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# IDAHO FEDERATION COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

December 2005

Idaho CEC

Vol. 2005 Issue 4

## 2005 CEC ELECTION RESULTS

open positions were for vice-president, representative and secretary. Very few nominations were received, but because of those that were, a full slate of candidates was offered in the ballot that was mailed to the Idaho CEC membership near the first part of November.

Of the 300 ballots that were mailed out, 70 were returned, comprising 23% voter participation. However, there were six ballots

### And the Winners Are...!

By Pamela Houston-Powell, Past President

It has been a pleasure to oversee the elections this year. As you may or may not know, a call for campaign candidates has been ongoing since last summer. In July, I emailed Mary Bostick, Special Education Supervisor, and Valerie Schorzman, Gifted/Talented Program Supervisor, both with the Idaho Department of Education. I requested from each of them to forward my email to Idaho school district directors of special education and G/T facilitators statewide. In August, I emailed each of these directors and facilitators personally with the request that when their staffs returned to school, that they would make them aware of the upcoming election and the need for candidates.

At the CEC conference in Sun Valley, an invitation was extended to all participants to nominate either themselves or another person for a position on the docket for election. These

returned to me due to inefficient addresses. The address information came directly from the international headquarters, so we will be doing some follow-up to ensure everyone's contact information is complete and accurate for both the state unit and international council's records.

Now for the news you've been waiting for! I am most happy to announce the results of the election. Your new **Vice-President is Michelle Doty; Representative is Clara Allred; and Secretary is Rene Rohrer!** CONGRATULATIONS!!! Michelle will serve a four-year term, which will see her position evolve from Vice-President to President Elect to President to Past President. Clara will serve a two-year term as Representative, and Rene will serve a two-year term as Secretary. These new officers will join the board at the next executive and general board meetings in **January**.

SIGN UP FOR THE FREE  
CEC SMART BRIEF

Go to the CEC website: [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)



### Caution! IDAHO CEC Website Under Construction!

Pamela Houston-Powell, Past President

Get out your hard hats! Idaho CEC now has a website! It is currently under construction, but you will be able to see the progress by logging onto [www.idahocec.org](http://www.idahocec.org).

If you have any ideas or requests for the website, please email me at my office, [pamela.houstonpowell@filer.k12.id.us](mailto:pamela.houstonpowell@filer.k12.id.us), or at my home, [edwisellc@aol.com](mailto:edwisellc@aol.com).

Dave Grindle is our webmaster and is doing a fabulous job for us at building the website, the start of which was prefaced by a number of preliminary tasks. It is lots of fun to be a part of this process. My hat is off (hard hat, that is) to Dave for helping to make this CEC goal a reality.

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**BSU Student Governor**

**ISU Student Governor**

-to-  
the-minute information you'll receive from CEC's  
member publications:

**specifically for special educators.**

**Newly Elected Board of Directors**

Congratulations to our newly elected/appointed  
members of the CEC Board of Directors who will  
begin their term of office January 1, 2006:

President Elect: **Mary Ruth Coleman**  
Member-at-Large: **Elizabeth Drame, Beverly  
McCoun, and Jim Siders**  
Member-at-Large Classroom Ranks: **Carol  
Eisenbise**  
Member-at-Large Diverse, Ethnic and  
Multicultural Groups: **Roberta Unger**  
Student Member: **Caroline Marrett**

**Lynn Cain** was also elected as Student  
Representative to the Representative Assembly.

ISU's Student CEC Thanks You for Your Support!  
By Stephanie M. Peterson and  
Lonnie McOmer

