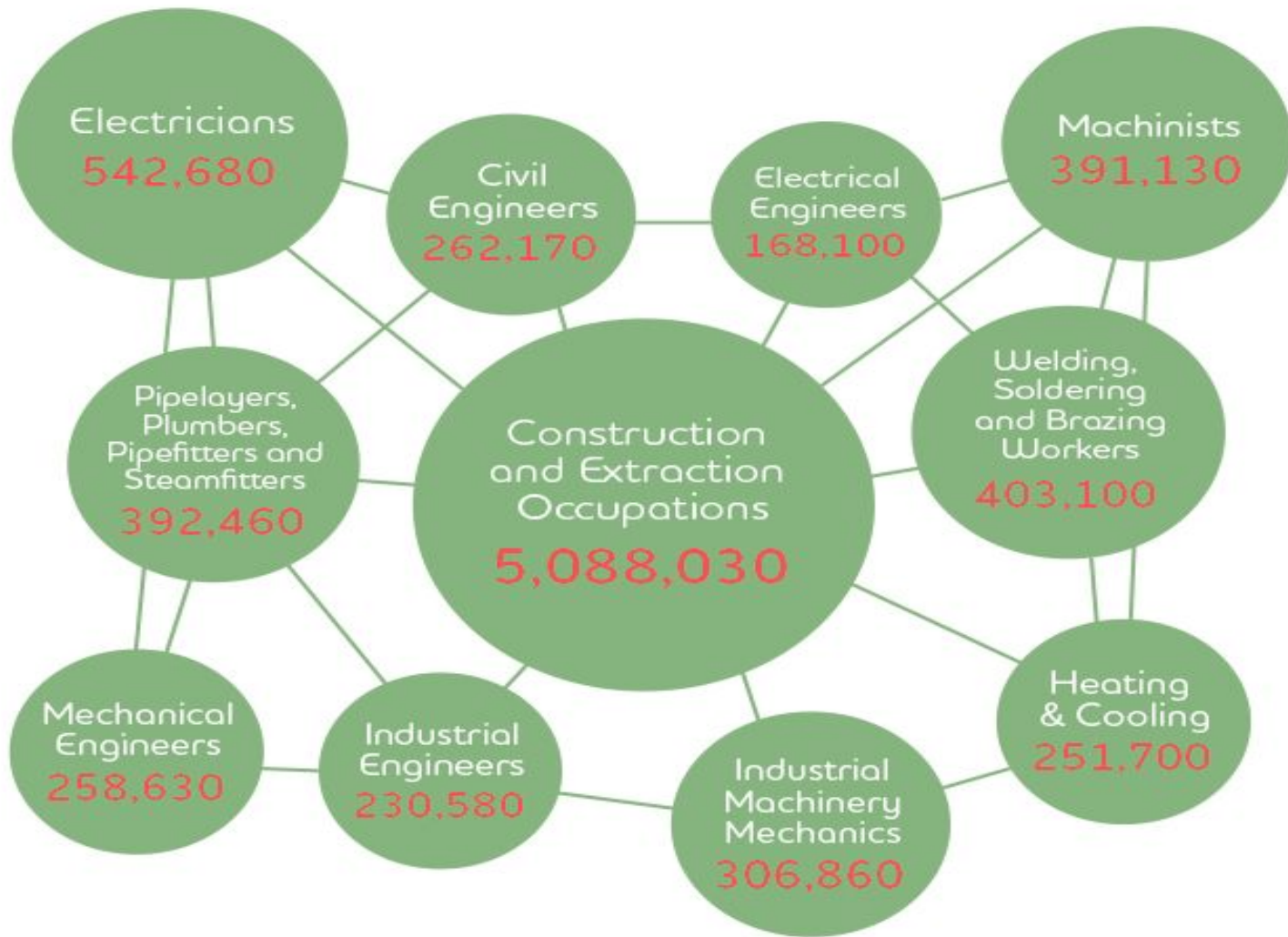
62%

of firms are already reporting
a shortage in skilled trade
workers.

**Skilled Trade Careers are
presently among the
fastest growing and most
difficult to fill careers.**

By the end of 2025,
the amount of
baby boomers
retiring will leave
31 MILLION
trade positions
unfilled.





TACT
PROGRAMS

Asset Based Approach vs Deficit Based Approach



Comparison Between the Approaches

Asset Based

Strengths Driven

Opportunity focus

Internally focused

What is present that we can build upon?

Deficit Based

Needs Driven

Problems focused

Externally focused

What is missing that we must go find?

