

Kathleen Puckett, President



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Presidential Points is a communication provided to all state/provincial, division, national/international CEC officers as well as other key stakeholders. Its purpose is to communicate information regarding leadership initiatives and governance activities of the Council, CEC's strategic direction, Board of Directors actions, and Representative Assembly activities and actions. For additional information regarding CEC programs, please check the CEC Web site, www.cec.sped.org, or contact Kathleen Puckett, CEC President, at president@cec.sped.org.

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September 2009

As summer winds down and the more predictable rhythm of fall begins to settle in, I would like to bring you up to date on the activities of the Council since CEC's 2009 Convention and Expo in April. The CEC staff and its leaders—the Board of Directors, Representative Assembly (RA), committees, and the unit and division leaders—have accomplished much—all in line with the six goals of our strategic direction.

Teaching and Learning Conditions

Goal: To improve teaching and learning conditions and support the highest quality of services for individuals with exceptionalities.

At its July meeting, the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (CCBD) approved a position statement on Physical Restraint and Seclusion Procedures in School Settings. The CEC Board of Directors and the RA held discussion on this policy to determine if the CCBD position statement should replace or upgrade CEC's current position statement on physical restraint. Comments from the RA have been summarized and brought forward to the Board of Directors.

Plans for the 2010 convention include the development of a Multicultural Institute, to be held during pre-convention. The Council has received input from divisions and committees on content, format, and audience of the institute. Further suggestions from CEC leadership units should be directed to Anmarie Kallas, Senior Director of Conventions, Conferences and Meetings (aka@cec.sped.org).

Evidence-Based Practices

Goal: To foster and communicate the effective use of evidence-based practices in general and special education and early intervention.

The RA and Board of Directors discussions related to the Professional Standards and Practice Committee's proposed amendments to the Council's Code of Ethics and Standards for Professional Practice have been summarized. Action on the revision of these items is anticipated at the October Board of Directors meeting.

2010 Convention
and Expo

Nashville,
Tennessee

April 21-24, 2010

The beta test project that will classify research on special education evidence-based practices and disseminate information is proceeding. Several divisions report their involvement in determining and providing guidance on how to use these practices, incorporating family values and professional judgment.

International Engagement

Goal: To foster mutual understanding and reciprocal partnerships and support for international professionals in improving the lives of individuals with exceptionalities.

The Board approved CEC's involvement in the international conference *Embracing Inclusive Education Approaches for Children and Youth with Special Education Needs*. Other partners for the July 11-14, 2010, conference in Riga, Latvia, include the Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES), International Step by Step Association and the Center for Education Initiatives.

The Workgroup on CEC's International Role, chaired by Clay Keller, has been meeting and communicating throughout the year to meet its charge to develop recommendations for CEC regarding the Council's international roles and responsibilities and its international presence as a professional organization in special education. The report of the workgroup is to be completed in September for consideration by the Board at its October meeting.

Community and Membership

Goal: To promote membership growth and diversity by building a more engaged community to enhance professional practice, learning, leadership, and collaboration.

Philadelphia was selected as the site for the CEC 2014 Convention and Expo. The convention was last conducted in the City of Brotherly Love in 1980.

CEC continues to promote the Student-2-Professional Transition Program, expand the Mentoring Program, provide Web resources for families, increase knowledge about CEC's members' needs and satisfaction, and implement programs to attract new and diverse members. Strategies include helping CEC leaders enhance their units and programs by developing and disseminating the membership information to leadership; expanding the presence of CEC staff at state/provincial affiliate and division meetings; continuing the Board of Directors unit liaison contacts; and broadening promotion of the *Yes / Can! Awards Program*. CEC is also exploring how best to promote unit leadership activities and opportunities as suggested by the RA and the report, *Pathways to Leadership*. Immediate Past President Susan Fowler is working with the Nominations Standing Committee to increase members' awareness of leadership opportunities.

The Summer Leadership Institutes were held July 27-30 at CEC Headquarters in Arlington, Va. During the Institutes, state and provincial affiliate and division leaders had the opportunity to network and learn first-hand of initiatives and activities of the Council, as well as enjoy an evening at the Kennedy Center, courtesy of Forrest T. Jones, Inc.'s sponsorship. Also during the Institutes, CEC hosted a reception honoring Linda Marsal, Associate Executive Director for Membership, on the occasion of her retirement. Her service and dedication to the Council will be missed. Please be sure to plan for representation for your unit or division at next year's meeting, to be held **July 26-29, 2010** in Arlington, Va.

Public Policy and Advocacy

Goal: To advance governmental policies impacting the teaching and learning of individuals with exceptionalities and the professional practice of those who work on their behalf.

