



KENTUCKY

The voice and vision of special education

Newsletter

Fall 2016



Message from the President... *Kathy Maciel*

Dear KYCEC Members,

This is an exciting time for education in Kentucky, and I'm thrilled to be the current president alongside a group of outstanding board members. Our goal is to work collectively and make an impact by being your premier organization with the latest news, resources and networking. In addition, we strive to work collaboratively with other agencies, governmental and educational leaders who are guiding our state towards educational distinction. As a member, I ask you join us by becoming more involved and continue sharing your expertise, dedication, rigor and creativity toward making Kentucky number one in providing opportunities and access to educational excellence for ALL students. Kentucky has made great strides in closing achievement gaps, according to the July 2016 Prichard Committee report, "Excellence with Equity: It's Everybody's Business." (<https://goo.gl/ijllw7>). However, despite the excellence I see in our schools, we're not there yet. One point that resonated in the report is, "we know what to do, we're just not doing it." What does that mean exactly? Commissioner Pruitt reminds us that we **all** need to "take ownership" for closing these gaps (7-25-16 We Need Your Help <https://goo.gl/iHy6rM>). In special education, the barriers and challenges are real, but so is the high quality of educational talent in KY. It is up to us to push forward with assessing the needs, systemic reform, and pooling resources in each of our own and surrounding communities. Finally, we must continue advocating for adequate funding to meet the growing diverse needs of our students with disabilities. When IDEA was passed 40 years ago, the Federal Government pledged to pay 40% of the "excess cost" of educating students with disabilities, referred to as "full funding." In FY 2016, the federal share was only 16%, leaving our state and districts to pay the balance (CEC Issue Brief <https://goo.gl/OFYaam>). I've had the opportunity to discuss continued funding and specific needs with our legislators. I invite you to do the same, while also thanking those who believe and support public education, adequate funding and our CEC recommendations. Go to <https://www.cec.sped.org/Policy-and-Advocacy> for more information.

Thank you for your dedication and membership. I hope to see you at the 2016 Exceptional Children's Conference in November!



KY CEC Membership... *Cain Alvey, Chair*

KY CEC invites you to join or renew your membership now. It is easy and affordable to join. Visit the KY CEC website to learn about membership options and to get a membership application. Visit the membership booth at the KY CEC conference in November!

<https://www.cec.sped.org/Membership>

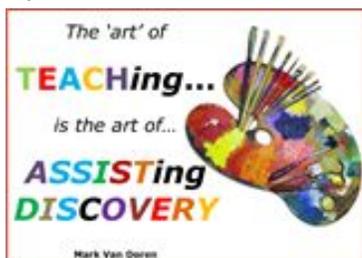
**Members are invited to attend the membership meeting
Tuesday morning, 7:30, in Room 546 (Suite Side)**

Join us for the 51st Annual Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference!

The Annual Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference is November 20 – November 22, 2016, at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville! Join us for a wonderful professional development event dedicated to special education! The Program Committee has planned thoughtful educational sessions in a variety of formats to meet every learner's needs. As always, our focus is on student outcomes around evidence based practices, college/career readiness, professional growth and effectiveness system, and legal/compliance issues.



Participate in the many rich opportunities to learn and engage in dialogue about the field's most important topics. We have **strands** on:



- Assistive Technology
- Autism
- Behavioral Health
- CCR
- Compliance
- Co-Teaching
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Early Childhood
- Language Arts
- Leadership
- Low Incidence
- Math
- New Teachers
- Progress Monitoring
- Research to Practice
- Visual Impairment

College Fair!! On Monday, in the Grand Hall (outside the Exhibit area and Ballrooms) we will have a College Fair! Come and meet the people from the disability offices of several Kentucky colleges/universities! Learn about the supports available for your students! Then attend the panel discussion on Monday, 1:15!



The **Exhibit Hall** is open Sunday 2:00 – 7:00 pm and Monday 7:00 – 5:00 pm. We have dedicated time to visit the exhibits on Monday at 7:00 am for breakfast; 9:30-10:00 am before General Session; noon-1:15 pm during lunch; and at 2:45 for snacks! Be sure to mingle with the exhibitors and learn about their products!

Monday, the **General Session** will feature [Travis Freeman](#), as our Keynote speaker. Travis is a native Kentuckian and will share his inspiring story!



Celebrate the **2016 Teacher of the Year** at the General Session! The nominees will be presented and the winner will be announced!

Visit our website to get more information and to REGISTER!

www.kycec.org Annual Conference

Come and join us November 20-22 in Louisville!

