

2019 Winter Newsletter

From the President

Hello Fellow CEC Members!

Can you believe it is almost Spring Break?? The school year has gone by way too fast. I hope you all take time during Spring Break to relax and recharge for the last portion of the school year! Our students need us now more than ever!!

The Idaho CEC Board would like to thank those that were able to make our State Conference in Oct at the Nampa Civic Center. We had an amazing turn out, had some great sessions, and were able to do some fantastic networking. Without your support and your willingness to present at sessions our professional development would not be nearly as powerful. Thank you!

Idaho CEC is working on many on many upcoming Professional Development opportunities. Please watch for those emails coming out soon. Opportunities may include options for summer as well as for next fall.

As CEC members you have the opportunity to access webinars through the national organization as well as other online resources, get discounted rates on conferences, books, etc. Additionally you have the opportunity to join one of our focus specific subdivisions. There are great ways to get professional development, new teaching strategies, and networking opportunities. Currently in Idaho we support:

CCBD-	Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders
DLD-	Division of Learning Disabilities
DCDT	Division on Career Development and Transition
iDADD	Idaho Division for Autism and Developmental Disabilities
DEC	Division for Early Childhood
CASE	Council for Administrators of Special Education

This summer Idaho CEC will send our CAN Coordinator (Kristi Young) and our President Elect (William Morris) to the CEC Leadership Conference and CAN Legislative Summit in July in Washington D.C. Be looking for legislative updates on the Idaho CEC website and the National CEC website under the Advocacy link. This is an amazing opportunity to gain some new and exciting ways to promote our organization and networking abilities as well as to have some influence on the passage or non-passage of upcoming bills related to education and disabilities. Last year the team was able to sit down with Senator Crapo and Senator Risch. Kristi is working hard to secure those appointments and hopefully with our Representative for this year. Please contact us if you have input you would like shared with our Idaho Legislators. akyoung102006@gmail.com

We would like to encourage you to be thinking about innovative ideas for your classrooms and use those ideas to apply for an Idaho CEC MiniGrant. Apply in the fall between Oct and January. The board will determine awardees at our January meeting.

We would also encourage you to be thinking about amazing Special Education Teachers, Paraprofessionals and Student to nominate for our Idaho CEC awards. We traditionally award these 3 awards at our annual state conference in Oct. Clarissa Hug award is for Special Education Teachers, the ParaEducator Award is for Paraprofessionals, and the Yes! I Can Award is for students. This is a great opportunity to recognize and celebrate excellence in our field. Please consider nominating someone you know.

If you enjoy leadership and want to help drive the professional development opportunities in our state surrounding students with disabilities please consider running for an office in Idaho CEC. More information about the specific offices open will be coming soon. Help us keep our organization strong and impactful.

Please take time to relax and recharge over spring break. Our students need you!!

Cyndi Cook
Idaho CEC President

Idaho CEC Representatives Update

This year Idaho had 4 members that represented Idaho at the CEC Representative Assembly during the CEC Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Rafael CdeBaca from Nampa attend in his role on the Council for Exceptional Children, Board of Directors as the Member-at-Large, Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural Groups. Dr. Aleksandra Hollingshead, Moscow, ID., represented the CEC subdivision Innovations in Special Education Technology (ISET) while Luisa Lowry, Caldwell, and Kindel Mason, Jerome, attended as Idaho CEC Representatives.



You might be asking, What is Representative Assembly? The Representative Assembly (RA) is the membership advisory body of CEC. It brings the voice and perspectives of the members to the work of CEC. It plays a key role in communicating between units, divisions and the student membership and CEC about issues, policies, priorities and activities of the Council. The RA meeting still has some formal procedures and time-honored traditions, but CEC truly wants input from all its members about what members need and want to help inform CEC's future direction, programs, products and services.

What are the primary responsibilities of the Representative Assembly?

