

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

Fall 2006 Newsletter

CEC Executive Board Election: Meet the Candidates

This year our membership will elect a new Vice-President and Secretary. The Vice-President automatically advances to President-Elect, President, and Past-President in the upcoming years. The Secretary serves a two-year term. The candidates, in alphabetical order, are listed as follows:

Candidates for Vice-President



Dr. Karen McFerrin is an Associate Professor of Educational Technology at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Dr. McFerrin holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Instruction with a concentration in Educational Technology. She is a parent of 5 children, 3 of whom have special needs and are served in the Louisiana public school system.

She has had several foster children who received special education services. Dr. McFerrin provides training for University faculty in converting traditional courses to online and effective use of assistive technology for all educators. She currently serves on the editorial board for the International Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education Annual and is editor of the Louisiana Middle School Online Journal. She has served on the Louisiana Board of Regents Universal Design for Learning Action Team and on the Louisiana State Department of Education UDL Committee. She has previously taught middle school English and social studies and currently serves on the Louisiana Middle School Association Board of Directors. She has presented and/or participated in several state and national CEC conferences and has served as Technology Committee Chair for the Louisiana CEC for the last three years. She was recently selected as the LA Postsecondary Teacher of the Year by the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators.



Sassy C. Wheeler, M.Ed., is a doctoral student at the University of New Orleans in the Department of Special Education and Habilitative Services. She has served on the LA CEC Executive Committee for the past two years as the Multicultural Chairperson, and she has been a member of the Council for Exceptional Children for her

entire professional career. Sassy's research interests include learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral disorders, inclusive education, collaboration and consultation, social support, self-determination, transition planning, and multicultural populations.

Sassy is a former employee of the Jefferson Parish Public School System, where she was a high school inclusion teacher. She has also taught several undergraduate and graduate courses at the University of New Orleans. Sassy has conducted several presentations at national special education conferences including the Council for Exceptional Children, Learning Disabilities Association of America, Council for Children with Behavior Disorders, and Division on Career Development and Transition. Sassy recently was a contributing author to a book chapter that can be found in *Instructional Strategies in Transition Education and Services for Adolescents with Disabilities*, edited by Sittlington, Clark, and Kolstoe.

Candidate for Secretary



Marcy Boudreaux-Johnson has served on the LA CEC Board for 2 years. She is currently the past-president for LA CEC-DEC. Mrs. Johnson is employed as a preschool special education teacher in St. Landry Parish. Her professional achievements include obtaining her M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (with an emphasis in mild / moderate special education), earning National Board Certification in the area of Exceptional Needs Specialist (birth through age 21), becoming a CEC Professional Recognized Special Educator (PRSE), and currently continuing graduate studies. Mrs. Johnson was named Teacher of the Year for St. Landry Parish as well as Louisiana American Legion Department (State) Teacher of the Year for 2006. She is active in many professional organizations such as the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the National Association

of Special Education Teachers, Delta Kappa Gamma Honor Society for Women Educators, Phi Delta Kappa International Association for Professional Educators, and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Super Conference 26 slated for January 30-31, 2007, in Lafayette

The Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children's 26th Annual Super Conference on Special Education will be held January 30-31, 2007, in Lafayette. The location for Super Conference 26 is the Lafayette Cajundome.

Super Conference program director Dr. Donna Wadsworth of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is planning for timely presentations on a host of relevant topics, including assessment, autism, early childhood, instructional strategies, families, assistive technology, teacher training / professional development, and transition. Presentations will be 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.

Remember, as we indicated in our Summer 2006 newsletter, that the 26th Super Conference in Lafayette will be held at the Cajundome. This move will provide larger meeting rooms and easily accessed parking. The preliminary program will be disseminated in mid- to late-November to CEC members, schools, and last year's attendees. It will also be posted on the Louisiana CEC website www.lacec.org. A list of Lafayette hotels offering state rates will also be included in this preliminary program.

Please make plans now to attend and participate in the 2007 Super Conference. For more information, contact Dr. Wadsworth at dwadsworth@louisiana.edu.

