

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

Winter 2007 Newsletter

A Message from Our LA CEC President

Dear Fellow LA CEC Members:

Louisiana CEC is at a **crossroad**. For the first time we are holding the annual **Super Conference** at a true conference center, rather than a hotel. This means more space and more parking. We are also holding the conference early in the academic year so there is no conflict with LEAP preparation and while district funds are still available. For the first time, you have a person serving as President who is a general educator, not a special educator. This should help you in encouraging your non-special educator colleagues and friends to attend our **Super Conference**.

So why do I write that we are at a **crossroad**? Is this not all good? Yes, this is all good. Now it is up to you to help Louisiana CEC continue being good. **Louisiana CEC** spends over \$25,000 to bring you the annual **Super Conference** and it needs your continued support as well as the support of your colleagues and students' parents to continue doing good things. Our conference fee to attend is very low, compared to National CEC. We are able to get special state conference rates at some hotels, such as the Hotel Acadiana Best Western, Lafayette that we will use as our headquarters. What conference does better? Even with of low registration fees, you get outstanding national and state speakers on a wide range of topics. You have a choice of many different sessions during each time slot. You can earn CLUs to satisfy certification requirements. Sound like a good deal? You bet!

And what do we do with our "profit?" We give thousands back to teachers in the form of mini-grants (by the way, we even have a session on how to write mini-grant proposals) and also provide thousands in undergraduate and graduate scholarships for special educators. Oh yes, we also keep in touch with the national organization, have representation in the Delegate Assembly at the national level, and meet with our U.S. Senators and Representatives to lobby for what we need.

If this sounds a bit like a commercial, I suspect it is. You see, for us to continue we need your continued support at our **Super Conference**. We do not charge membership dues, though many state organizations do. We depend on your participation at the best-valued conference in the state, and the support of our exhibitors to make all the good things happen. Make this the best attended **Super Conference** ever so we can continue doing what we do to support you, your students, parents of students with special needs, and future teachers.

Sincerely,
William A. Rieck, Ed.D.

Super Conference • January 30 & 31, 2007 • Lafayette

A Message from Our Past President

Happy New Year LA CEC Members:

It has been a pleasure serving as your President this past year. Educators in Louisiana are hard working and have a true concern for their students. The Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children is continuing its goal in serving educators in the State of Louisiana. Each year our Conference is improving. Thanks to all of you. Even through hard times, this organization puts on a conference that is first class. Super Conference 25 was a success because of you.

Super Conference 26 is January 30-31 at the Lafayette Cajundome Convention Center in Lafayette. You asked for bigger rooms and better parking; now you have both. Join us in Lafayette to learn about new regulations to “No Child Left Behind,” earn CLU’s, and hear about many more hot topics. See you in Lafayette, and bring a co-worker.

Sincerely,
Wanda L. Richard

LA CEC Mini-Grant Winners 2006

Author	Parish	Title
Ellen Arceneux	Vermilion	Bridging the Gap with Comprehension Monitoring
Nicole Vanderlick	Rapides	Getting Ready for the World
Peggy Kessler	Rapides	Differentiated Instruction through Accelerated Programs
Lori Young	Calcasieu	Sound Field Amplification
Madeline Rousseau	Bossier	Project PIE Revisited
Ashley Brown	Jackson	Teaching Reading Fluency
Karen Williams	Rapides	Assistive Technology to Promote Communication
Linda Jett	Rapides	Reading is Fundamental with ClaroRead Plus
Catherine McKay	Rapides	Autism on the Move!
Alice McBride	Rapides	MeVille to WeVille: Early Literacy and Communication
Ann Constance	Rapides	Bringing Books to Boys
William Samuels	Caddo	Project Safe Bus
Susan Dewees	Rapides	Meeting the Diverse Needs of Learners with Inspiration

LA CEC Scholarship Winners 2006

Recipient	School
Sarah Dubois	ULL
Jessica Oalman	ULL undergrad

Here are Just a Few of our Exciting and Informative Speakers for Super Conference 26!



