



Council for
Exceptional
Children

MINNESOTA

The voice and vision of special education

Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children

Newsletter

Vol. 18, No. 2

JANUARY 2007

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE INFO
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MAIL-IN BALLOT
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POSTMARK DEADLINE:
FEBRUARY 14, 2007

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2007 MNCEC/CCBD Special Education Conference February 21-23, 2007

By Roberta Kaufman, President-Elect
2007 Conference Chair

*Editor's Note: Our board must be in a poetic mood with both our
President and our President-Elect submitting poetry.
Enjoy their creative efforts!*

Tis a few weeks before the conference, and all through the state

SPED teachers are planning, so not to be late;

The team is preparing the conference with care,

In hopes that the teachers soon will be there;

The Sheraton is ready with lots of soft beds,

And presenters are anxious to challenge their heads;

With sessions on teaching and learning and more,

Dr. Brooks as the keynote has great things in store.

Thursday's noon luncheon will be served with a clatter,

As entree and desserts are served on a platter.

Away to your mailbox, fly like a flash,

Send us the PO or check, please no cash.

Exhibitors will bring books and items to show,

A job fair is scheduled for careers that we know.

If you come on Wednesday, then you will hear,

RTI or Identification issues that are clear.

Please go to the website, go lively and quick,

And fill out the nomination for someone you pick,

To be honored as student, teacher, or friend,

The awards will be presented and they will attend.

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Letter from the President



By Jeanne Danneker

As I was planning to write this letter to you I had the sense of being locked in an ivory tower. Fortunately, there are people on the MNCEC Board of Directors who are in the trenches every day and so I went to them for inspiration. Unfortunately, some of the topics they suggested highlighted the seemingly impossible struggles we face in special education like inadequate funding and regulations that take our time and energy away from teaching our students.

Now, I know those concerns are serious and real, but I'm sure news of those issues is coming at you in abundance. I decided it would be more appropriate for my message to focus on ways you can cope with the challenges you face daily. So, I wrote a poem for you that I hope will make you smile in this cold and sometimes dreary Minnesota winter. Alas, I am not Shakespeare, but I offer you these words:

How to Keep the Joy in Teaching

With your students, look for things to celebrate each day.
No matter what the subject taught, be sure to work and play.

Chuckle at the funny things your colleagues and students relate.
If forgiveness is what someone needs, give it. Don't hesitate.

Read books to your class, write poetry; see a movie that is new.
Take the kids on a walk around the block and truly enjoy the view.

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Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children Mission

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

Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children Goals

- To promote and utilize systems for timely communication with our membership.
- To promote quality professional development opportunities including a quality conference.
- To support the professional development of pre-service teachers.
- To increase our involvement in political issues impacting our membership and the individuals they serve.

2006 – 07 MNCEC Board of Directors

President: Jeanne Danneker

President-Elect: Roberta Kaufman

Past President: Larry Iwen

Secretary: David Nelson

Treasurer: Mark Krug

CANCoordinator: Bryce Fornes-Bates

Elections Mary Ellen Wade

Membership Mary McGrath

Representative Assembly: Steven Kaatz
Carol Long

Student Advisor: Dawn Allen

Student Governor Annah Resman

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Newsletter Layout: Lynne Olson

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Mary McGrath
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Sara Stack
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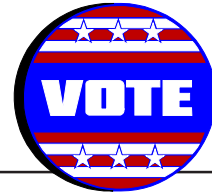
Divison Representatives:

Steve Schoenbauer, DCDT
Gary Lewis, CASE/MASE
Laura Pingry-Kile, CCBD
Scottie Livingston, DEC

Website: www.mncec.org



MNCEC Board of Directors Elections



Editor's Note: It's that time of year again! Time for MNCEC Board of Directors Elections. Below you will find biographical information for each of the nominees for this year's elections for President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Directors-at-Large. Review your choices, mark your ballot on the enclosed self-addressed stamped postcard and mail by February 14, 2007. Thank you!

