



Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children



Newsletter

Vol. 15, No. 1

NOVEMBER 2003

Call for Nominations:

- ◆ **Yes, I Can! Special Student Award**
- ◆ **Special Teacher Award**
- ◆ **Special Person Award**

Awards will be presented at the 2004 Special Educators Conference in Duluth, February 25-27.

**See Form on Page 11 —
Deadline is December 29**



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Will IDEA Reauthorization be Completed This Year?

Reprint of CEC Presidential Points

Here's a recap of where the IDEA reauthorization process stands right now: the House and Senate have both introduced their respective bills (H.R. 1350 and S. 1248). The full House has passed its bill; the full Senate has still not taken up its bill to reauthorize IDEA, even though the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee approved the bill on June 25th. Several obstacles have been in the way of the bill's final completion in the Senate, including the many appropriations bills that still have to be passed before Congress adjourns for the year.

On September 22nd, Senator Kennedy's (D-MA) office called a meeting of the Washington-based education and disability groups to provide an update on the progress of the Senate bill. Several CEC members and staff attended the meeting.

During the briefing, Kennedy's staffers reinforced that the Senator is adamant about not wanting to dismantle the 'Adequate Yearly Progress' provision and other issues under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act on the backs of students with disabilities.

According to Sen. Kennedy's staff, the Senate HELP Committee's report on S. 1248 was supposed to be completed on October 2nd, and then within four days it was expected to be reported out of Committee and sent to the full Senate. This version was expected to contain several technical changes from the Committee-passed bill. At the same time, a document that details the differences made to the bill should be made available.

Despite the efforts of CEC staff and members of our Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) to get the Senate bill to the floor for consideration, as of October 23rd the Committee report and accompanying document had not yet been released.

In addition, CEC has heard from another Senate staffer that the bill will not be considered in this session of Congress, and it is possible that the full Senate won't consider the bill until late winter or early spring of next year. Once that occurs, the Senate's bill will be conferenced with the House version, and each

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Letter from the President

by Claudine Knoblauch

SPECIAL EDUCATION WORKS! and CEC MAKES IT HAPPEN!

On September 13, 2003, at the annual retreat, the board of directors for the Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children reviewed the mission and determined that it continues to voice the Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children's purpose. The board added meaning to the mission (stated below) through action planning. The board developed goals for the 2003-2004 school year to continue to transform the mission into action.

The goals established for the 2003-2004 year are to:

- Provide a quality conference for all educators
- Establish collaboration with other agencies and organizations with similar missions
- Establish and maintain a fast and accurate system of communication with our membership
- Define MN CEC's involvement level in regard to policy and legislation actions at the State and Federal level

Please review the goals and if you have suggestions or ideas on how the goals can be accomplished please feel free to contact any of the MN CEC board members. A complete list of board members can be found on our web site at www.mncec.org.

This year will be a challenging one for all special educators, and for every organization that supports the work of improving practices and resources for those who work on behalf of children and youth with disabilities. I encourage you to **stay alert** to changes and policies that are proposed at Federal and local levels. Ask the **hard** questions as proposals are made that may impact students with disabilities.

I am honored to serve as the MN CEC president and look forward to a successful year. I feel privileged to work with the current board of directors. I have not experienced a more committed group of professionals, willing to give of their time, energy and expertise to MN CEC.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding the Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children and the mission we strive to meet.

Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children's Mission:

To improve practices and resources for persons working on behalf of individuals with exceptionality in the state of Minnesota.

2003-04 MN CEC Board of Directors

President: Claudine Knoblauch

President Elect: Melissa Schaller

Secretary: Gail Craig

Treasurer: LaVonne See

CAN Coordinator: Jan Manchester

Membership: Mary McGrath

**Representative
Assembly:** Steven Kaatz
Carol Long

Student Advisor: Char Ryan

Publications: Carol Long

Newsletter Layout: Lynne Olson

Directors:

Kathy Arnoldi
Vivian Bahls
Brad Benson
Jeanne Danneker
Krista Fisher
Bryce Fornes-Bates
Marilyn Hukriede
Larry Iwen
Steven Kaatz
Paula Krippner
Gary Lewis
Mary Ellen Wade

Division Representatives:

Manuel Barrera, CCBD
Judy Swett, DEC
Gary Lewis, CASE/MASE

Student Advisors:

Mary Voss/ Manuel Berrera,
UM-Duluth
Steven Kaatz, Bethel
David Rogers, St. Cloud State
Linda Svobodny, MN State
Moorhead

CORRECTION from May MN CEC Newsletter

Emily Bennett, last year's **Yes I Can Special Student** award winner was a senior at Mound Westonka High School.