Craig Blackburn is a 2000 graduate of Hahnville High School. He will present on Wednesday, January 31 at Super Conference 26. He is also a self and peer advocate who has met with representatives both on the state and national levels advocating for individuals with disabilities on education and life issues. Additionally, he has represented Down Syndrome Association of Greater New Orleans at four National Down Syndrome Society conferences. Craig is pursuing a career as a motivational speaker and delivers a powerful message.



Jon Paul Burden is Senior Consultant for Transition Services in the Exceptional Student Services Unit of the Colorado Department of Education. Mr. Burden will present on Wednesday, January 31 at Super Conference 26 on how to address the federal mandates in the development of effective transition plans along with the integration and maintenance of rigorous academic standards based instruction.



Dr. Nathan Call is Associate Director of the Behavior Treatment Clinics and Coordinator of the Severe Behavior Disorders Program, The Marcus Institute, Atlanta, GA. Dr. Call will present on Tuesday, January 30 of Super Conference 26. He is a parent of a child with autism. His presentation will focus on understanding and working with children with autism from both the parent and the educator's perspective.



Dr. Katherine McCormick, an early childhood professor at the University of Kentucky and member of National Early Childhood Transition Center, will present on Wednesday, January 31 at Super Conference 26. Her presentation will provide new information on early childhood transitions related to a conceptual model and child outcomes framework that can help programs, teachers, and administrators select transition practices and strategies that hold the greatest promise for effective transitions. She will also discuss practices and strategies that can address specifically the transition services for children from culturally diverse backgrounds and those with significant disabilities.



Danielle Rose/LOTR, Thomas Landry Associates, New Iberia, will present on both Tuesday and Wednesday, January 30-31, at Super Conference 26. Danielle has had extensive experience both in public and private settings working with students with autism spectrum disorders and other sensory integration issues. She will address "Sensory Processing and its Effect in the Classroom" and "Creating a Sensory Diet." Her presentations will address what sensory process is and how the brain is involved, and how it shows up in behavior. The discussion will also include an overview of sensory integration strategies for sensory processing disorders and therapeutic interventions.



Patrick E. Wadsworth, Jr., Teacher, Center for New Opportunities, Biloxi Public Schools, Biloxi, MS, will present on both Tuesday and Wednesday, January 30-31, at Super Conference 26. Patrick is a high school English and Drama Teacher at a center for alternative education for students with exceptional learning needs and students at risk for achievement in traditional general education classrooms. His presentation will focus on integration of the arts - drama, creative writing, and visual arts - into the general curriculum.

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Newsletter Winter 2007
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HAVE ANY NEWS?

If you have division, chapter, or person news you would like us all to know about, please submit it to Dr. Paul Mooney, LA CEC newsletter editor, at pmooney@lsu.edu. Please submit your news via e-mail attachment and use Times 12 point font. Thank you.

Lafayette Welcomes LA CEC Super Conference 26

The Lafayette Cajundome plays host to the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children's 26th Annual Super Conference on Special Education January 30 and 31. Many information-filled sessions are scheduled over two full days. (For more conference information, visit the Louisiana CEC website at www.lacec.org.) Educators from around the state and region are encouraged to attend.

With the help of a planning committee, Super Conference program director Dr. Donna Wadsworth of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has created a program that includes a variety of sessions on assessment, autism, early childhood, instructional strategies, families, assistive technology, collaboration, teacher training / professional development, and transition. This year's program will include a number of featured speakers on topics including advocacy, arts in the classroom, autism, early childhood, sensory processing, and transition. Featured speakers include Craig Blackburn, Jon Paul Burden, Nathan Call, Katherine McCormick, Danielle Rose, and Patrick Wadsworth. Additionally, the program includes a strand devoted to developing an understanding of specific evidence-based learning strategies.

Presentations are designed for newcomers to the profession as well as those who have been practicing for many years. As in previous years, program attendees will have a chance to choose from lecture or demonstration presentations or poster sessions. Participants will also have the opportunity to view the latest in education-related products and technologies.

Make plans to join us January 30 & 31, 2007 at the Lafayette Cajundome.