President:

Vote for one

Mary Ellen Wade

Having been a member of CEC for 17 years and a MNCEC board member for the past 6 years, I'm convinced that this organization is one of the most excellent resources available to educators. Thirteen of my seventeen years of teaching have been with students with special needs, K-8. I am currently working as a special educator at Jedlicka Middle School in Proctor, Minnesota.

My teaching career began in 1968 in Chicago where I taught thirty-three first graders (including many with disabilities) in a very small room! This experience led me to look for better ways to address the needs of students who struggle. I went on to earn a masters degree in special education and have since worked with students with autism, asperger syndrome, learning disabilities, cognitive impairments due to traumatic brain injury and fetal alcohol, among others.

I believe that CEC is an organization which is dedicated to improving the practices and resources of those who work with and on behalf of those with exceptionalities and would consider it a privilege to continue to serve on the MNCEC board as president elect.

Treasurer:

Vote for one

Mark Krug

I have been a member of Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children and Minnesota Council for Children with Behavior Disorders since moving to Minnesota in 1988. I am a past president of MNCCBD as well as having served various board and support roles. I was also a member of CEC when I taught in Texas and was a past Governor for Student CEC when I was in Iowa.

I currently am with Northeast Metro 916 at the Alternate Learning and Creative Alternatives Programs, federal setting IV programs for students with significant maladaptive and acting out behaviors. I provide Due Process support for staff as well as serve as the liaison for parents and district personnel making referrals to the two programs.

I see MNCEC as **the** advocate for students with disabilities and the professionals that serve them. MNCEC is a front lines organization and can speak directly to the needs of students while balancing the concerns of the professional. We are asked to do more with fewer resources than ever before. It is incumbent upon us to campaign effectively in order to preserve the gains our students have made in the last 28 years.

Representative

Assembly:

Vote for one

Sally Baas

Sally Baas is a professor of special education, and directs the Southeast Asian Teacher Program and Hmong Culture and Language Program at Concordia University, St. Paul. She is trained as school psychologist and works in that role with Lutheran Special Education Ministries. She is currently completing her doctoral degree in leadership.

Sally has just completed tree terms as the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Minnesota delegate and has served on and chaired many NASP and MN School Psychology Association committees.

Currently, Sally is on the MN Department of Education Mental Health Services in Special Education Leadership Committee and serves as a trainer with that group. She also serves on the MN Student Services Coalition for Effective Education and represents higher education on the MN Paraprofessional Consortium.

Baas bio continued on page 4



MNCEC Board of Directors Candidates

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Director Vote for 3

Britt Ferguson



Britt Tatman Ferguson is an assistant professor of special education at Minnesota State University Moorhead. She considers herself primarily an advocate for children. She has taught in special education, worked for the Department of Education in the State of California in staff development, information dissemination and follow-up support in special education.

Additionally she has worked in higher education since 1992, as general education and special education faculty with Chapman University, California; Director of the Community Counseling Center at California State University Sacramento; director of a privately funded, 3 year implementation grant in San Francisco public Schools, consultant in special education, and teacher in both preschool and K-12 settings.

In California she started, owned and operated a private preschool and day care center for 17 years. She holds California credentials to teach in both elementary and special education, and is licensed as a Marriage and Family Counselor. She is a member of multiple professional organizations, is on the Board of the American Council on Rural Special Education.

Jim Smith



I have thirteen years teaching experience in special education, teaching at alternative school settings and at the middle and high school levels. Currently I am an Intervention Specialist at Central Middle School in White Bear Lake. I have served on the Minnesota Council for Exception Children Board of Directors for three years, worked with the Minnesota Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (CCBD), and presented at the annual conferences. I graduated from the University of Minnesota and earned my Master's degree from Bethel College.



Sally Baas continued from p. 3

In the community, Sally is on the UMCA Board of Directors and other community initiatives focused on the needs of youth, and is a member of organizations including: Phi Delta Kappa, Council for Exceptional Children, Council for Learning Disabilities, and National and MN Associations for School Psychology. She was named this year in Empire Who's Who for executives and professionals. She presents locally and nationally on topics focused on mental health needs of students and cultural competency in assessment.