CAN Update... *Erica Cutright, CAN Coordinator*

Presidential Candidate's Positions Special and Gifted Education and disability issues have received nominal coverage during this year's Presidential Election, and with final voting taking place in just two months, there is still much to learn about the four leading 2016 presidential candidates.

*The Council for Exceptional Children encourages voters to access the individual campaign websites for Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Jill Stein and Gary Johnson for information about what the candidates and their respective party platforms have to say about issues like special and gifted education, school spending, early-childhood education and testing, among others. Voters may also access an overview of each nominee's positions. And be sure to ask your candidates, at the national, state, and local level, where they stand on education of children with exceptionalities.

**CEC does not take a position to support or oppose any candidate or political party.*

Thoughts on IDEA Reauthorization? While we do not know for sure when IDEA reauthorization will occur, CEC wants to be proactive! To prepare for the reauthorization, the CEC Board of Directors has created an IDEA Work Group to develop principles and recommendations that will be available early in 2017. The Work Group wants to hear from CEC members, units, and divisions about successes and challenges with IDEA. Take part in this important effort and tell us what you think by completing all or part of the IDEA Reauthorization Survey. www.cec.sped.org

Updated Perkins Bill Members of the House Education Committee updated the Carl. D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (1984). The goal of the rewrite is to improve career and technical education. Committee Chairman, John Kline (R-MN), posted a fact sheet to the Education and the Workforce website.

CEC Introduces Issue Briefs to Support Special Education Advocacy This summer, over 200 special educators gathered in Washington, D.C. at the Special Education Legislative Summit, organized by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) to advocate for special and gifted education issues with their members of Congress on Capitol Hill. During the 5-day event, attendees were briefed on nine critical issues addressing special and gifted education. In an effort to promote additional advocacy, CEC has released all nine issue briefs, and encourages advocates to use them when preparing to speak with their members of Congress. **Access PDF versions of all Issue Briefs at www.cec.sped.org.**

Issue Briefs:

1. Education Appropriations
2. School and Community Based Mental Health
3. Early Childhood
4. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
5. School Choice
6. Higher Education Act
7. Carl D. Perkins Act
8. Special Education Research
9. Gifted Education



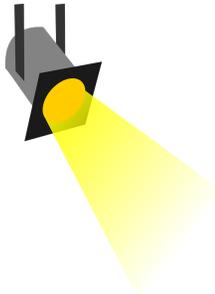
CEC Members met with Rep. Brett Guthrie and others in Washington, D.C. (from left to right- Wayne Sizemore, Arden Goodman, Melissa Cantrell, Claudia Godbey, Kathy Maciel, Bridgette Mann)

OTHER KY CEC NEWS

KY CEC Teacher Education Division

The KY Teacher Education Journal (KTEJ) Volume 3 Issue 1 has been published at <http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ktej/>. The 30th Annual Teacher Education Division (TED) of CEC will be held in Lexington, KY on November 9-12, 2016. Learn more about the Conference: <http://www.tedcec.org/conferences/ted-2016-conference-lexington/registration>.

New Teacher Institute at the 51st Annual Exceptional Children's Conference! KYCEC is offering you the opportunity to engage in a workshop which targets legal updates, writing quality IEPs, progress monitoring, behavior management and lessons learned from a second year teacher. Join us while we address the issues that are most important to YOU!! Presenters: Dr. Rhonda Simpson, Director of Special Education at Green County Schools; Jenny Miller-Horn, Assistant Director of Special Education at Kenton County Schools; Jessica Purchis, Low Incidence/Due Process Consultant at GRREC; Katrinka Wagoner, Due Process Consultant at GRREC; Kathy Maciel, Behavior Consultant at GRREC; and Cain Alvey, Special Education Teacher at Elizabethtown Independent Schools.



Student Spotlight...submitted by Rhonda Simpson, CEC Past President

Matthew Chapman is a 12th grade student at Green County High School who was recently selected for a WHAS Crusade for Children feature story. Students with disabilities similar to Matthew's greatly benefit from the generosity of the WHAS Crusade for Children grant. In 2016, Matthew was selected as a 2016 KY Council for Exceptional Children's YES I CAN Award winner! He is currently in his second year of participating in the GCHS Fire Science programs with the Green County Fire Department. Watch Matthew's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzK8yMl7x3Q>

**Come and meet all of our 2016 Yes I Can Winners
at the Exceptional Children's Conference!
Attend the session Monday, 3:15 in the Carroll-Ford Room
And Celebrate at the awards Reception at 5:00 pm!**

One more reason you need to [register now!](#)



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