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NEW JERSEY

The voice and vision of special education

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New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children (NJCEC) Spring Conference

Our annual conference was a great success! Ramapo College hosted the New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children Spring Conference on Monday, March 13, 2017. There were more than 40 breakout sessions on topics including RTI, technology, Gifted & Talented, literature and math skills, transition planning, legal issues, social and emotional intelligence, etc. More than 400 educators and administrators attended.

"We were especially thrilled to have Dr. Peggy McDonald as the keynote." said Dr. Norflus-Good. Peggy is the Deputy Director, Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services at the New Jersey Department of Education. Last year, she launched the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS). Her talk provided an overview and highlights of the system being implemented. You can access her presentation [here](#).

Four high school students were selected to receive scholarships awarded by the New Jersey Council of Exceptional Children. Our goal is to make the New Jersey Special Education community stronger. We would like to thank our community of students, teachers, therapists, parents, presenters, vendors, volunteers, and more for your dedication to teaching and continuing to learn and grow to better reach our exceptional children.

The members of the New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children would also like to extend our

**If you have any questions,
please email**

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For more information,
please visit
www.njcec.org

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appreciation to President Peter Mercer, Provost Beth Barnett, and Dean Aaron Lorenz of Ramapo College for their continued support in making a difference in the lives of those with exceptionalities and those working with children with exceptionalities.

New Jersey State Department of Education

Information

Dr. Peggy McDonald, Deputy Director, Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services at the New Jersey Department of Education

New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS)

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), in collaboration with educators, higher education representatives, and parents, has developed a set of resources for districts to facilitate the implementation of the New Jersey Tiered System of Supports (NJTSS), a multi-tiered framework for delivering instruction, academic and behavioral supports and interventions, and enrichment in a coordinated manner. NJTSS builds on effective practices and initiatives already in place in schools and integrates multiple interventions and opportunities for enrichment into one continuum.

NJTSS includes the three-tiered approach to instruction, assessment and intervention found in many models of Response to Intervention (RTI) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS), along with three foundational components: effective district and school leadership, positive school culture and climate, and family and community engagement. Together, these components create an efficient and effective mechanism, built on current practices, for schools to improve achievement for all students.

For more information about the NJTSS framework and resources, please visit

www.state.nj.us/education/njtss/.

If you have any questions regarding NJTSS, please email NJTSS@doe.state.nj.us.

Assistive Technology Center Advancing Opportunity

The Assistive Technology Center
is located at
1005 Whitehead Road Extension, Suite 1

Technology Lending Center

Join the Technology Lending Center (TLC) and start borrowing from our wide selection of assistive technology devices, including computer access technology, communication devices, adapted toys, and an impressive array of equipment used for daily living. Membership is FREE!

TLC Membership Benefits:

- borrow equipment for up to six weeks
- receive Advancing Opportunities' newsletters
- ask any questions about assistive technology

For more information, please visit www.assistivetechcenter.org and select the TLC link to view all of the items available.

Assistive Technology Tip:

The Glassouse is a device for individuals with disabilities who are not able to move their hands but are able to move their head. The frames contain a laser and a mouthpiece which enable the user to select or move a cursor around the screen.

To select an item or move around or pan around the screen, the user would simply bite down on the mouthpiece using different mouth pressure. Glassouse is made to work with devices that have a cursor such as a computer running windows and different tablets.

The downside to this product is that it does not work with devices that don't have cursors built into the device such as Apple products. The Glassouse is very similar to a head mouse except that the user is wearing the device on their head instead of the device being mounted on a computer.

For more information, please visit <http://glassouse.com>

Congratulations!

**NJCEC Selects Four Outstanding Student
Scholarship Winners**

Amy Albin

(Morristown HS) volunteers at a Braille program,

sings at a nursing home, and is a board member of the "All In" club, which focuses on inclusion and diversity. She will be attending the County College of Morris next fall.

Scott Boorman

(Passaic County Technical Institute) is a member of the boy scouts and worked as a teacher assistant over the summer. He will be attending NJIT to study mechanical engineering and aerospace.

Caleb Chiariello

(Morristown HS) volunteers at the 'Neighborhood House' preschool and Liquid Church youth group. He is still deciding where he will be in the fall.

Serena Fioretti

(Sparta HS) volunteers for Newton Hospital's 'Pass It Along' program and has become involved in pet therapy training. She will be attending Sussex Community College in the fall to study nursing.

Congratulations!

Student Selected to Present at the Northern New Jersey Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS)

Nicollete Carbonetto was selected to be one of 20 presenters at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) held at Rutgers. Students from schools across northern New Jersey submitted papers. The event had science-related presentations, exhibits, and speakers. Presenters and special award recipients were acknowledged by the Army.

Congratulations Nicollete!

Your talk on The Effect of Classical Music on the Short-Term Memory of Special Educational Students was selected and presented at both the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium and the New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children Spring Conference!

For more information, please visit

<http://soe.rutgers.edu/jshs>

Conferences Coming Up

This information is provided as a courtesy by NJCEC. NJCEC does not take any responsibility for the accuracy of the information. NJCEC does not endorse any of these conferences.

Save the Dates!

National Council for Exceptional Children Special Education Convention & Expo

When: April 19-22

**Where: Hynes Convention Center
900 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02115**

Nationals are on the East Coast this year! The next time that this conference will take place in the Northeast will be 2021!

Sessions and workshops will cover topics including early intervention, assessment, legal issues, inclusion and integration, parent engagement, assistive technology, and more.

For more information about CEC, please visit

<http://www.cec.sped.org/>

And for more information about schedules and events at the National CEC conference, please visit

<http://www.cecconvention.org/>

You can register online [here](#).

Educational Enterprises (EE)

Educational Enterprises provides services for adaptive equipment, assistive technology, augmentative/ alternative communication, behavior analysis, inclusion strategies, transition, diverse therapies, and more. Workshops are being offered this spring.

For more information, please visit www.bergen.org and select [Educational Enterprises](#). You can register online [here](#) for upcoming workshops.

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) Conference of Change

**When: Wednesday, May 3rd
from 830am to 330pm**

**Where: Holiday Inn East Windsor/Conference Center
399 Monmouth Street East, Windsor, NJ 08520**

This year's theme is "Speak Up! Take Action! Create Change!" This conference is about creating change by creating strong parents, strong families, and stronger communities. Every two years, we gather parent leaders from New Jersey's diverse communities concerned about early childhood, education, health, mental health, family support, human services, and child welfare systems for this Statewide Parent Leadership Conference. We know that when parent-led organizations work together, the possibilities for impacting the outcomes of children and families are powerful.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.spanadvocacy.org/>.

You can register online [here](#).

**Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey
(LDANJ) Life After High School Conference &
Post-Secondary Resource Expo**

When: Saturday, May 13th

Where: NJHA Conference & Events Center

760 Alexander Road, Princeton, NJ

This year's conference focuses on a transitional period for teenagers and what happens after high school. Keynote speaker Lerick Horne, will discuss empowering students with disabilities. Sessions will feature networking and empowering our exceptional teenagers to help plan ahead for the transition after high school. Talks range from technology and other supports to exams and employment in order to navigate a path to success.

For more information, please visit www.ldanj.org or email questions to info@ldanj.org. You can register online [here](#).

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