Kim Torgeson



I am currently a special education teacher at Caledonia High School in Caledonia, Minnesota. I have been in the high school setting working with students with learning disabilities, cognitive disabilities, and emotional/behavioral disorder for seven years. Previously, I was a special education teacher in an elementary school for two years in Wisconsin. I received my Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Mankato State University in 1981 and taught in general education classrooms at various schools in Minnesota for 13 years. I received my special education licenses in LD and DCD from Winona State University and my EBD license from the University of Minnesota. I completed my Master of Science degree in LD concentrating on transition, from Winona State University in 2006.

My interest in special education goes beyond teaching. I try to challenge my students and prepare them for a successful life after high school.

I am a lifelong resident of Minnesota. My husband is a farmer and we live near Houston, MN.



2007 MNCEC/CCBD Special Education Conference



Teaching and Learning Collaboratively...

Knowledge, Skill, & Heart in Special Education...

Effective Practices that Improve Student Achievement.

February 21 - 23, 2007

**Sheraton Minneapolis South
Bloomington, MN**

Continued from page 1

Three days will go fast, your knowledge will grow;
The skills that you learn at the conference will show,
In classrooms, with students, and collaborating with teams,
Effective instruction, student achievement, data by reams:

A bundle of resources you'll fling on your back,
Start thinking right now of what you should pack.

Invite all your colleagues as soon as you can,
Then schedule your sub and make a plan!

The 2007 MNCEC/CCBD Conference Planning Team
looks forward to meeting you in Bloomington!

Check Your Conference "To Do" List on Page 10.

Job Searching? Please note the conference
Job Fair on February 22. More info on page 6.

News from MNCCBD

By Laura Pingry-Kile
MNCCBD President

The MNCCBD executive board met in September for our annual retreat focusing on long-term goals and activities. The 06-07 goals include:

1. Retention and Resiliency- Promote retention of EBD teachers through collaborative activities with other organizations related to EBD and mental health, expand membership and build recruitment activities.
2. Advocacy- Advise or comment, when appropriate, regarding policy and legislation affecting students with EBD.
3. Professional Development- Enhance competencies of current and prospective teachers serving EBD students.
4. Fundraising- Continue to pursue funding sources that allow us to support our tradition of facilitating networking sessions.



An example of activities under the first goal consists of facilitating networking events throughout the year in a variety of locations. Our first networking session occurred in September focusing on a timely topic of Self-Care for Special Educators – Keeping yourself in the Mix, presented by Dr. Mary McGrath. MNCCBD was honored to be

the first activity in the newly expanded Behavioral Institute for Children and Adolescents (BICA). In addition to a great training/classroom facility, BICA also houses the Arnold P. Goldstein memorial library and a resource library to meet all your professional needs.

Plans are in the works for our next networking session, which will occur in January during Minnesota's Paraprofessional Week to honor paraprofessionals, working with students with EBD. This will be a wonderful event for both teachers and paraprofessionals to celebrate and honor paraprofessionals dedication and skills in the field. Stay tuned for announcements and invitations!

Also included under our first goal is to expand, reorganize, and build MNCCBD's website capabilities. We are

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Membership Report

By Mary Z. McGrath, Membership Chair



An Interview with MNCEC President Jeanne Danneker

Why did you decide to join CEC?

I don't remember, but I think it was because I got a discount when I attended a state conference if I was a member.

How has CEC been professionally beneficial to you?

As a classroom teacher, having the CEC journals delivered to my mailbox reminded me to think beyond my immediate world. The journals kept me aware of issues in special education that directly or indirectly impacted my classroom. I often found useful teaching ideas in Teaching Exceptional Children. I always enjoyed reading the research articles in Exceptional Child and I think that is part of why I decided to get my Ph. D. Now as a new Assistant Professor I continue to read the journals, enjoy the member discounts when attending conferences and hope to have some of my writing published in a CEC journal. I also find lots of information to share with my students in the CEC journals.

Since you teach at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, why did you decide to join the Minnesota chapter of CEC?

I have been a member of CEC since sometime in the 1980s. When I joined I was teaching in St. Charles, MN.

I still live in MN and even became a MNCEC Board member before I finished my Ph. D. and got my job in La Crosse.