Common Traits



Strengths

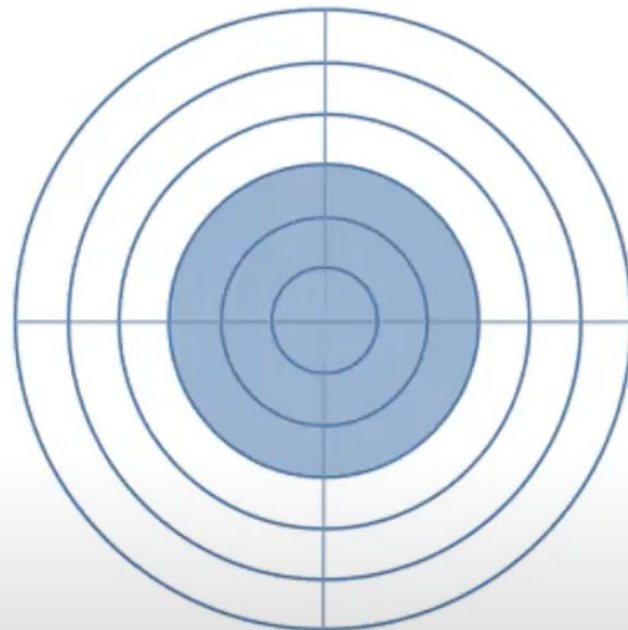
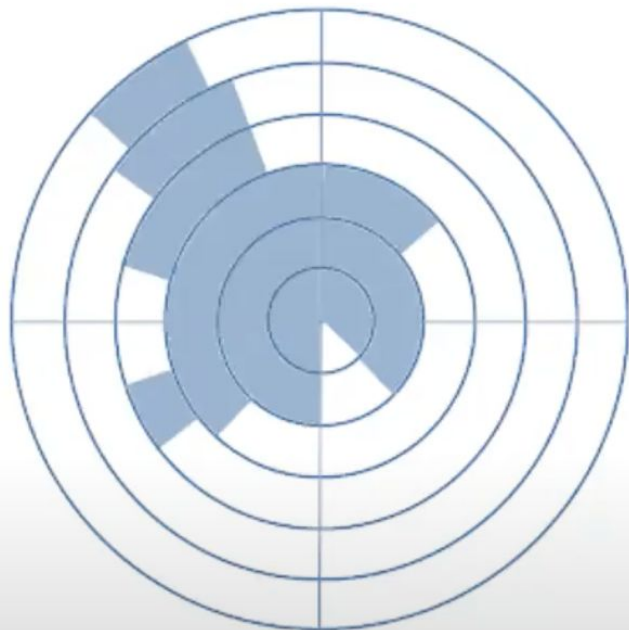
- Strong work ethic
- Resilient
- Innovative
- Tenacious
- Determined
- Creative
- Honest



Challenges

- Social interactions
- Communication
- Executive function/attention
- Working memory
- Language learning
- Sensory processing

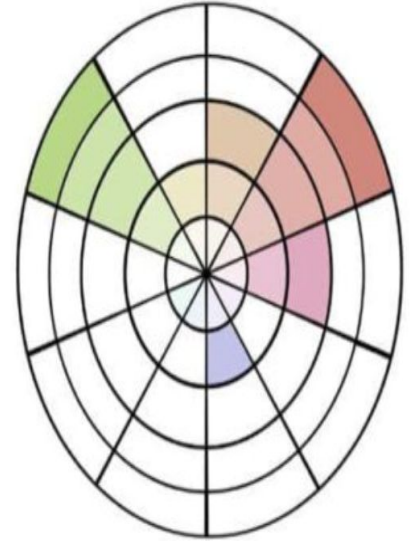
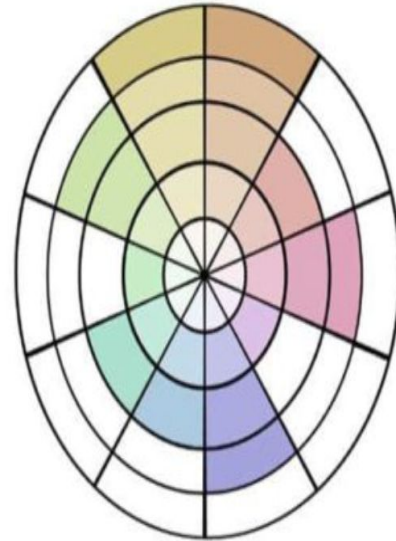
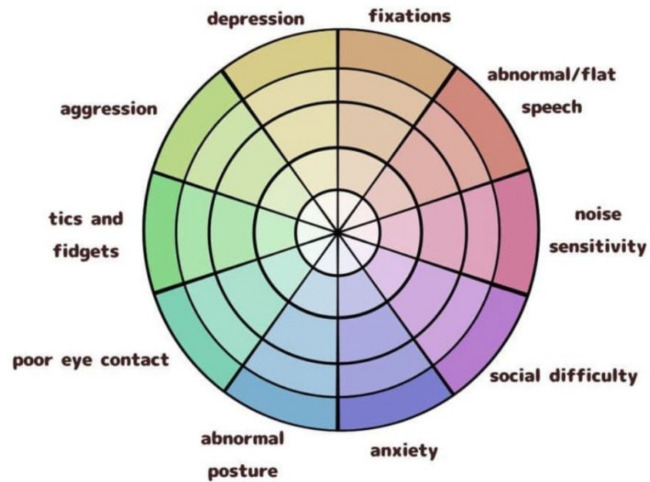
Spiked Talents & Interests



what people think the autism spectrum looks like:



what it can actually look like:



What Skills Can be Gained at TACT?

- Career exploration
- Job skills training- specific to trades of interest
- Hands on learning
- Sensory adaptive environment
- Individualized curriculum
- Motor Skills (fine and gross)
- Developmentally Appropriate Designed Curriculum
- Executive functioning skills
 - e.g., organizing, prioritizing, time management, regulating emotions
- Social and communication skill development
- Independent living skills
- Resume/interviewing skills
- Personal financial management
- Support with post-secondary options; vocational/trade school, college, and competitive employment.

At TACT, we envision a world where neuro-diversity is not only embraced but inherently valued; a world where the full spectrum of the autism community can contribute their talents and gifts and find personal fulfillment.



How can you help?

1. Identify strategies to integrate people with autism in the workplace
2. How can we reframe hiring people with autism as not only good for business' bottom line but also an opportunity for change in education and social restructuring?
3. How do we reposition communications around integrating people with autism in the workplace?
4. How can we destigmatize autism? What is a more empowered solution?
5. How do we scale and grow to reach more individuals and organizations?