The annual Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) meeting was held from June 6-9, 2009, at CEC Headquarters in Arlington, Va., and on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. CAN coordinators heard from representatives of the Office of Special Education Programs, the National Association for Gifted Children, American Federation of Teachers, National Association of School Boards, National Disability Rights Network, and congressional staff.

During the CAN meeting, CEC hosted a congressional briefing on the appropriate use of restraints and seclusion. As President it was most gratifying to welcome a standing-room-only crowd. The event's featured speaker was CEC and CCBD member Joseph B. Ryan, assistant professor of special education at Clemson University.

The CAN coordinators spent their final day canvassing the Hill, where they met with legislators and staff from their respective states to support CEC's legislative agenda and advocate on behalf of children with special education needs.

"As the parent and sibling of a person with a disability, I wanted to influence legislation related to children and teachers," said Lisa Dieker, who represented CEC's Teacher Education Division. "And of course, I wanted to underscore the need for more faculty members in higher education," Dieker said. Her colleagues agreed. "Being an advocate for others is very important to me because it affords me the opportunity to have input in the decision-making and policy process," said South Carolina CAN coordinator Barbara Williams of her meetings with staffers from the offices of Sen. Lindsay Graham (R) and Rep. James Clyburn (D). Joel Mittler of New York, who has been a CAN Coordinator for more than 15 years, remarked that he is "always impressed that congressional staff members know CEC by name and reputation. I'm proud to know that my organization has a voice on the Hill."

The next CAN coordinators meetings are planned during convention week, April 21-24 in Nashville and in June, 2010. Be sure that your state/provincial affiliate or division is represented at these important, informative, and fun events.



Organizational Effectiveness

Goal: To continually improve organizational performance and fiduciary effectiveness to provide value to members and customers.

Two division name changes were approved during the Board's July meeting. Division for Physical and Health Disabilities' (DPHD) requested and received approval for a name change to the Division for Physical, Health, and Multiple Disabilities (DPHMD) of the Council for Exceptional Children. The Division on Developmental Disabilities (DDD) requested and was granted a name change to the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) of the Council for Exceptional Children. Both of these name changes are effective Jan. 1, 2010.

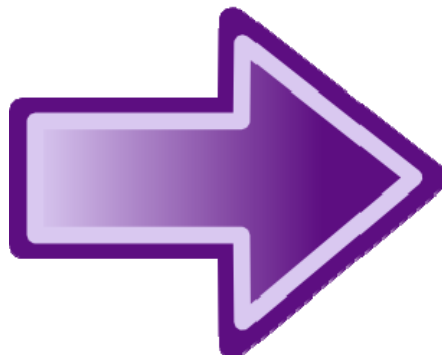
The Board also clarified deadlines and effective dates for a change in division. These requests shall be submitted by September 1 and, if approved, are effective on January 1 of the subsequent administrative year.

CEC Committees: The Board of Directors received interim reports from the following committees: Canadian/U.S. (Candace Borger, Chair), Diversity (Michelle McCollin, Chair), Elections (Debbie Ballard, Chair), Finance and Audit (Carol Eisenbise, Chair), Honors (Alba Ortiz, Chair), Nominations (Susan Fowler, Chair), Professional Standards and Practice (Kathlene Shank, Chair), Representative Assembly (Scott Rossig, Chair), and Student (Andrea Abel, Chair).

The Honors Committee recommended, and the Board approved, the establishment of a *Yes / Can!* Awards Subcommittee to integrate this program into the Council's overall recognition program.

The terms of service for the chair of the Honors Committee and the Representative Assembly Committee will be ending Dec. 31, 2009. The CEC President will be nominating new chairs for these committees by Oct. 1, 2009 for Board approval.

Also, candidate applications are now being accepted for the **Canadian/U.S., Diversity, Elections, Finance and Audit, Honors, Professional Standards and Practice**, and **Student** Committees. Committee interest forms are available on the CEC Web site (http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/GovernanceLeadership/StrandingCommittees/2010_CEC_Committee_L.htm).



Elections

On behalf of the Nominations Standing Committee, we are pleased to announce the following candidates for Board of Directors positions.

For President Elect:

- Candace Borger
- Marilyn Friend

Member-at-Large, Non-Designated (3 positions available):

- Robin Brewer
- Pamela DeLoach
- Mark Innocenti
- Scott Rossig
- Colleen Thoma
- Theresa Yestrau

Member-at-Large, Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural Groups (1 position available):

- LaVerne Buchanan
- Joycelyn Wortham

Member-at-Large, Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural Groups (1 position available):

- Mark Francis
- Juan Portley

Voting will occur from **Sept. 18-Oct. 23, 2009**. Eligible voting members will receive an electronic ballot. If CEC does not have an e-mail address, a paper ballot will be sent via mail. Please encourage members to update their e-mail addresses in their membership profile and promote voting among all members.