As President, do you have any words of encouragement to members regarding ways they can recruit colleagues?

We encourage others to join us in activities that we want to share. If you find value in your membership, the natural thing to do is tell your colleagues what you get from being a CEC member and why you think they would benefit. Things I enjoy most about my membership are getting reliable, current information from the journals, being aware of things that are going on in MN from our newsletter and legislative platform brochure, and most of all coming together with other special educators at conferences and networking sessions to share the joys and challenges of my profession. Being a special education teacher can get frustrating and overwhelming. When I come to our state conference and reconnect with other special ed teachers and listen to knowledgeable speakers who share some useful "new" ideas or remind me of effective "old" ideas I'm re-energized. The collegiality is the greatest benefit professionally and personally. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of old friends at our conference in Bloomington in February!

MN SCEC Job Fair at February Conference

A special invitation for students graduating this spring...



As part of the MNCEC/CCBD 2007 Special Education Conference, students and other job seekers are cordially invited to participate in a job fair. This job fair will be held on Thursday, February 22nd from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This will be an exciting opportunity for new entrants to the job market to interview for and potentially secure positions within the field of special education. Experienced teachers are also encouraged to participate in the job fair.

Students are also invited to volunteer at the MNCEC/CCBD 2007 Special Education Conference. There are a limited number of positions available for volunteers. For more information and to express your interest in volunteering please contact Dawn Allen by email at dawn.allen@spps.org

Childhood Obesity Quiz for Educators

From the American Heart Association
Submitted by Nancy S. Dumke, Director at Large



Please write T or F in front of each statement.

- ___ 1. Overweight children and adolescents have a 62 – 98 % chance of being overweight at age 35, which increases their chances of heart disease.
- ___ 2. Obesity is not a leading health threat to our nation’s children.
- ___ 3. Almost 23 percent of all students age 9 – 13 don’t get any free time physical activity.
- ___ 4. Children eat nearly twice as many calories (770) at restaurants as they do during a meal at home (420).
- ___ 5. A typical American child spends about 44.5 hours per week using media outside of school.
- ___ 6. People who are overweight or obese have a longer life expectancy.

___ 7. In the 2001-02 academic year students drank more soda than milk.

___ 8. Obesity-related annual hospital costs for children more than tripled from 1979 to 1999.

___ 9. Thirty minutes of moderate activity per day is recommended for students and adults.

The news is not good...

Recommended daily servings of fruits and vegetables are not being met by today’s youth. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “51 percent of children and adolescents eat less than one serving a day of fruit, and 29 percent eat less than one serving a day of vegetables that are not fried.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), children drink 16 percent less milk now than in the late 1970s, and 16 percent more of carbonated soft drinks. The consumption of non-citrus juices such as grape and apple mixtures increased by 280 percent.

Answers to the True/False quiz:

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. True 6. False 7. False 8. True 9. True

DEC Report

By Scottie Livingston, DEC Representative

The annual Division of Early Childhood (DEC) Leadership Conference, *The 3 “R’s” of ECSE Leadership: Regs, Research, and Rutgers*, was held at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge from October 4-6. Featured speakers included Stephen Bagnato, Ed.D., presenting on *The MisMeasure(sic) of Young Children: The Authentic Alternative for Assessment and Outcomes Research in Early Childhood Intervention Programs*. Bruce Bracken, Ph.D., also focused on assessment by presenting *The Bracken Basic Concept Scale, Concept Development and Early Childhood Assessment*.

Jeff Jorgenson, Director of Special Education, was back by popular demand sharing his humor and wisdom on working effectively with people with mental health needs. Speakers from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) included Barbara Troolin, Director of Special Education Policy; Lisa Backer, Early Childhood Special

Education (ECSE) Specialist; George Holt, Program Finance; and Marty Smith, Part C.

The DEC Board recognized Lisa Backer for her outstanding leadership skills with an award acknowledging her major contributions to professional development for Minnesota’s early interventionists and her commitment to providing quality programming for children and families. Louise Raths, DEC president, acknowledged Lisa as the Data Queen because of her love of and skill in gathering and analyzing data.