Stay Informed and Participate in the Legislative Process: It's Easier Than You Think

By Bryce Fornes-Bates

Here are some resources to help you stay informed about legislation involving special education issues on national, state and local levels:

- ◆ The Council for Exceptional Children Public Policy & Advocacy/Legislative Action Center is located at: www.cec.sped.org/pp/

At the Legislative Action Center, you will be able to find your national congressional representatives, for both the House and the Senate. You can also find sample letters to send to legislators about specific bills. You can customize these letters to send to your own legislators and senators.

- ◆ The weekly CEC Policy update can be found at: www.cec.sped.org/pp/legislative_update/modules/news/

The CEC Policy Update Page is where to find the latest developments in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. It is updated weekly.

- ◆ Pete and Pam Wright's Special Ed. Advocate Newsletter can be accessed at: <http://wrightslaw.com>

The Special Ed. Advocate is an informative source for current federal legislation and legal cases that will affect special education law and policy.

- ◆ *Session Weekly* is a non-partisan weekly publication highlighting House of Representative activities. It is printed only during the Minnesota legislative session, . Sign up at: www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/publications.htm

Also, along the sidebar to the left on this same webpage, you can look up state representatives by name, bills by their numbers, or click on the link that can help you identify your Representative.

- ◆ To keep up with the state senate, go to www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/

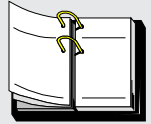
Here you can find your state senator and track issues during the legislative session in the MN state senate.

A few tips about contacting any legislative official:

Sending email messages is not nearly as effective as sending an old-fashioned paper letter. You are more likely to have your letter read and replied to if it is physically in a legislator's mail pile. Also, remember to write your letter in a formal fashion.

Making appointments with your legislators is also an effective way to communicate your opinions to your elected officials. You won't get much time for your appointment, so it is wise to prepare before your meeting, a brief statement about the issue you would like to discuss. This ensures that your message and opinion will be clearly communicated to the elected official you visit. You can also contact legislative officials by phone.

Mark Your
Calendars



2004
Special Educators'
Conference

Theme:
*Differentiated
Instruction*

February 25-27, 2004
Duluth

MNCEC is again pleased to be joining forces with CCBD to bring Minnesota Special Education professionals the best possible training and networking opportunities!

SPONSORS:

- Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children
- Minnesota Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders

WHEN & WHERE:

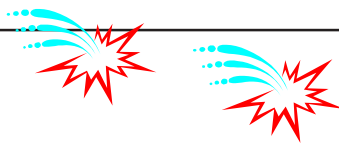
- February 25-27, 2004
- Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC)

FEATURING:

- *Keynote speakers*—
**Linda Tilton &
Kathie Nunley**
- An emphasis on supporting all learners through the curriculum maze
- For info call Susan Johnson at 612-210-9621
- Pre-conference workshop on layered curriculum & differentiated instruction
- For info call Susan Johnson at 612-210-9621

**MNCEC MEMBERS WILL HAVE
BROCHURES MAILED TO THEM BY
MID-NOVEMBER!**

New EBD Legislation



A new law produced by the 2003 special session of the Minnesota Legislature has addressed long-standing issues regarding students with emotional and behavioral disorders. The law assists schools in accountability and responding to the behaviors of students with EBD.

The four major components include:

- **Improving graduation rates.** School districts with dropout rates of 25 % or higher for students with emotional or behavioral disorders must develop strategies with parents and the county to keep students with EBD in school. Schools with dropout rates in the top quarter for students with EBD must submit their plans to the Commissioner of Education. *(This will be reinserted by the Revisor of Statutes bill in January. It was left out of the omnibus E-12 due to a technical error. The bill's authors believe it now has the full force of law).*
- **Removal from school.** Policies on using peace officers (police) and crisis teams to remove students who have individualized education programs from school grounds must be developed by school districts and reported to the Commissioner.
- **Teacher training.** Teacher renewal for continuing license will include training on understanding warning signs of early on-set mental illness in children and adolescents.

