# PIONEERS PRESS

Volume 24, Issue 3 September/October 2013

# **Message from the President**



Lyndal Bullock, Ed.D. President, CEC-PD 2013

It hardly seems possible that summer has vanished and we are in the Fall season. For some, summer has been a time for relaxation, travel, and self-renewal; for others life has continued as per usual with mounds of routine things to be done. Whatever the season brought, hopefully, each of us is happy and has a

happy and fulfilling life.

Recently, I began to contemplate what Fall means to me. One of the Dictionary definitions is "a period of maturity verging on decline". I am willing to accept the first part of the definition "a period of maturity"; however, the last part "verging on decline" strikes me as being very negative. Instead, I prefer to take pride that we have maturity, and rather than being



in a state of decline, I prefer to think that we are in a position to utilize our years of experience to impact present and future generations of leadership in a positive manner. Keep in mind, the number of years lived is only a number; therefore, I strongly advocate that we reject the significance of "age" and pick a number we like and stick with it! That may help us to continue to think young and renew our own vitality.

It is imperative that the Pioneer Division maintain and significantly increase its vitality and sphere of influence in CEC. We can only do that when individually and collectively we take the initiative and demonstrate our dedication to help "make a difference" in all aspects of the organization. As you know the Council now has a new Executive Director, Alexander T. Graham, who will take the helm on October 21. Without a doubt, the new leader will bring new ideas and launch initiatives designed to significantly impact CEC's future. As Pioneers, we need to get on board and let our voices be heard as well as pledge support to help increase membership, establish financial sustainability, and ensure that the impact of the organization is felt at all levels (e.g., membership, government, partners). In an effort to increase CEC's financial stability, several personnel changes have recently occurred at headquarters. I am certain several others will be forthcoming in the near future. We must be part of the conversation about moving forward!

My message is by choice very abbreviated, but I want to challenge each of us to THINK about what we can do for CEC and ACT. Most of us have been in leadership positions in the organization, have a working knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the organization, and have good ideas that should be shared with CEC leadership. Again, dedication and action is what is needed at this time!

Lyndal M. Bullock President, Pioneer Division

#### It's Not Too Late - Just Do It!

The clock is ticking, but it is not too late to check New Year's resolution #1 off your list. All you have to do is recruit one new member for the Pioneers... and of course, it would be wonderful if you would recruit more than one! Since January, we have only added 9 new members, so we definitely have room for more!

In January, there were 2,295 CEC members who were eligible for membership in the Pioneers based on 20 or more years in CEC. We know there are even more, because now folks with 15 years in CEC can join our ranks. Plus, those who have served as an officer of a CEC Division or state/provincial unit and Past Presidents of CEC also qualify.

You'll be happy to know all of the 2,295 CEC members eligible for membership have already been asked by our President Lyndal Bullock, who sent each one a personal email or letter inviting them to join the Pioneers. (WOW!) Now it's up to us to invite them again. But "Where are they?" you may ask. Hmmm, I would say we should BOLO (Be On the Look Out for) them in the following places:

- 1. Our CEC chapters Most of us go to these meetings
- 2. Other CEC divisions Most of us belong to one or more of these, and
- 3. Our state and provincial units- Most of us are involved in these, too.

Finding them is step 1, asking them is step 2, and step 3 is giving them the CEC website address or toll free number so they can join the Pioneers (<a href="www.cec.sped.org">www.cec.sped.org</a> and 1-888-232-7733). Just think, if each of us recruited one member, we would go from 300 to 600 Pioneers, and that would be awesome!

I really like that Nike slogan that says, "Just do it!" Take the three steps! You'll feel really good when you do, you won't have to break a sweat, and you'll be able to check off that #1 New Year's resolution - invite/recruit at least one colleague/friend to join the Pioneers!

After all, it's not too late, if you just do it! My thanks to all of you who will!

Cathy Costello, Membership Chair

A Big PS: Special thanks to our marvelous Membership Committee members for the personal emails, letters, and phone calls they have made to the 261 Pioneers who have joined, rejoined or needed to be reminded/asked to rejoin our ranks in the past seven months! Take a bow, Andy Berg, Beverley Jones, Carol Quinn, Diane Vandenbossche, Jannis Floyd, Laura Mohr, and Susan Poston!