The annual DEC Spring Conference will focus on current topics of interest and of need for Early Childhood Special Education practitioners. It will be held from Thursday evening, March 8, through Friday, March 9, at the Minneapolis Airport Marriott (across from the Mall of America).

Lisa Backer announced that before the DEC conference begins on March 8, there will be a MDE Early Childhood Leadership Forum earlier in the day.

MNCCDB Update

Continued from page 6

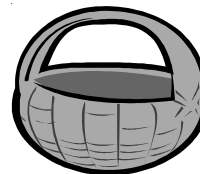
excited to spread the good news regarding the new and improved MNCCBD website! A community of professionals is taking shape (via on lone) and we would love you to join in! The goal of our newly designed website is to improve communication with our members through information regarding professional development and networking opportunities as well as advocacy information for students, parents, and professionals. Visit www.mnccbd.org for the most current information on MNCCBD happenings.

From the website, we encourage you to sign up for the NCCBD listserv to communicate with other professionals dedicated to the education of students with emotional and behavioral disorders. If you have questions regarding the website or would like to join the listserv, please contact MNCCBD's new Web Director, Jill Pring at jillpring@mnccbd.org.

MNCCBD board members look forward to seeing you at the February conference as well as our networking sessions. Have an EBD (Exciting – Beautiful - Dynamic) year!

Donate to the Second Annual

MNCCBD Basket Bid!



Members are invited/encouraged to donate items that will be included in baskets which will be available for bids at the MNCEC/CCBD Conference in February.

If interested in helping/or if you have a donation, please e-mail Julie Corcoran at: jcorcora@hbc.com

Letter from the President

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Nurture the joy of learning through your enthusiastic teaching.
Engage your students in activity. Avoid, dull boring preaching.

If you think you cannot possibly do all of this, don't worry,
We're putting on a conference that can help you in a hurry.

Come to Sheraton South in Bloomington; don't register too late.
I'm sure it will renew your joy. You'll want to participate.

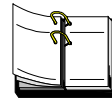
You'll learn effective practices; boost student learning no less
You'll catch up with friends from around the state, reducing some of your stress

Then it's back to your students to practice all the strategies you've learned
With your energy re-ignited and your creativity returned.

If you do all this you cannot miss. Your teaching will be delightful.
Students will succeed with you in the lead because you are insightful.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the MNCEC conference at the Sheraton South in Bloomington February 21-23. If you've misplaced your registration form you can access it on our website www.mncec.org.

Stay warm!
Jeanne



Minnesota Paraprofessional Recognition Week
Jan. 15-19, 2007

International Forum on Educating Troubled Children/Youth

February 9-10, 2007, Las Vegas, NV
CEC/Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders
<http://www.unt.edu/behavioraldisorders/ccbdforum>

MNCEC/CCBD Special Education Conference

February 21-23, 2007
Sheraton Minneapolis South, Bloomington, MN
www.mncec.org

MASE-MASA Spring Conference

March 14, 2007
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel
www.mnase.org

Special Education in Nontraditional Education Programs Conference

(Formerly: Annual Care & Treatment Education Conference)
March 18-20, 2007
Minnesota Department of Education
Contact Mary Beth Schafer, 651-582-8818 or
Marybeth.schafer@state.mn.us

International CEC Conference

April 18 -21, 2007,
Louisville, KY
www.cec.sped.org

2007 Statewide Paraprofessional Conference

April 27-28, 2007
Ridgewater College, Hutchinson, MN
ici2.umn.edu/para

26th National Conference on the Training and Employment of Paraprofessionals

May 3-5, 2007, Albuquerque, NM
www.nrpara.org
marilyn@nrpara.org

MASE Best Practices Conference

May 9-11, 2007 (Tentative)
www.mnase.org

International Conference on Ensuring a Brighter Future for Troubled

Children and Youth: Challenges and Solutions
October 4-6, 2007, Irving, TX

Paraprofessional Recognition Week January 15-19, 2007

By Sally Baas, MNCEC Director-at-Large
Member, MN Paraprofessional Consortium”

Governor Tim Pawlenty has proclaimed January 15-19, 2007, as Paraprofessional Recognition Week.