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Idea Reauthorization (continued)



house will then vote on the conferenced version before sending it to President Bush for his signature.

Regardless of the timing, in order for the process to be completed, both Senator Kennedy (the Committee's Ranking Member) and Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) (the Committee's Chairman) must agree to several conditions: that once the bill is taken up on the Senate floor, there will be no more than three amendments offered by each party (Republicans and Democrats); both sides have to agree on the schedule of the bill (when it will be considered) as well as how long will be allowed for debate on the bill; and that no secondary amendments will be allowed to be offered.

Action to Take: Please send a message to our two Senators, and ask them to urge the Senate leadership to ³Move the Senate IDEAreauthorization bill. Bring it to the floor for the full Senate to vote on it before Congress recesses for the year. You can send a message through CEC's Legislative Action Center. Simply go to the Public Policy page at www.cec.sped.org and enter your zip code.

Keep track of what's happening with the reauthorization process by taking a look at our IDEA Reauthorization Timeline, located www.cec.sped.org. We update the timeline each time any activity is taken on either the House or Senate reauthorization bills.

Note: CEC's newest document on IDEA Reauthorization is entitled: CEC Recommendations on House and Senate IDEA Bills: Comparison of House Passed Bill and Senate Committee Passed Bill Part A and B. You can access this document at CEC Public Policy's page on the web site.

Introducing New MN CEC Board Member:

Jeanne Danneker

Jeanne Danneker is faculty member in Special Education at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She had the privilege of teaching and learning from elementary students with learning disabilities and emotional behavior disorders for eighteen years.

Jeanne has also worked as a consultant with the leadership team at the Hiawatha Valley Education District and taught at Winona State University. As an elementary school special education teacher, she supported students with disabilities and their general education teachers in inclusive classrooms.

She currently teaches classes that prepare general education and special education teachers to understand disabilities and use teaching methods that convey high expectations for student learning. Jeanne is finishing her dissertation on self-determination and elementary student-led IEPs from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Jeanne is looking forward to meeting you all at the MN CEC state conference in beautiful Duluth in beautiful February.

I Am a CEC Member - What Now?

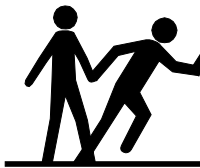
by Mary Z. McGrath



Membership in CEC offers several benefits. Here are some quick thoughts on ways to take full advantage of our professional organization.

- Come to conferences.
- Enjoy the company of other special educators.
- Call for papers opens the opportunity to speak.

- Maximize your professional learning curve.
- Earn credits for conference attendance.
- Make new professional contacts and friends.
- Bring your expertise and experience to others.
- Establish yourself among other professionals for continued access to unfolding field information.
- Review background learning and reinforce your dedication to special education.
- Share in the enthusiasm of the organization.
- Help new members on their growth track.
- Inspiration from seeing the bigger professional picture awaits you.
- Prepare for your future of continued work with students with disabilities.



2003 Conference Deemed a Success by Participants!

By Manuel Barrera

The 2003 Special Educators Conference, held February 25-27 at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd, marked the first joint sponsorship initiative in recent times of three major organizations holding state conferences in Minnesota; Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children; Minnesota Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders; and the Minnesota Department of Children, Families, & Learning (now called the Minnesota Department of Education).

A conference evaluation was commissioned to determine whether the interest generated in attending the 2003 Special Educators Conference had a concomitant effect on how conference participants view the relevance of the information and materials gained to the settings in which the participants practice.

Results of the evaluation revealed the following:

- Joint sponsorship of the conference resulted in one of the historically best attended events for professional development of special educators in recent times.