Strand Coordinators for Super Conference 26

Assessment – Kristin Gansle and Paul Mooney
Alternative Education – Bill Rieck
Arts – Donna Wadsworth and Becky Collins
Assistive Technology – Larry Aucoin
Autism – Marcy Boudreaux Johnson
Behavior / Classroom Management – Gerlinde Beckers and
R. Kenton Denny
Collaboration, Co-Teaching, and Consultation – Sassy Wheeler
Cultural Issues and Diversity – Sassy Wheeler
Compliance / Legislation – Larry Aucoin
Early Childhood – Sarintha Stricklin
Families – Wanda Richard and Cynthia Arceneaux
Gifted – Rita Culross, Robbie McHardy, and Jennifer Jolly
Instructional Strategies – Cindi Owens and Bridgette Alvarez
Reading – Jackie David
Sensory Impairments – Marcy Boudreaux – Johnson
Teacher Training / Professional Development – Reed Rhodes
Transition – Bonnie Wise

LA CEC 2006 Mini-Grant Award (\$500)

DEADLINE: Must be postmarked by October 31, 2006
List of Application Items

Write a proposal that includes the following information (in the order in which it is listed below). Applications should be no longer than 5 typed pages and should describe the proposed project clearly. Submit two (2) copies of the completed application.

1. Please indicate the type of award for which you are applying.
 - ___ Educating children with exceptionalities.
 - ___ Improving relationships between parents and their children with exceptionalities.
 - ___ Developing independent living skills or employment of students with exceptionalities.
 - ___ Using technology to enhance the education of children and / or youth with exceptionalities.
2. Application / Project Director submitting the proposal information:
 - Contact information including name, telephone number, address, and email address.
 - One page resume.
 - Identify if he / she is a member of CEC.
3. Host agency / school district or other public institution/non-profit agency information including:
 - Contact information including name, telephone number, address, and email address.
 - Statement of nonprofit or institution status.
4. Project description including:
 - Title
 - Duration of project (must take place between 12/15/06 and 5/31/07)
 - Statement of problem or need which the project addresses
 - Description of the population to be served
 - Project objectives
 - Activities to accomplish each objective
 - Activity timeline
 - Procedures for evaluating each project objective
 - Anticipated benefits of project
 - Project budget
5. Letter of endorsement from an administrator of the agency that includes assurances that:
 - The project will directly benefit the identified population
 - The school system or nonprofit assumes responsibility of the safety of the students while engaged in the activities described in the proposal
 - The activities are normally undertaken by students and their teachers and are approved activities within the school system

All interested persons are encouraged to apply. Applicants do not need to be experienced in grant writing to receive an award. Please contact the mini-grants chairperson for any questions about this application. Contact by email is preferred.

**Award checks will be mailed by December 31, 2006.

Marcy Boudreaux-Johnson
3034 Chataignier Road
Ville Platte, LA 70586
mrcb92@aol.com

Subject: Children's Action Network Annual Meeting

By Larry Aucoin

The 2006 CAN meeting was very intense, as always, with all coordinators involved in advocacy and grassroots efforts. I can assure you your national CEC dues are well spent. Deb Ziegler, Dan Blair, and Kim Kroecker work diligently with public policy affecting children with disabilities.

Attendees received information on all upcoming legislation as well as CEC's position and its recommendations. CAN Coordinators heard from a variety of Congressional staff, association staff, and officials from the Department of Education on current policy issues impacting students with disabilities and / or gifts and talents, as well as a political forecast for the upcoming November elections. The funding of the Javits Act for gifted and talented students, the disapproval of the elimination of reimbursement for Medicaid claims for transportation and administrative costs, and the mandatory funding of IDEA as promised in 1975 by Congress were a few of the issues fought for on our Capital Hill visits.

Again, I am requesting your assistance with advocacy. Anyone who is interested in receiving public policy updates and advocating for our students can e-mail me at laaucoin@cox.net.