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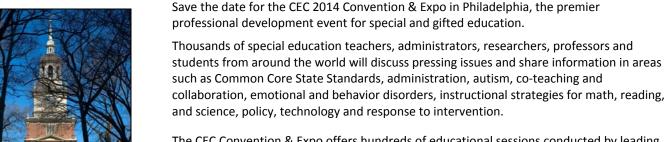
# CEC Pioneers Honors and Awards Committee

Since being appointed Chairman of the Honors and Awards Committee (HAC), I have been fortunate to have an outstanding group of Pioneers to work with in the selection process for the Romaine P. Mackie Award which is presented at the CEC Convention. As a result of changes in the Pioneers' Constitution and By-Laws (approved at the Convention in San Antonio) there will be a change in the structure of Standing Committees to insure consistency among all standing committees. Beginning in January, all committees will consist of six members with the Chair being the seventh member. In order to realign the HAC, two of our present members will rotate off the committee and two new members will join. Committee members serve a three year term and then rotate off to be replaced by new members. In this way more of our members can participate, thereby having a voice on the Executive Board. If you have an interest in serving on the HAC, please contact Michael Weinroth at mikeweinroth@aol.com or call Mike at 404-375-1188. It is not too early to begin thinking of Pioneer members who have made significant contributions to the Division and should be nominated for the prestigious Mackie Award. The member selected for the award will be recognized at our 2014 Convention in Philadelphia, PA.



### The CEC 2014 Convention & Expo

### **Philadelphia** April 9-12, 2014



The CEC Convention & Expo offers hundreds of educational sessions conducted by leading experts and endless opportunities to network with others working with children and youth with exceptionalities and their families. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about new and pending legislation and explore cutting-edge products and services in the exhibit hall.



**Independence Hall** 

# **Registration for CEC is Now Open**

CEC's special offer is still available: register before September 30, 2013, and they'll honor 2013 early-bird rates—guaranteed to be the lowest rate available. **CEC members can** register for just \$299! Take advantage of this incredible offer and get the lowest rates possible.

Philadelphia's location in the center of the Northeast Corridor makes it easy for attendees to travel. In fact, 40 percent of the U.S. population is just a day's drive away. Amtrak's 30th Street Station is the third-busiest train station in the country. Market East regional rail station is linked to the Convention Center. And Philadelphia International Airport is just a short ride south.



**Explore Philadelphia** 

Located in the heart of the City of Philadelphia -- both geographically and culturally -- the Convention Center boasts famed landmarks within short walks, including Independence Hall in America's most historic square mile, Chinatown and its stunning Friendship Gate, and Rittenhouse Square. Outside of the western entrance is the Museum Mile which stretches along Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The Center is the culinary melting pot known as Reading Terminal Market, which offers a vast choice of mouthwatering regional and international food.



**Pennsylvania Convention Center** 

# Alexander T. Graham Named CEC Executive Director

**August 28. 2013, Arlington, VA** -- Alexander T. Graham has been named executive director of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). He will join the organization on Oct. 21, 2013.

"Alex Graham is a distinguished executive and thought leader with expertise in managing financial, human resource, and strategic planning programs, as well as membership, marketing, government/public affairs, and conference development," said CEC President Christy Chambers. "In addition to bringing many years of experience in implementing programs and initiatives to enhance revenue and service delivery to members, Alex has deep roots in the disability community that will help advance CEC's mission to improve the educational lives of children and youth with exceptionalities. We are delighted that he has agreed to lead our team."

Graham comes to CEC from his position as executive director and chief executive officer of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell), where he has been since 2007. At AG Bell, Graham leads the organization and its certifying academy with more than 4,000 members, including families with children living with hearing loss, adults with hearing loss, and the professionals that serve them.

While at AG Bell, Graham launched the international certification program for Listening and Spoken Language Specialists (LSLS®), and transitioned the association's service delivery model to a web-based platform with the implementation of the Listening and Spoken Language Knowledge Center to help families, health care providers and education professionals understand childhood hearing loss and the importance of early diagnosis and intervention.

He also has held positions at the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals, where he was executive director, and the National Association of Workforce Boards, where he was chief operating officer. His prior association positions include director of political affairs, chief marketing officer, and associate executive director.

Graham earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Lynchburg College and a Master of Science degree in organizational effectiveness and a Master of Business Administration degree from Marymount University.



# Report of the CEC Pioneers Division Nominations and Elections Committee

Submitted by Immediate Past President, William K. Bogdan, Ed.D

The constitution and bylaws of the CEC Pioneers Division were revised in 2013. With the elimination of the vice president position, Mr. Mike Thew, elected vice president for the 2013 term, will move into the division president-elect position effective January 1, 2014. Mike will succeed Jamie Hopkins as president of the Pioneers Division on January 1, 2015. With the revisions to the division constitution and bylaws, nominations and elections were postponed until 2014. The 2014 Nominations and Elections Committee will be chaired by Dr. Lyndal Bullock when he assumes the position of immediate past president on January 1, 2014.

In 2014, the election of the 2015 president elect will occur. Since no other elected positions will be open for 2015, the president elect will be the only position requiring an election and vote of the full membership.