- Act as a forum to examine ideas, strategic directions, activities, and other issues for CEC.
- Inform the Board of Directors, units, and committees/workgroups about membership issues, concerns, needs, and perspectives on initiatives and activities.
- Identify, discuss, and advise the Board of Directors on positions CEC should take on issues related to the field of special education and related services and special education as a profession.
- Examine key public policy issues and initiatives and advise CEC and the Board of Directors in developing policy and direction setting.

What are the responsibilities of a Representative?

- Solicit input from your unit's members in order to represent your unit at the RA meeting at the annual convention and in online discussions.
- Report to your unit's board and membership on activities of the RA and CEC.
- Inform your unit about actions, issues and/or advice forwarded to the Board of Directors.
- Communicate professional, organizational, and policy issues/concerns from your unit to the RA.

So, what happened at this year's Representative Assembly?

In the Fall of 2018, the Council for Exceptional Children conducted a survey of special educators to get feedback on what special educators in the field identify as areas of strength in the profession, as well as concerns. During the Representative Assembly the entire survey results were presented and explained in detail. Each State was then tasked with using the survey information to write plan to help support their CEC members back in our respective States, and a plan of action for the State unit. The Idaho Representatives drafted a plan that they feel will help Idaho CEC reach the mission of being the Voice and Vision in Idaho special education. The Idaho CEC Board would love to get member feedback on the below results of the survey as we move forward in turning the draft plan into a workable action plan.



Here is an excerpt of the summary of the survey results.

“These findings show important progress in teachers perceived competence in using individualized and specialized education for students with exceptionalities. Most teachers in this 2018 survey indicated that they felt “very to extremely” competent in using most recommended practices in instruction, assessment, classroom management and collaboration. They also clearly stated that the IEP is a living document which they use routinely to guide their instruction. However, they continued to raise significant concerns related to collaboration with general education. They raise concerns about the ability of general educators to help students with exceptionalities to meet the range of goals specified in the IEP. Likewise, they raise concerns about the preparation of principals and district administrators to support them in meeting their students’ IEP goals. Perhaps, most concerning is that many rate the time available to plan with partners and the IEP team as not sufficient. As in the 2000 Bright Futures study, special educators continue to ask for more, time, support, and materials to meet IEP goals and appropriate class-size/case-loads. Their jobs have become more demanding with the range of needs and background of their students and yet the supports available have not increased to help them do their job well. They value collaboration and want to work with families, but they need more time to do this and more support for working with families whose language differs from theirs. They also note the need for greater competence in using culturally responsive teaching practices and discipline strategies. The survey findings provide a call for action that should guide the three critical missions of CEC: professional development, advocacy and professional standards.” The survey identified a top 10 needs list based on the respondents answers.

1. Adequate resources to meet IEP requirements for my students (e.g. assistive technology, materials)
2. Smaller class sizes/caseloads
3. Administrators who support the IEP process
4. Knowledgeable para-educators
5. Principal who is a strong instructional leader
6. Professional development
7. Reduced paperwork
8. Access to related service providers (e.g. OT, PT, SLP, etc.)
9. Access to technology (including technical support)
10. General educational curriculum

Honorable mention items that ranked high as important for teacher success.

1. More planning time to work with the IEP team, other colleagues, plan instruction and paperwork
2. Responsive, Supportive, and informed administrators (both building and central office)
3. Schools that create a collaborative culture across staff
4. Access to general education materials, curricula, and resources (similar to option 10 in Table 4)
5. Professional development to help all staff understand students with exceptionalities
6. Issues related to policy
7. Support to establish collaborative relationships with parents
8. Access to related service providers and para-educators

Do you agree with the findings of *The State of the Profession for Special Education Teachers* survey and report? Let us know your thoughts by reaching out to Idaho CEC Board members. You can find contact information on our website at www.idahocec.org, comment on our Facebook page Idaho Council for Exceptional Children @idahocec, or send us a Tweet at @cecidaho.



Welcome to the CAN corner!

We are gearing up this spring for the 2019 Leadership and Legislative Summit in Washington DC! Each July a few representatives from Idaho make the trek to DC to join hundreds of other educators from across the country. During this time, we will examine important federal issues that impact exceptional children and collaborate to determine how these issues may affect children in different areas of the country.