With the proclamation, the MN Department of Education suggested strategies to celebrate the work paraprofessionals do to support students through Title I, pupil supports, special education, as job coaches, lunchroom and playground assistants, hall monitors, media center assistants and interpreters. Some of those included:

- honoring these school team members by recognizing them with appropriate mementos of appreciation such as flowers, certificates, pins, etc;

- advertising in the school newspaper about MN Paraprofessional Week;
- inviting local radio stations to broadcast the names of paraprofessionals and their roles in schools in which they work; recognizing paraprofessionals each day of the special week;
- announcing and thanking paraprofessionals over the school’s loud speaker; and having an appreciation breakfast or lunch celebrating the importance of paraprofessionals on the school team helping students achieve.

For many years, the Minnesota Department of Education Paraprofessional Consortium has focused

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Book Review

Fragile Innocence: A Father's Memoir of His Daughter's Courageous Journey

Author: James Reston Jr. **Published by:** Harmony Books, NY, 2006

Book Review by: **Mary Z. McGrath, MNCEC Board Member**



Combining a suspense story, with a biography, with education for a special educator, Reston has written a book that proves to be a very motivating and interesting work. An author in his own right and married to NPR attorney, Denise Leary, James Reston led a life that was “normal” having two children, working, experiencing life’s regular and irregular events until his third child, Hillary, born a normal baby developed in a typical manner until age two.

From then on her development took a downward turn. As a result, her parents embarked on what seemed an endless journey to find the cause, diagnosis and cure. As many families do, they went down blind alleys seeking the doctor who could unlock the mystery that Hillary had become.

Along the way, they partnered with special educators who, due to Hillary’s unusual symptoms, created ways to assist with her educational and behavioral challenges.

Due to my own special education background and continued interest, I was curious throughout as to what was happening with Hillary and how the family would find the help she needed. It struck me that one doctor exhibited less respect for Hillary since she was disabled, even suggesting even she would be better off not being alive. In face of that Hillary’s parents fought on with determination and persistence in search of the right treatment for their child. They even sought out a

kidney transplant for their daughter. While doing so, Reston admitted to being suspicious that there would be bias against Hillary because of her disability.

Ultimately, they did find out what rare disease had shut down this girl’s language skills and caused her many behavioral issues. Reading this book will give any special educator or parent more guts and interest in standing their ground for student gain and for the respect these young people deserve just for who they are.

Oh....and the book has a happy ending!

Special Education Conference To Do List

- ✓ Send in your MNCEC awards nominations! **Due January 10**
- ✓ **Request a substitute** and professional development funds to attend the MNCEC/CCBD Special Education Conference
- ✓ **Invite your colleagues**, principals and parents to attend the MNCEC/CCBD Special Education Conference
- ✓ **Reserve your room** at the Sheraton Minneapolis South: **Deadline January 29**
- ✓ Complete your **registration** for the conference by **February 1**
- ✓ Registration for **Pre-Conference On-Site** (space is limited) **due February 21**



CAN Report

by Mark Krug
CAN Committee Member



Children's Action Network (CAN)

The Children's Action Network (CAN) provides MNCEC members with current data and information related to state and federal legislation that impacts special education youth, families and professionals. The MNCEC CAN Committee serves as a conduit of information as well as an advocacy group for your concerns.

The CAN Committee recently met and developed the 2007 Legislative Advocacy Platform. Based upon the work of the committee, MNCEC advocates the following practices:

- 1. MNCEC Supports Adequate Funding for All Education.** MNCEC believes that adequate funding is necessary to ensure that ALL Minnesota students receive a high quality, effective education.
- 2. MNCEC Supports Review State Special Education Statutes and Rules.** MNCEC believes that all Minnesota Statutes and Rules pertaining to the education of children and youth with disabilities that exceed IDEA 2004 Part B requirements should be reviewed. To that end, MNCEC seeks the creation of a stakeholders group to conduct such a review.
- 3. MNCEC Supports Measures That Improve the Recruitment and Retention of Special Education Professionals.** MNCEC believes that funding must be provided to support the mentoring of beginning teachers and the retention of highly qualified teachers in the profession.


