VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

THE VIRGINIA VOICE

VOLUME IV, ISSUE I FALL 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **President's Welcome**
- **The Fall Convention is a success!**
- **Va CEC I CAN! Award winners!**
- **School highlight: PACE West School**
- **Strategy: Podcasting**
- **Your NEW Board—who are they?**
-

Let's Give a Hand to the New Board!

Dear VA-CEC:

I am THRILLED to represent you as your 2010-2011 CEC President! I bring with me many fresh faces from all over the state who are sure to bring a lot of energy and expertise to our chapter. We are eagerly beginning the planning stages for our next fall conference to be held in Lynchburg, VA so check out the website periodically for new conference information.

Finally, please review the newsletter carefully;

Dr. Andrea Beam, Ed.D.

President, VA CEC and Assistant Professor at Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia.

there is a lot of important information regarding awards, our successful fall conference, membership, and our newest initiative: *VA CEC Online Journal – Research to Practice: K-12 Scholarship*

Should you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at abeam@liberty.edu.

Fall Convention is a Success!

The place to be on November 5th and 6th was Regent University—the site of our fantastic Fall Convention! The keynote speaker was Rick Lavoie, and, as usual, his presentation enabled the crowd to learn new things and feel that wonderful sense of inspiration that flows so freely in a convention atmosphere. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful lunch, the break out sessions, and, of course, mingling with their colleagues across the state!

Miss it? Work already has begun on next year's event! See you then!

School Zone: PACE West School

Pace West School is a public day school in Prince William County serving children with severe emotional disabilities. The principal, Mary Ellen Garduno, and her dedicated staff of special education experts work hard each day to teach both academic and emotional/behavioral skills to students (K-12) who relish the caring atmosphere.

At PACE, students have regular opportunities to improve their academic skills, develop effective communication skills, effectively deal with their emotions, examine their strengths and weaknesses, develop interpersonal relationships, pursue personal goals, and recognize the relationship between their behavior and consequences. Wow! That's a lot, but these special kids have teachers who really go the distance to help: one teacher teaches yoga in the classroom, another is a technological guru who knows just how to reach all the kids, and most recently? Well, PACE West staff received a grant to build a real live recording studio! Whew! Just think of the literacy possibilities!!

GO PACE WEST!

The Council for Exceptional Children is the national voice for all of us! Check out the website: www.cec.sped.org

Hello, Nation! What's Going On?

Are you getting your CEC briefs in your e-mailbox every day? They are a great way to stay on top of just what is going on in the Special Education world. Lately, there has been a lot of talk about the use of the iPad for children with varying disabilities. Other recent topics include the question whether or not to use the label: "gifted," and art therapy. Check our their webinars.

MAKE NOTE: The CEC National Convention is just on the other side of the Potomac at National Harbor this April. Plan on attending! Register at www.cec.sped.org. Registration is open!

Strategy of the Month: Podcasting

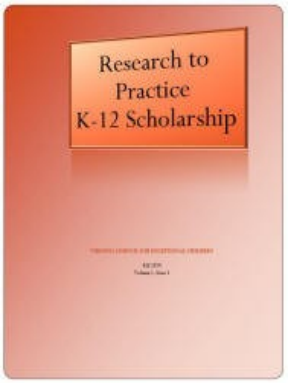
Podcasting: a futuristic sounding word that is completely commonplace today. Educators are using the technology in the classroom. Using "audacity" software, students can record their presentations for use on the class website. When mixed with "Photo Story" it enables a great technological experience for any child wanting to put their pictures into words! Learn how to podcast today!!!

YES, I CAN! VIRGINIA AWARD WINNERS

We love to hear the words, "I can do it! I can!" Of course they can do it! We know that, but sometimes those students do not. The Yes, I CAN! Award helps students recognize not only that they can do, but that we know they can do! Congratulations to Rebecca Yarrington for Community Service to both the staff and the students at her school! John Thomas Meagher of Newport News earned the Rising Star award, and Nick Pelletiere, of Prince William County earned the award for Academics.

Students like Becki, Tom, and Nick are inspirations for all of us, students and staff.

GREAT JOB!!!



WANTED: YOU!

The Virignia CEC's first on-line journal:

VA CEC Online Journal –Research to Practice: K-12 Scholarship

What are your interests in Special Education? Are you doing studies in your classroom? Are you interested in getting published? Go online and read our first edition. When you're finished, send us your study! Writer guidelines and deadlines can be found on www.virginiacec.org.

Meet and Greet: Your President and Vice President!

Your president, Andrea Beam, Ed.D. is an Assistant Professor at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. She works primarily with special education and educational leadership. Her research interests include: educational leadership and administration; student achievement/achievement gap; special education; learning styles and theories, and behavior modification. Your vice-president, Deanna Keith, Ed.D., also of Liberty U., is the Coordinator for Special Education, Coordinator for Assessment, and the Faculty Advisor for the school's CEC. Her interest in Special Education is the study of poverty on student achievement, differentiation of instruction, and special education law. We all look forward to their leadership!

Virginia Council for Exceptional Children

HAVE YOU READ OUR NEW E-JOURNAL? CHECK IT OUT ON THE WEBSITE:

www.virginiacec.org

MAIL OR E-MAIL???

We want you to be excited to receive information from us! Please email Maryclaire Ceallaigh at ceallaim@pwcs.edu and let her know if you'd rather receive your newsletters and any other information via email or regular mail. We'll keep you up to date via your personal preferences.

Virginia CEC

Give Us the Scoop - Stay in the Loop!

What is special about your school? The "School Zone" section of your newsletter is dedicated to the special people who teach our children and the schools that welcome those students each day. Tell us about your school! Brag! Boast! Celebrate! How can we celebrate your greatness unless you tell us about all the great things we know you are doing every day?

Send your story to Maryclaire at ceallaim@pwcs.edu

Go ahead—toot your own horn!