I, as the CAN coordinator, have already set up appointments with our federal legislators in Idaho at their local offices. I plan on visiting them in the next couple of months to build and maintain our relationships with our Senators and Legislators prior to our DC visit.

We need your help!!!

The 4 main talking point in DC this year will be

Issue 1 - Appropriations – IDEA, Javits, NCSER

Issue 2 - Mental Health/ Social Emotional Learning

Issue 3 - Keep Public Funds in Public Education

Issue 4 - Teacher Shortage/ Higher Education Re-authorization

My challenge to you is to learn a little bit about each of these issues and to email me with personal stories or statistics (if you have any) so that we can take your voice to Washington DC. If you have not already subscribed to the CAN alerts through our national organization, do it! If you would like to be on my contact list to receive Legislative updates and calls to action, please shoot me an email so that I can get you added to our group.

Be sure to stay tuned through out the year because we have some exciting ideas in the pipeline for our local legislature!

Sincerely,

Kristi Young

akyoung102006@gmail.com



<http://cecblog.typepad.com/policy/>

Happy Early Spring! I am ready for it, even if the weather is not cooperating.

It is already time for directors to look over next year's budget and staffing needs. The early bird catches the worm, as they say, given the perennial challenge of finding enough related services personnel and special education teachers.

Notable events from this year include:

- National CASE Conference in Biloxi, Mississippi and the Legislative Summit in Washington, DC last summer
- IASEA's Blue Jeans Workshop in February presented local and national speakers. Thank you to Dr. Randy Sprick, Marilyn Sprick, LuAnn Purcell, Renee Miner, Andrea Cox, Shannon Richards, Laural Nelson, Dr. Joy Janssen, Ben Springer, Angie Williams, Julie Mead and Andrew Miller. Also, a huge thanks for an inspirational closing session with Boise School District students who have graduated from STEP and Beyond STEP.

Upcoming activities include:

- Tools for Life Conference, **March 4-5**
- Virtual CASE Conference, focused on Special Education Law and Trauma Informed Practices, **March 7-8**
- SESTA training on Classroom Systems in **April** with dates depending upon the location selected
- Federal Programs Conference, **April 12-14**
- Regional director spring meetings
- SESTA training with Anita Archer, **June** with dates depending upon the location selected

Look for the IASEA/CASE/CEC Membership Drive this month. We encourage all directors to join or renew, and consider memberships for their staff so that we continue to have a strong voice in national and local policy; network with colleagues as professionals; and strengthen our own skills and knowledge.

Have a great spring!

Letha Blick
CASE Representative





WHILE WE HAVE BEEN QUIET WE ARE STILL HERE!!

Your DCDT leadership is still here ready to help! We are always in the process of developing some ideas and programs to support Transition in Idaho. Any special ways that you support your student's through Transition? Please share your thoughts and we will pass them on! One of the continuing goals that we would like to accomplish is to grow DCDT so that we have the opportunity to network with our cohorts. **BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

We also are in need of those DCDT members who are willing to serve in a leadership capacity. Your current leadership has been in their positions for three plus years and it is time for some new people. If you're interested in working in a leadership position please let us know.

The Idaho Conference will be a bit different this year with the dates being in the summer. Keep an eye out for information in the newsletters and emails.

If you work with students who require a Transition IEP please consider joining us and share your knowledge.

Also, please pass the newsletter on to your cohorts. We need support in all of our CEC divisions, pass along ideas to us, and give us suggestions.

I am excited about the potential knowledge and support that we can provide to each other!

Have a great reminder of the school year!!

Eric Lichte

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The voice and vision of special education

Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders are currently looking for members, who are willing to serve on the leadership team. CCBD would also like to remind members if they have questions or are looking for ideas of resources to support themselves, students, or families please reach out. You can do that through email (idahoccbd@gmail.com), Instagram (@IdahoCCBD), or Facebook (Idaho CCBD).