- The organizations sponsoring the conference were able to meet important goals for outreach to and professional development of numerous special educators especially those serving students with learning disabilities and/or emotional/behavioral disorders.
- The conference was perceived as highly interesting and useful to practitioners from a large majority (84-88%) of attendees.
- **Follow up interviews of conference attendees indicated 75% of follow-up interviewees actually used materials and information from the conference in their practice.** These interviewees tended to believe the information and materials were easy to incorporate into their practice.

As indicated by these highlights, special educators and others who attended were generally pleased with the overall conference proceedings. 92% of attendees responded with positive and constructive comments to improve the conference. Only 8% responded with negative comments.

A full report of evaluation findings is on file with the Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children.

Introducing New MNCEC Board Member: Marilyn Hukriede

Born in Detroit, Michigan, I grew up in 5 different states with my four younger sisters. I graduated from high school in Bloomington, MN and took pre-business courses at a community college. My first career was in property/casualty insurance.

I am married with 3 sons who attend Brainerd schools. We share our lake home with our two dogs, Hannah and Hank. We enjoy the many birds and critters that call the lake home as well.

I went back to college five years ago to major in special education. I graduated from St. Cloud State University with highest honors in 2001. I am now working on a masters degree in special education. My areas of licensure are SLD and EBD.

This year, I started a new position as the special education teacher for a small charter school in Crosslake. Our 92 students are kindergarten through eighth grade. We have been transitioning into a beautiful new log-style building. It is fun to watch the deer from our classrooms.

Minnesota is a Leader in Supporting Paraprofessionals

Minnesota has several, innovative initiatives to ensure that paraprofessionals are well prepared to meet the needs of the students they serve. The Minnesota Paraprofessional Consortium and the Minnesota Department of Education have collected information in a comprehensive status report and are co-sponsoring training opportunities.

The 12th Annual Minnesota Paraprofessional Conference, called "Tools for Making a Difference" will be held April 30 & May 1, 2004 at Ridgewater College, Hutchinson, MN. This is a professional development opportunity for paraprofessionals across the state to learn techniques for improving their performance and collaborative skills and to network with other paraprofessionals. Applications for presentation proposals will be accepted January 5, 2004.

MDE and the consortium are also sponsoring a conference for individuals involved in training paraprofessionals titled "Tools and Strategies for Paraprofessional Staff Development." This conference will be March 1-2 in St. Cloud at the Holiday Inn.

A document called Status Report II: Preparation and Supervision of Paraprofessionals in Minnesota was published by MDE and is available on the consortium website. The report gives information on Minnesota paraprofessionals' job descriptions, education and training, planning and supervision, and personnel development.

Also available is Para eLink, a competency and web-based system of preparing paraprofessionals. Para eLink assists school districts in meeting the requirements of training and assessment for current paraprofessionals.

The Minnesota Paraprofessional Consortium established "Minnesota Paraprofessional Week," a week-long recognition of paraprofessionals and the important services they provide. This year paraprofessional week will be January 19-23.

To learn more about the Minnesota Paraprofessional initiatives, to register for conferences, and to receive updates go to www.ici2.umn.edu/para/default.html.

New EBD Legislation

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- **County-school collaboration.** Student discipline policies must include procedures for coordinating crisis services with the county for students with serious emotional disturbance or for students with disabilities whose behavior be addressed by crisis intervention. This depends on the extent that funding is available.

Source: Pacesetter Fall 2003

Celebrate National Inclusive Schools Week December 1-5

Join the National Institute for Urban School Improvement and communities around the United States as they highlight the nation's progress in serving diverse learners, particularly those with disabilities. This year's celebration focuses on developing inclusive schools where families feel welcome.

Download a free celebration kit and learn more at <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/>

Student CEC



Winona State Students Do Service Project for National CEC

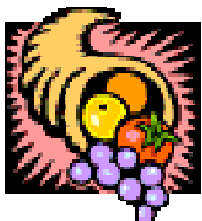
Pre-service teachers in the Special Education program at Winona State University had a class assignment that paid off in many ways. Students were assigned to analyze articles in *Teaching Exceptional Children*, the practitioner publication of CEC, to determine which CEC Beginning Teacher Standards were addressed. CEC has designated knowledge and skill standards divided into a common core which all beginning special educators should meet and areas of specialty such as learning disabilities and early childhood.



