

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

Winter 2006 Newsletter

A message from Our LACEC President

Dear LA CEC Members,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I begin to serve as your CEC president this year. Because of the catastrophic hurricanes Katrina and Rita our Super Conference scheduled in October was cancelled. Schools were shut down, and many students and teachers were displaced. Let me take the opportunity now to thank all of the surrounding parishes who accepted our students and hired our teachers.

With all that has happened our LA CEC Board has been working on plans for Super Conference 2006. It will be held in Lafayette at the Hilton Hotel, April 24th and 25th. This power-pack two day conference promises to reenergize our knowledge in all areas.

Our awards portion of the conference will be held as in the past. Winners from our 2005 awards have been awarded their prizes. If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact me or my board members. It is truly an honor to serve as your president this year, and I look forward to seeing you at Super Conference 2006 in Lafayette.

Wanda L. Richard
2006 President

A Message from the Past President

Dear CEC Members,

Welcome to the New Year. I hope everyone has a prosperous and peaceful 2006. As Past President of the Board this year, I am looking forward to my duties as mentor to the new CEC President Wanda Richard. I hope everyone gives her their full cooperation as we go through this coming year. In addition to my mentoring responsibility, I am also chairman of the Nominations Committee. Although it may seem early, I would like to take this opportunity inform you now that I will be looking for nominees for Secretary and Vice President for 2007. The Secretary position is for two years while the VP position is a four-year commitment. I would like for members to consider running for either of these offices. I would also like to encourage all of you to consider putting your name out there if you are interested in serving on our board as a committee chairman or as a member of a committee. Please contact me at davidjd@cox.net if you would like further information on any of these opportunities. Again, I wish all of you a wonderful New Year and hope to see all of you at Super Conference 25 in April.

Jackie David
2006 Past President

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Scholarship Winners

Each year, the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) awards scholarships to outstanding students majoring in special education at Louisiana colleges and universities. Recipients must be either (1) at least first semester juniors enrolled in an undergraduate program leading to certification in special education or (2) certified teachers enrolled in a graduate program of study leading to a master's degree in special education. Criteria for selection include: GPA, essay, recommendations from special education faculty, and involvement in the Council for Exceptional Children as well as other educational organizations.

In December, 2005, three students preparing to be special education teachers received scholarships from the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children. The following are recipients of \$1000 scholarships:

Ashlie Guidry
Breaux Bridge, LA

Sarah Dubois
Kaplan, LA

Jamie Breaux
Tickfaw, LA

A Message from the President Elect

SUPER CONFERENCE . . . WHY LAFAYETTE?

Louisiana CEC has a reputation for conducting a high quality conference that provides teachers with opportunities for staff development at reasonable cost. After Katrina and Rita the possible venues in Baton Rouge increased their prices considerably, at least one even told us our attendees do not spend enough money! Our options included drastically increasing the cost of attendance and the cost to vendors or finding a new location that was more realistic in cost. We chose the second option.

Lafayette was able to provide a contract so our costs will not increase, thus providing us the revenue needed not only to fund the conference, but to continue our mini-grant and scholarship programs. Other locations, such as Baton Rouge and Alexandria simply priced themselves out of reach, at least for this year.

I urge each of you to attend. Our vendors need to see people if they are to return in the future. Without vendors and what they pay to exhibit it would be impossible to fund the conference and our other activities without very significant increases in the cost of attendance.

Over the last 15 years I have been on the board for about 12 of those years and the board has always tried to give conference attendees great “bang for the buck.” We are still doing this and your continued support is essential.

SUPER CONFERENCE 2006

WHEN: Monday & Tuesday, April 24 & 25, 2006

WHERE: Lafayette Hilton

Preliminary Program will be out in early March.

Check website at <http://www.lacec.org> for registration forms, presentations forms, hotel information and all other conference information.

URGENT REQUEST

News cannot be printed if it is not received. Please send news to Dr. Karen McFerrin mcferrin@nsula.edu so it can be included in the next Newsletter.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!!!!

If you are interested in getting involved with LA Student CEC, starting a student chapter, or developing your current chapter, contact us!

Bill Rieck
2006 President-Elect

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

There are so many benefits to being a member of CEC that it is difficult to know where to begin in enumerating them. Certainly, one of my favorite benefits is opening my e-mail and realizing that I have received a new edition of CEC SmartBrief, a biweekly electronic publication that keeps the busy professional informed on a wealth of topics. Each issue is organized into areas, such as curriculum and instruction, educational leadership, technology trends, policy news, eye on exceptionalities, and CEC spotlight. Within each area are succinct “big picture” summaries of newsworthy items with an electronic link to the full stories for important details. Talk about simple!