This year at the Idaho State Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) conference, the Idaho State University student chapter of CEC held a fundraising raffle. Some very unique and interesting prizes were raffled: a beautiful, queen-sized quilt, a pearl necklace, and 3 wonderful baskets (a basket filled with baby supplies; a basket filled with cooking items, a recipe book from the nurses at Eastern Idaho Medical Center (EIMC)/ Labor & Delivery, and a "Simplify" wall hanging; and a basket with Lagoon Frightmares tickets, a "Happy Fall Y'All" wall hanging, and other fall items). Thanks to the generous support of the CEC members, ISU's students were able to raise \$ 498.00. The students wish to thank all the CEC members for their help and support of this fund raiser. The money raised will be used to pay for the student condominium for ISU students coming to next year's conference and to fund the service activities of the organization. Special thanks are also extended to Kathy Ockerman and The Quilted Daisy quilting store in Idaho Falls for donating the beautiful quilt. Please show your appreciation to The Quilted Daisy by stopping by their store when you are in Idaho Falls (275 Cliff St., IF, 208-523-6395). Special thanks are also extended to Dan Olkowski, ISU Student CEC member, for helping make and quilt the quilt! He learned to use a long-arm quilting machine just for this project and missed out on many hunting trips to work on the quilt. Also, thanks are extended to Kathy McOmer for sewing and embroidering the wall hangings, crocheting the baby blanket and making the baby hooded towel outfit, and for working with the nurses at EIMC/Labor & Delivery, to donate the cookbook. Thanks are also extended to Lagoon for donating tickets to Frightmares. Finally, thanks are extended to Sheiree Miller, another Student CEC member, for putting all the baskets together in such a beautiful fashion. ISU's Student CEC hopes to see everyone next year at the conference and promises to have lots more wonderful raffle items!

Learning Disability Subdivision  
I would like to know who would be interested in starting a LD Subdivision. If you are interested please contact me. Thank you.  
Gail Coulter, Ph.D. Special Education Program  
College of Education Idaho State University  
208.282.1526 [coulgail@isu.edu](mailto:coulgail@isu.edu)

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS  
WITH CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS  
FEBRUARY 7, 2006 8:30-4:30  
**Boise State University**  
**Elizabeth A. West, Ph.D.,**  
Asst Professor at BSU-Dept. of Special Education.  
Sponsored by SW Regional Special Education  
No Fee for Session>Registration Deadline:Jan.23, 2006  
E-mail: [swrspe@boisestate.edu](mailto:swrspe@boisestate.edu) Phone: 208-426-4315



December 1, 2005

Idaho CCBd is sponsoring a two-day workshop at the Nampa Civic Center on February 23 and 24 presented by Dr. Kathie Nunley. Kathie delights parents and educators around the world with her humorous and inspirational look at teaching, parenting, and the human brain. An educational psychologist, researcher and consultant, she has taught biology and psychology for more than 15 years in both urban and suburban high schools and colleges. She writes extensively on teaching in mixed-ability classrooms.

Kathie will answer questions concerning:

- Why is the adolescent brain so unique?
- What can be done about reading problems?
- What causes ADD and what can be done about it?
- How can I improve my student's memories?
- What is Dyslexia?
- What is the new research on Autism and how does it differ from Asperger's disorder?
- How do I apply the new brain research to my teaching?

If you would like the answers to these questions and much more, join us in February!

Remember, if you are a CCBd member, you receive a discount on your registration.

### Greetings from DCDT

Tanya Bethel State President Idaho DCDT

DCDT has had an increase in membership from 18 to 39 members this year thanks in part to a new transition mentor project sponsored by Department of Idaho, Secondary Special Education. DCDT participated in Youth Leadership Forum (YLF). It is an event where selected youth from all over the state come to Boise to learn about leadership opportunities and skills from a variety of professionals from around the state. DCDT paid for the bowling activity and participated in the planning and putting on of the forum.

Pre-conference this year was "Assessment for Transition Planning: Mission Impossible or Not" Presented by Gary Clark, University of Kansas. This was the official kickoff for the transition mentors project in Idaho. We had 36 pre- registered for this event. Dr. Clark will be presented on Thursday as well. We had a strong DCDT strand at the conference in October.

During the business meeting at Sun Valley, DCDT elected a new president elect, Lisa Perry leaving the secretary spot to be filled in 2006. We also discussed and voted on a change for the term of offices for secretary and treasurer from one year to two years. If anyone is interested in the secretary position, please contact Tanya Bethel at [bmtransition@yahoo.com](mailto:bmtransition@yahoo.com). You must be a member in good standing for one year prior to holding office.