This activity was highly valuable for several reasons:

- It taught what beginning special educators should know and skills they should be able to demonstrate.
- It introduced the students to *Teaching Exceptional Children* a publication they should use as a resource throughout their teaching career.
- Students learned practical strategies for working with students with disabilities from the articles they analyzed.
- It required them to practice collaboration and coming to consensus.
- The activity will be showcased as a national model and presented in CEC's *What Every Special Educator Must Know: The Standards for the Preparation and Licensure of Special Educators, Fifth Edition*.
- Finally, the students analyzed 12 issues of *Teaching Exceptional Children* and their findings will contribute to an online index accessible through the national CEC website. The index will cross reference articles and standards so beginning teachers can locate articles that address specific standards and they can determine what standards are associated with individual articles.

Way to go Winona State!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



Introducing New MN CEC Board Member:

Vivian Bahls

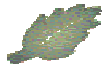
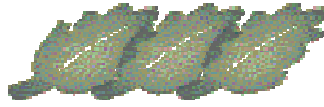
I started my education career as an assistant in 1983 with the Occupational Skills Program and through encouragement from the teacher I was working with I started college in 1984 and worked as a Title I Assistant until I received my BS in elementary education summer of 1987. I went on to complete my EBD license the following year and my masters a few years later.

I started teaching in the Bemidji School District as the Elementary Level IV EBD Teacher fall of 1987. At that time I had the self contained EBD program as well as consulting in seven other elementary schools in our district. I have also taught EBD and Inclusion at our Middle School, Title 1, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade.

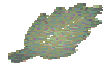
Currently, I am teaching once more in the Elementary Level IV EBD Program and acting as Principal designee. I have been very fortunate in that my district has been willing to allow me to take breaks from teaching in the Level IV EBD program so I didn't get burnt out. Two years ago I received my Principal license and last year I started work on my Director of Special Ed. license. I am a member of our district's Compliance Team, CIMP Team, and Special Ed. Parent Advisory Committee.

I am married and have three grown children and six grandchildren.

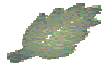
Calendar of Events



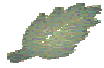
MN CEC/CCBD's
2004 Special Education Conference
February 25-27
Duluth Convention Center



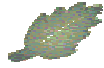
St. Cloud Student CEC Chapter
2004 Spring Conference
Focusing on empirically supported academic strategies for
students with disabilities.
For more information, contact: cec@stcloudstate.edu



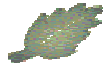
Tools and Strategies for
Professional Staff Development
March 1-2, 2004
St. Cloud Holiday Inn



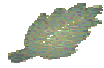
Student CEC Conference
March 5, 2004
St. Cloud, MN



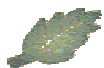
MASE/MASA Spring Conference
April 1-2, 2004
Radisson South, Bloomington, MN



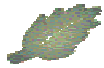
2004 CEC Annual Convention and Expo
April 14-17, 2004
Earnest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA



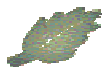
Minnesota Association for
Children's Mental Health
2004 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Conference
"Discover the Possibilities"
April 19-29, 2004, Duluth, MN, www.macmh.org



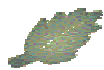
12th Annual Minnesota
Paraprofessional Conference
April 30-May 1, 2004
Ridgewater College, Hutchinson, MN



Directors' Best Practices Seminar
May 5-7, 2004
Kavanaugh's Conference Center, Brainerd, MN



MASE Summer Retreat
May 4-6, 2004
Ruttger's, Grand Rapids, MN



23rd National Conference for Training &
Employment of Paraprofessionals
May 20-22
Providence, RI

POETRY CORNER

Ode to High School

by **Heather Eastwold**
St. Anthony, MN
Grade 12 at St. Anthony High School

In spikes and black clothes
They call me a freak
Each day went by
I became more weak
I hated my life and wanted to die
I despised most people
They just made me cry
I wanted to hide, but wanted to be seen
I was starved for attention
But people were so mean
Isolation and always skipping class
Just made me wonder
When is this hell going to pass?
I dug myself into a deep hole
I was sent away
To cure my negative soul
When I returned, I was still so weak
Though I had helpers
Who were pushing me to speak
I got a few new friends
And some good feelings
Through all the hurt
I finally am healing
And in the end
My learning was intense
I traveled the dark tunnels
And gained some experience

Join the MN CEC Listserve!