If you are a CEC member and do not receive CEC SmartBrief, contact the editorial staff at cec@smartbrief.com to enroll yourself. Each issue can be downloaded onto three pages and can be kept for future reference.

Impress your colleagues with interesting information you learned from CEC SmartBrief. Talk about the benefits of being a member of CEC. If each CEC member in Louisiana enrolls just one new member, our numbers would soar exponentially!!

Dr. Reed Rhodes
2006 Membership Chair

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Mini-Grant Winners

Each year, the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) awards fourteen mini-grants to outstanding proposals that will impact students with special needs. Recipients' grant proposals address one of the following areas: improving relationships between parents and their children with exceptionalities, developing independent living skills or employment of students with exceptionalities, or using technology to enhance the education of children and/or youth with exceptionalities.

The following are recipients for the December 2005 mini-grant awards:

Nichole Angelle Cliffordbryan "Kitty" Belen
Church Point, LA La Place, LA

Sheila D. Moore Nicole Vanderlick
Shreveport, LA Alexandria, LA

Debbie Reynaud Debra Perkins
Lutcher, LA Geismar, LA

Jan Carboni Anita McKinney
Carencro, LA Opelousas, LA

Felicia Bates-Douglas Veronica Winchester
Shreveport, LA Baton Rouge, LA

Jacee Cahn Vickie Husbands
Shreveport, LA Marksville, LA

Zachary Dubois Madeline Rousseau
Montz, LA Bossier City, LA

Student CEC News

If you are a student CEC member and want to get involved at the state level or what to start or improve a student CEC chapter at your institution, contact either Gerlinde Beckers, LA-student CEC chair at gbeckel@lsu.edu or Brent Daigle, student CEC President-elect.

Introducing the Newly Elected Officers

This year the membership elected a new Vice President and a new Treasurer. The Vice President then automatically advances to President-Elect and then President in future years. The Treasurer serves a two-year term. The candidates, in alphabetical order, will be identified first for Vice President and then for Treasurer.

Elected Vice President Cynthia "Cindy" Owens, M.Ed.

Cynthia "Cindy" Owens, M.Ed., is a 16 year Special Education Administrator in St. John the Baptist Parish. Mrs. Owens has served on the executive board of LA CEC for the past seven years, initially as the DCDT president and then as the awards/publicity chairperson. She has also served as chairperson of publicity/promotions for 2004 CEC International Conference in New Orleans, La. She has been a member of CEC for 18 years.

Currently, she coordinates special education services for all students with disabilities in her school district. She has worked in public education in Louisiana for the past 25 years as a teacher, educational diagnostician, and administrator.

Elected Treasurer Bridgette Alvarez, M.Ed.

Bridgette Alvarez, M.Ed., currently is the IEP coordinator in St. John Parish. She has held this position for the past two years. She has also worked as a vice principal, educational diagnostician and special education teacher.

Mrs. Alvarez was appointed membership chairperson of the LA CEC in 2005. She has also worked as a volunteer with LA CEC conference in New Orleans. She has been a member of CEC for the past six years. Mrs. Alvarez also serves in the Air National Guard and is currently working with the Hurricane Katrina/Rita relief efforts.

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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 to Dr. Karen McFerrin, our Newsletter editor, at mcFerrin@nsula.edu. It is best if sent as an attachment in MS Word, Times 12 point font.

Constitutional Amendments Approved

The following amendments to the LA CEC constitution were approved by a vote of the membership.

First Amendment

With respect to the duties and powers of the President-Elect: "To solicit volunteers and strand coordinators to monitor speaker sessions, manage the presentations on site and work with the program chair."

Second Amendment

Under Section 6: Governmental Relations Committee Composition/Duties: "A. The committee can have at least two members in addition to the chairperson. The chairperson shall serve a three year term."

Third Amendment

Under Section 13: SCEC Committee Composition/Duties: "The committee shall have at least two members in addition to the chair. Membership will include the following: chairperson-SCEC advisor

and two other members. The chairperson shall serve a three year term."

Fourth Amendment

Also under Section 13, duties of the SCEC committee add: "To select a theme for the annual conference and choose cover art for the program."

News from DEC

ELECTION RESULTS - Mary Hockless was elected vice president. Mary lives in New Iberia and is the Director of an Early Steps System Point of Entry for Region IV and V. Ashlie Abercrombie Allardyce, an early childhood teacher from Lake Charles was elected treasurer. President-elect Dr. Sarintha Stricklin became President on January 1, 2006.

Donna Wadsworth
Past-President/nominations chair