A big thanks you to Karen Gillette for her efforts with vendor participation this year. We have had a nice increase in the vendor hall this year. This is the major fund raising effort for our group.

We are continuing to work on our goals and have completed several already. We are working to publish a newsletter, participating in planning "Tools for Life", a statewide transition fair, and continue to build relationships with agencies in our state that promote opportunities for students in career development and transition. We sent several of the board members to the International DCDT Conference in Albuquerque in October. Karen Gillette took a panel of students to present at one of the session. Karen and Tanya attended a training session for DCDT leaders and met several national leaders.

### CEC Membership

By Eileen O'Shea, Representative

Recently I met with a number of Special Education Directors and their questions were "What are the benefits of being a CEC member? Why would I support my special services staff in joining?" I took pause; I have been a CEC member for so long, that I was wondering how can you not be a member? Then I had a few answers.

I think educators would want to be members of CEC because you a part of an organization that understands your issues in the field of special education. You have an organization that represents you in Washington D.C. as new legislation is being made. You have an organization that brings research, training, resources to your front door. You have an organization that is broad and includes administrators, teachers, SLPs, special ed. teachers, psychologists, researchers, and university professors. By having a variety of voices and a variety of perspectives we have a broad base of support to meet the challenges we all face everyday in this field.

This newsletter is for CEC members. I hope that you will use your own voice to build our membership and share with others why you think they might want to be a CEC member. In December in my district we are going to have a December 1 party. In fact it will be an outdoor bon fire, complete with hotdogs, marshmallows and chili. We are inviting all staff in special education as well as students from BSU and NNU. It will be an opportunity for us to informally share the benefits of being a CEC member and a way for us to support and celebrate the work we have all done to get ready for December 1.

I hope you will find ways that you too can spread the good new of being a CEC member. If you have ideas that you think will help to build our membership and support our current members, please email me at [eoshea@nsd.131.org](mailto:eoshea@nsd.131.org).

### Good News for Education Funding!

Margaret Gross  
Children's Advocacy Network

Yes, educators, miracles do happen. The House of Representatives actually voted against the Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill. This is the first defeat of a bill this large in a decade. The bill included the lowest increase for funding IDEA in ten years and cut the Javits program for gifted and talented students by 1.3 million. Every Democrat and 22 Republicans voted against the bill, citing inadequate funding levels.

CEC advocates from across the country helped to make this happen through emails, phone calls, and letters. The national CEC president Elect, Jamie Hopkins, met with congressional offices to raise support for increased funding for IDEA. These efforts have made a difference—the House voted against this bill that would have stripped \$56 million from education programs.

As CEC members, we can make a difference on the local level, too. Our legislators will be convening in January for the 2006 session. Now is the time to send emails and make phone calls asking for support for education. Legislators need to hear stories from teachers. Tell your story and let people know how IDEA has impacted children with disabilities in you local community and classroom. Write a letter to the editor to educate the public on the effects of under funding special education for all students. Tell them about the growing caseloads, increasing demands, and lack of preparation time for special educators. Describe the ongoing shortage of special education teachers and the increased attrition due to stress.

You can make a difference! Every email and phone call is important. If you can recruit five other people to email their legislators, the effect will be significant! Surely we should do more with our education than just read and write. We need to model a social conscience, be willing to make commitments, and participate in our democratic society.

***The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.*** --Herbert Spencer

CASE PANEL by Mike Friend

The Idaho Association of Special Education Administrators provided an "issues panel" at the fall CEC

### VENDORS NEWS

by Karen Gillette

The Division of Career Development and Transition sponsored the Exhibitor and Vendor Hall at the Idaho CEC Conference. Fourteen Exhibitors and non-profit agencies participated by sharing information, educational ideas and products with conference participants. The number of vendors doubled this year and we hope to have even more next year. If you have ideas for exhibitors please contact Karen.Gillette@boiseschools.org or [Lisa.Perry@boiseschools.org](mailto:Lisa.Perry@boiseschools.org).