- Do you want to discuss work issues with your fellow colleagues in MN CEC?
- Do you want to share success stories, strategies, and frustrations?
- Do you wonder what these on-line communities are all about?

If your answer to any of these questions then join the MN CEC Listserve. To sign up go to:

www.groups.yahoo.com/group/mn_cec

It's easy and it's fun!

Developmental Wheel

In continuous child find efforts to reach Minnesota children and families on the importance of early childhood intervention, the ever-popular “Developmental Wheel-A Guide to Your Child’s First Five Years” has been updated.

The wheel describes some of the development children have by the time they reach certain ages (birth to five), as well as related nutrition, hearing, speech and language, and vision information. A new component is the list of things that families can do to help their child grow, learn and stay healthy and safe. It’s a practical guide to help families understand their child better, and let them know who to contact for answers to questions or concerns they may have.



The wheels were designed to be affixed with a label indicating the county(ies) or region your early childhood intervention program covers and the telephone number of the local early intervention contact (central-point-of-contact).

Copies of the Developmental Wheel are available free to Minnesota families and organizations. Contact the Minnesota Department of Health to order yours today. Go to <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/fh/mcshn/wheel.htm> to download the Developmental Wheel Order Form.

Mailing and fax instructions are on the order form. If you have any questions regarding the Development Wheel call: (651) 281-9997 or 1-800-728-5420 ext. 9997

MN CEC Constitution Revision

In 2002, the fiscal year was changed to match the calendar year, starting January 1 and ending December 31. At the September 11 meeting, the board voted to revise Section 7. Term of Office in the MNCEC constitution to reflect the change in fiscal year.

The board voted to delete the phrase “which shall coincide with the fiscal year” in reference to the terms of office for the president, president-elect, past president, secretary, and treasurer. Officers will continue to serve from July 1 to June 30.



Introducing New MNCEC Board Member: Krista Fisher

I have been a Special Education -LD teacher at the Mound Westonka High School for 2 years. I teach 9-12 grades. I love working with the kids and I have a very supportive teaching staff.

I was previously a paraprofessional and loved it so much I went to college and got a special education degree at St. Cloud State. I was a student member of CEC there, graduating in December 2001.

You are never too old to learn!

My husband Bill and I have lived in the Buffalo area for almost 24 years. We have 3 children, David is 23 and works for our drywall company we have had for 20 years. Ryan is a freshman at University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Alexandra is a freshman at Rockford High School.

I am proud to be a part of the CEC board and the work we have and will do.

Bulletin Board

Nothing Succeeds Like Success!

Do you have students of whom you are especially proud? What works for you and your students? Celebrate achievement, growth and learning by sharing with CEC members. Send us your success stories.

Submit stories to:

Carol Long
221 Gildemeister Hall
Winona State University
Winona, MN 55987 or
clong@winona.edu

MASE Position Paper on Mild Disabilities

Minnesota Administrators for Special Education recently posted a position paper. The paper reviews the background on mild disabilities, summarizes the research on effective instructional practices and disability identification, and recommends possible action for MASE consideration.

View it at www.mnase.org.



8th International Conference on Cognitive Disabilities/Mental Retardation, Autism and Related Disabilities

Feb. 12-14, 2003
Sheraton Kauai Resort in
Kauai, Hawaii
Contact: Cindy Perras,
cindy-perras@cogeco.ca
or Tom Smith,
tecsmith@uark.edu

2004 Minnesota Special Educators' Conference Differentiated Instruction

sponsored by
MNCEC and CCBD
February 25-27, 2004
Duluth, MN

CEC Annual Convention & Expo April 14-17 New Orleans, Louisiana

Keynote Speaker:
Ron Clark
American Teacher of the Year, 2000

Contact: CEC, 1110 N Glebe Rd,
Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22201-5704,
888/232-7733, conteduc@cec.sped.org

*"You must be the change you wish to see in
the world." Mahatma Gandhi*

MCEC Newsletter

November 2003/Vol. 15, No. 1

The MNCEC Newsletter is published three times a year and is funded through the Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children.