Nominations Standing Committee nominations due Sept. 30, 2009

The Nominations Standing Committee (NC) is soliciting candidates from the total membership to serve on the Nominations Standing Committee for a two-year term beginning January 2010. According to the schedule for rotating membership, we are seeking candidates for the following Nominations Standing Committee seats:

- Member-at-Large
- Division Representative
- International Member

Board of Directors
Meeting

CEC Headquarters
Arlington, Virginia

October 2-4, 2009

Any member of CEC may self-nominate for consideration by completing an interest form, which is available on the CEC home page (www.cec.sped.org). The deadline for submission is Sept. 30, 2009. The Nominations Standing Committee is composed of nine members and chaired by the Immediate Past President of the Council. The Nominations Standing Committee has the critical responsibility to identify potential qualified leaders, representing the diversity within the Council, to serve on the CEC Board of Directors. Members of the Nomination Committee also advise the Board of Directors on strategies to enhance leadership development for our members. For these reasons, we seek candidates who are seasoned members of CEC, active in the organization, and well aware of the responsibilities of governance. Members of the Nominations Standing Committee can serve only one elected term (two years) and may not be re-elected. During their tenure on the committee, they may not be nominated as a candidate for office or for the Board of Directors.

The 2009 Nominations Standing Committee is actively soliciting candidates from the total membership to fill anticipated vacancies for the coming administrative term. A slate of candidates will be presented to the Representative Assembly, who will elect the new members. **The RA voting period is Nov. 2-13, 2009.** The President of CEC will announce the results of the balloting by **November 25.**

Eunice Kennedy Shriver

With the passing of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, communities worldwide have lost a champion in the quest to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families. Her work – especially the establishment of the Special Olympics and of academic facilities and research centers across the United States – will continue to have a profound effect on special education. CEC expressed condolences to the Kennedy family on behalf of the CEC members.

The family has requested that donations be made to Special Olympics (www.specialolympics.org) and Best Buddies (www.bestbuddies.org). Condolence cards may be sent to Special Olympics Headquarters: 1133 19th St., N.W., Washington, DC, 20036.



Board of Directors Unit Liaison

Each state and provincial unit and division has a liaison who is a member of the CEC Board of Directors. The Board encourages regular contact between Board members and the units. Please help facilitate this process by being aware of these liaison roles and by responding with regular communication regarding activities, successes, and concerns. The communication process is intended to be supportive and mutual; please contact your Board member if you have not connected recently.

(<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/GovernanceLeadership/BoardofDirectors/Whoarethey/default.htm>).

Susan Fowler (Indiana, New Jersey, Washington, DPHD)
 Carol Eisenbise (Arkansas, Massachusetts, Saskatchewan, CEDS)
 Marci Brauchie (Arizona, Manitoba, Oregon, CEC-DR)
 Iris Kerbis Cantor (Florida, North Dakota, Utah, DEC)
 Pamela Coe (Delaware, Missouri, New Brunswick, Vermont)
 Elizabeth Drame (British Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, CEC-PD)
 Raquel Gonzáles (Alaska, Louisiana, Ontario, CCBBD)
 Vincent Harper (Alabama, Maine, Oklahoma, CASE)
 Patricia Hensley (Connecticut, Michigan, South Dakota, DDD)
 Amanda Hopkins (California, Mississippi, Kentucky, DLD)
 Sharon Ishii-Jordan (Georgia, Nebraska, Texas, TED)
 Clayton Keller (Hawaii, New Hampshire, Virginia, DVI)
 Barbara Kozma (Idaho, New York, Wisconsin, TAG)
 Eileen Raymond (Alberta, Montana, Tennessee, DDEL)
 Monika Williams Shealey (Colorado, Minnesota, DCDT)
 Ronald Tamura (Iowa, North Carolina, Wyoming, TAM)
 Jennifer Tong (Kansas, Ohio, South Carolina, DCDD)
 Louis Tutt (Illinois, New Mexico, West Virginia, DISES)

A Word of Thanks

Thank you again for participating in the leadership of the Council and for providing both voice and vision to our association. We are well aware that many associations are facing challenges as a result of the national and global economic uncertainty. CEC, indeed all of special education, has proven that we can not only face, but overcome challenges. Your continued support and advocacy is essential.

Please make sure that your unit is represented with a current RA member. Consider putting your name forward for the Nominations Standing Committee, for mentoring, or for appointed positions. I am grateful for all your help in serving children and their families, supporting special education professionals, and advancing our field.

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