Conference. There was significantly more interest in the panel than last year! Maybe it was the topics: Children's Mental Health, High School Reform, and Medicaid! Russell Hammond, Snake River SD; Alyssa Carter, Kuna; and Mike Friend, IASA were the panelists. Since the CEC gathering, work continues, especially in the area of the Medicaid match. The IASEA was represented at the fall National Alliance for Medicaid in Education meeting in Seattle, gathering even more insights into the issues facing Idaho and other states. The one thing that appears to be certain at this point in time is that there will be a change in how school districts meet the federal requirement for the 30% match. When the change occurs, and exactly what the change will be are yet to be finalized. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, State Department of Education, and Legislative Services continue to work with us to a reasonable conclusion.

### DEC LUNCHEON A BIG SUCCESS

The setting for the DEC luncheon this year was the beautiful Lodge Dining Room. Members were able to share conversation, ideas and good food.

The Early Childhood Excellence Award was given to Carrie Mori, for her commitment to early childhood education.

The DEC annual meeting was held in conjunction with the luncheon, including nominations for office.

Karen Nuckols receiving the Officer Appreciation Award from Meg Harlow, DEC President.

### New federal rules put California's special-ed teachers in a bind

Federal officials have announced they won't count the scores of students with disabilities who use calculators on math tests and audio players on reading tests, even though the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act permits students to use such accommodations if the devices are specified in individualized education programs. An official with the U.S. Department of Education said a compromise on the issue likely will be worked out this winter. [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (12/5)

CEC Smart Brief 12-6-05

### DID WE SEE YOU IN SUN VALLEY?

#### Special-needs students thrive in blended classrooms

Almost 10% of New York City's special-needs students are in blended classrooms taught by a general-education teacher partnered with a special-ed colleague. New York Times education reporter Michael Winerip says the collaborative team-teaching approach allows individualized instruction for all students, but notes that expanding the model to schools lacking strong parental and community involvement would be difficult. [The New York Times](#) (free registration) (11/30) CEC Smart Brief

CEC Representative Report by JC Burdick

This year's conference was another exceptional opportunity for professional development and networking. During the annual business meeting I reported on topics discussed at the Past Presidents Forum at International Headquarters in Arlington, VA.

- International membership in September was 42,485 which is a decrease due to the elimination of the Associate Membership category which was very costly for CEC. It was suggested that there be a clarification of definitions and alignment of membership applications and the proposed Constitution and By-Laws changes.
- Appropriations for special education are "pretty dismal" according to Deb Zigler, Deputy Director for Public Policy. There is a possibility of continuing resolutions so that funding will be frozen and '05 levels.
- The forecast for final regulations for IDEA '04 is a target date of January, but they will more likely come in the spring. There is a move from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services to get them out ASAP. Don't hold your breath!
- When the regs finally do come out, there will be 5-6 regional workshops conducted by CEC.
- CEC SmartBrief – if you haven't received the SmartBrief by email, you are really missing out. It is a wonderful synopsis of special education news items. It is also a potential revenue source for CEC, so sign up (and encourage all your co-workers and administrators) at the CEC website, [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org).

#### Professional Development

- The website also has information on "highly qualified" and evidence based practices.
- The Knowledge and Skills standing committee has developed an "Advanced Core" which includes advanced standards for teachers of ED and GT students.

- ETS and CEC are working together to develop guidelines for test accommodations. There is a conference in Savannah in the spring of '06.
- There is grant money available for Twice Exceptional middle school students. These students are low SES/LD/GT. The grant will follow these students and may even pay college tuition. Get more information on the website.

As a member of the Representative Assembly we will begin discussion forums. By using the Director's list serve and our Idaho Unit website I hope to get input from the grass roots level on topics of concern. The RA sends its recommendations to the Board of Directors for their consideration. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at [burdickj@tfsd.k12.id.us](mailto:burdickj@tfsd.k12.id.us) or by phone at 733-8456.

One other fabulous opportunity for leadership development is the re-establishment of the Leadership Forum held in the summer at headquarters. Please consider running for an office so that you might take advantage of this very valuable training.

**Vicki Kulm is the CEC registration queen!**  
 ☺ A big THANKS for a great job. ☺