Members of MNCEC receive a free copy. Materials may be reproduced without permission but credit is requested. Members are encouraged to submit materials for the newsletter by sending them to:

Carol Long, 221 Gildemeister Hall,
Winona State University, Winona, MN
55987 or clong@winona.edu

Submissions may be edited for content and size and must not reflect for-profit advertising.

Assistance Available!

Student CEC
members wishing to
attend to attend the
2004 special educa-
tors' conference may
contact Susan Johnson
at 612-210-9621.

Funds are available
for help with r
egistration and
lodging.

Check out the MN CEC website! It has links to:

- professional organizations,
- disability resource sites for teachers and parents,
- state departments,
- college student disability services, and
- teacher resources

Check them out at
www.mncec.org

Become a member of the MN CEC
listserv! Be a part of the discussion.
Go to groups.yahoo.com/group/mn_cec



Call for Nominations: Student / Teacher / Person Awards Due: December 29, 2003

Any MNCEC member can submit a nomination. *Send the nomination and a short narrative describing why you are nominating this person* to:

Melissa Schaller
698 Mariner Way
Woodbury, MN 55129

Phone: 651-734-9825
FAX: 651-407-2025
email: mschalle@ties.k12.mn.us

**Awards will be
presented at the
MNCEC / CCBD
Special Education
Conference,
February 25-27, 2004**

Yes, I Can! Special Student Award



The nominee must:

1. be student age 21 or under and currently receiving special education services in the state of Minnesota
2. demonstrate any or all of the following: academic excellence, community involvement, and/or participation in special activities.

Special Student's Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ School _____
 Your Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ CEC member ___ Yes ___ No

Special Teacher Award



The nominee must:

1. hold a current teacher's license in Minnesota
2. be currently active in serving children with special education needs in Minnesota
3. exhibit outstanding teaching skills

The nominee does not need to be a CEC member.

Special Teacher's Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ School _____
 Your Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ CEC member ___ Yes ___ No

Special Person Award



The nominee must:

1. be a resident or work in Minnesota
2. have contributed in some way to disabled or gifted persons and/or to CEC

Special Person's Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 Your Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ CEC member ___ Yes ___ No



Letter from the Editor

by Carol Long



When you are eleven you get to go on a trip with Aunt Carol.

This summer was Audrey's year and she chose to go out West. On the way home we took the train ride at Durango, Colorado. Both the ride and the people we met were wonderful. The old, steam locomotive takes you up thousands of feet into the San Juan Mountains to Silverton, an old west, mining town. The scenery is breath-taking, the mood relaxed, and yet there's excitement around every turn.

The family we sat beside was both relaxed and very excited about the trip. They were from El Paso and thoroughly enjoying the cool mountain air. The mother, an Hispanic woman, was warm, friendly, funny, and a bit outspoken. The father was tall, blonde, and also talkative. Their two sons were eleven and three. The older was dark like his mother. The younger was very fair skinned, a young version of his father.

The trip to Silverton takes three and a half hours so along the way we learned a lot about each other. The mother was in school to become a physical therapist. I shared that I'm in Special Education. They told me of the

older son's difficulties with ADD and ODD and the little one's delayed speech. They praised the older son's teacher from the past year and voiced a concern for what the coming year would bring. If only he could have that teacher another year. They beamed with pride and relief at the progress of the younger boy who clearly pronounced his toileting abilities to my niece, much to her dismay.

“We marveled at the feats of nature outside our windows and the powers of good teachers. We wondered what would become of our nieces, our sons, our students. Would good teachers come their way?”

I told about teacher preparation at Winona State and the high quality of our students, their dedication, their energy, and their skills. The mother voiced her concern that we need more good teachers. At that point, the woman seated near us chimed in. She was a first grade teacher from Oklahoma. She was also concerned about the lack of good teachers.

We sat there for a moment, connected and quiet on that glorious day in early summer. We marveled at

the feats of nature outside our windows and the powers of good teachers. We wondered what would become of our nieces, our sons, our students. Would good teachers come their way?