These statements can be found in the "2007 Legislative Platform" pamphlet you recently received in the mail. It is also available on the MNCEC website.

The committee urges all professionals to review the platform and to contact your local legislator to let them know of your views. Our legislators do take your opinions and positions seriously, but the first step is to let them know what the issues are and what we believe needs to be done.

Paraprofessional Week

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on providing paraprofessionals with high quality professional development through the Paraprofessional Conference. This year the 2007 Minnesota Statewide Paraprofessional Conference will be April 27-28, 2007, at



Ridgewater College, in Hutchinson, Minnesota. For further information about paraprofessionals and staff development opportunities, visit <http://ici2.umn.edu/para/>.

MNTED: The "Voice and Vision" for Special Education Teacher Preparation

Sounds good, doesn't it? If you're interested in making a Minnesota subdivision of TED (the Teacher Education Division of CEC) a reality, contact Carol Long, 507-457-5365 or clong@winona.edu.

Letter from the Editor

continued from back page

Paraeducator Special Interest Group decided at our meeting during the conference that a newsletter written for paraeducators at the national level would serve a need and be an avenue to increase awareness about the critical work paraeducators perform and their need for recognition and training.

Now here's the really cool thing about pet projects, it's when other people think the project is worthwhile too and these people are willing to work to make it happen. It's my hope that someday in the section of this newsletter MNTED will be listed with the other subdivisions and that MNTED will be the "voice and vision" of Special Education teacher preparation in Minnesota. I know it won't happen unless others recognize the importance and think it can make a difference. The same goes for the paraeducator Special Interest Group newsletter. Others will have to see the value and contribute much the same way members do for this newsletter.

And now it's time to ask the question. What is your pet project? What are you ready to tackle?



Letter from the Editor

by Carol Long



An administrator once told me, if you come back from a conference with one good idea, then it was a worthwhile conference. Well, I'm back from the CEC Teacher Education Division (TED) Conference with TWO good ideas. Right now, I won't even tell you what they are. Instead, I want to share how a new project can brighten life and generate its own energy. When I'm stuck in a dull meeting, I think of my pet project and how I'm progressing step-by-step on it. I contemplate the next phase. I dream about the completion and how it will look in a finished state.

Whether it's trying that new strategy for teaching a student to read or painting your kitchen ceiling, it is important to have something that creates some excitement. Something when it is done you can step back and say well done. What's next?

Of course, there must be some element of risk or it's a task and not a project. Maybe the student won't catch

on. Maybe the paint will dry and the streaks will show. But, maybe it will lead to better fluency and, perhaps, replacing the floor tile is next.

Now, here are my two projects. First, I want to start a subdivision of TED in Minnesota. The Teacher Education

Division of CEC membership is primarily professors in Special Education preparation programs. In reality, subdivisions are state chapters of a national division. In Minnesota we already have CEC subdivisions for Division of Early Childhood (DEC), Minnesota Administrators of Special Education (MASE), and Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (CCBD). The subdivision on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) is making a come back. The TED subdivision would be a

voice for teacher licensure in the state.

My second project is a newsletter for paraeducators (I have a little experience with newsletters). The CEC

"Now here's the really cool thing about pet projects, it's when other people think the project is worthwhile too and these people are willing to work to make it happen."



**MNCEC Board of Directors Elections
Mail-in Ballot**



Ballots must be postmarked no later than February 14, 2007

President

Vote for one (1)

Mary Ellen Wade

Treasurer

Vote for one (1)

Mark Krug

Representative Assembly

Vote for one (1)

Sally Bass

*You may vote for
write-in candidates
for President,
Treasurer & Secretary.*

Director

Vote for three (3)

Britt Ferguson

Jim Smith

Kim Torgeson

Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children
c/o Carol Long
Special Education Department
Winona State University
Winona, MN 55987



**MNCEC Nominations Committee
Jeanne Danneker
825 52nd Ave.
Goodview, MN 55987**