Featured speakers included:

Election 2006 & The Political Landscape

- Jonathan Stevens, Policy Director, Republican Main Street Partnership
- Tom Manatos, Advisor to Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

Capitol Hill Update on Various Education Issues

- Brad Thomas, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on Education & the Workforce, Congressman Buck McKeon (R-CA)
- Tec Chapman, Professional Staff Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor, Pensions Committee, Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY)
- James Rice, Legislative Assistant, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

Capitol Hill Outlook on No Child Left Behind

- Alice Cain, Senior Education Aide, Education and the Workforce Committee, Congressman George Miller (D-CA)
- Roberto Rodriguez, Senior Education Advisor, Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA)

Keynote – OSEP Update: Alexa Posny, Director, Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education

Education Appropriations and No Child Left Behind Roundtable

- Ed Kealy, Executive Director, Committee for Education Funding
- Jane Clarenbach, Director, Public Education & Affiliate Relations, National Association of Gifted Children
- Alex Nock, Commission on No Child Left Behind
- Candace Cortiella, Professional Advisory Board Member, National Center for Learning Disabilities
- Monty Neil, Executive Director, Fair Test
- Jeff Simmering, Director of Legislative Services, Council for the Great City Schools

NCLB Update: Kerri Briggs, Office of Communications and Outreach, US Department of Education



Krystal Ellerbe (Legislative Assistant of Senator David Vitter) and Larry Aucoin (CAN Coordinator)



Congressman Charles Boustany and Larry Aucoin (CAN Coordinator)

La. Council for Exceptional Children
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c/o P. O. Box 44904
Lafayette, LA 70504

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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.



Congressman Bobby Jindal and
Larry Aucoin (CAN Coordinator)



Senator David Vitter and
Larry Aucoin (CAN Coordinator)

Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

Student Scholarship 2006

Louisiana CEC annually offers a scholarship to a CEC student member who is currently pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in special education. The amount of the scholarship may vary from year to year depending on the amount of funds raised for the scholarship fund.

Award Criteria

1. Be a CEC student member.
2. Be a junior, senior, or graduate student enrolled in an accredited college or university for the academic year this award is given and majoring in special education.
3. Have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Application Process

To be considered for this scholarship, please submit:

1. The scholarship application cover sheet.
2. Documentation of your GPA or grades (transcripts from your college/university).
3. A one page typewritten summary of CEC and/or other activities relating to individuals with disabilities in which you participate.
4. Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a faculty advisor. The letters should address your commitment to the special education profession.
5. A brief autobiography in response to the following (do not exceed two typewritten, double spaced pages using 12-point font):
 - a. Why did you choose special education as a career?
 - b. How do you view the role of special educator?
 - c. What do you hope to accomplish as a special educator?

To be considered for selection, the completed application packet must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2006, and sent to:

Marcy Boudreaux-Johnson
CEC Student Scholarship
3034 Chataignier Road
Ville Platte, LA 70586

Scoring

Total possible points: 100

- o Application cover sheet (5 points)
- o Documentation of GPA (15 points)
- o List of CEC and/or other activities relating to individuals with exceptionalities in which the applicant is involved (10 points)
- o Two letters of recommendation, one from a faculty advisor, addressing your commitment to the special education profession (30 points)
- o A brief autobiography responding to the following questions (40 points):
 - o Why did you choose special education as your career? (10 points)
 - o How do you view the role of special educators? (20 points)
 - o What do you hope to accomplish as a special educator? (10 points)

Selection process

The Chair of the CEC Scholarship Committee will appoint a subcommittee to conduct an individual blind review of each application based on the criteria and weighted system set forth above. The applicants with the highest accumulative score will be recommended to the CEC Scholarship Chair to receive this award.

Award process

A check for the scholarship monies will be sent to the recipient before December 30, 2006.

**Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children
Student Scholarship
2006**

Application Cover Sheet

Name: _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Home phone number: _____ Cell/pager: _____

University/College information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

SCEC Chapter Name: _____ Chapter #: _____

Specific Major: _____

Degree Pursuing: _____

Specify your student status for the academic year of this award:

___ Junior ___ Senior ___ Graduate

Expected date of graduation: _____ Month _____ Year

Applications must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2006, and sent to:

Marcy Boudreaux-Johnson
CEC Student Scholarship
3034 Chataignier Road
Ville Platte, La. 70586