It is never too early to think about running for office. If you are interested in seeking the position of CEC Pioneers Division president elect or if you know of a division member you feel would be an excellent candidate, please feel free to contact Bill Bogdan (<a href="wkbogdan@aol.com">wkbogdan@aol.com</a>) or Lyndal Bullock (<a href="lyndal.bullock@unt.edu">lyndal.bullock@unt.edu</a>) for more information. Thank you.



# 2014 Romaine P. Mackie Annual Award for Leadership

Purpose: The Romaine P. Mackie Award is to honor an outstanding professional who has demonstrated leadership in CEC and other organizations for an extensive period of time in various areas within the field: service delivery, teacher education and professional development; research; policy; assessment; publications. The individual should be nominated by someone who is familiar with the nature and qualify of his/her work and who can speak to the nominee's character.

The Award is named for Romaine P. Mackie who was a U.S. Commissioner of Education, a devout supporter of special education in the early years, and an active member of CEC who promoted the mission of CEC in all of her work.

#### **Nomination Materials Include:**

- Completed Nomination Form (below)
- Letter of nomination
- Brief vitae or resume of the nominee

the Awards Committee in making a decision.

• At least two (2) letters of support (no more than four (4), please)

Nomination Form

Nominee's Name:	Email Address:
Mailing Address:	Telephone Number:
CEC Membership Number:	-
Nominator's Name:	Nominating Unit:
Nominator's Email:	•
The brief vitae or resume for the individual nominated history, length of service, special projects undertaken,	should include educational background, employment awards received, and other information which will assist

All nominations and materials must be received by *Friday, January 31, 2014*. Submit your nomination packet to:

Michael Weinroth, Honors and Awards Committee Chair 335 Hunting View Ct. NW Atlanta, GA 30328-2779 C 404-375-1188

email: mikeweinroth@aol.com



**CEC Pioneers Division** 

The voice and vision of special education

# Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) Report - Fall 2013

Submitted by Jean Lokerson, PD CAN Coordinator

**Sequestration.** The threat of "sequestration," which began when President Obama signed the Budget Control Act (BCA) in mid-2011 to create a Bi-Partisan Supercommittee that identified \$1.2 trillion in cuts to begin January 1, 2013, with \$3.5 billion cut from the Departments of Defense and Education, including Parts B, C, and D of IDEA and Special Education Research. <u>Update:</u> When Congress failed to reach agreement by March 1 2013, a 5% cut took effect, but the impact came with the start of the 2013 school year, due to school funding patterns. Implementation of the cuts vary among states and programs but funds for IDEA, which requires identification and appropriate services for all students with disabilities, are often being cut. In addition, the mandated federal funding of up to 40% of special vs. general education costs is currently 14.9 %, the lowest since 2001.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA). States are beginning implementation of the Community First Choice State Option in ACA. The option authorizes new medical benefits for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities who are served in Home and Community Programs, rather than institutional services. It will also be important to insure the ACA funds are used in inclusive ways.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS). In June 2010, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) released the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), providing states with common standards for K-12 students in English/language arts and mathematics. The CCSS emphasize robust and relevant curricular content such as critical thinking and cross-disciplinary learning, along with accommodations for students with special needs such as Braille, sign language, speech to-text technology, computers, and scribes, that are designed to support mastery of grade-level content. The next step, assessment implementation, including what form(s) will be used to measure mastery, the time and technology required, and what accommodations, modifications, and adaptations may be available or permitted is becoming the center of attention. For teachers of special education students, the need to 1) develop IEPs focusing on scaffolding instruction to insure mastery of goals, 2) teach more rigorous content, 3) assess short-term progress as a basis for instruction, and 4) develop the necessary academic and social skills, will be crucial. For principals and administrators, providing funds and expertise to ensure parent support, professional learning, needed computer devices and software, and a positive, enthusiastic, environment will all be critical. As discussion continues, the future remains difficult to predict...

Performance Evaluation of Teachers and Principals. The use of data-based assessment for annual evaluations, contract renewals and tenure decisions, remains a major issue, especially for teachers in inclusive, self-contained, and other settings that primarily serve students with disabilities. The adoption of CCSS, which utilizes computerized assessments, has led teacher, parent, special education, and other groups to raise questions about how accommodations, modifications, and adaptations will be used. One promising approach that is emerging, seeks to recognize both performance and progress measures as part of evaluation processes.

#### **Waivers for Meeting NCLB Achievement Expectations**

With the 2014 deadline of NCLB looming, a number of states have requested and received waivers that permit student achievement scores below the NCLB target, without a Race-to-the-Top funding penalty.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Although the document was signed by President Obama in early 2012, the Senate has not yet given the advice and consent needed for ratification by the United States. For details and updates, go to www.un.org/disabilities.

#### **CEC CAN SEPTEMBER UPDATE**

Congress is currently considering making permanent an unclear policy that allows individuals who are still enrolled in their training programs to be called 'highly qualified'. Special educators know that substantial preparation is critical to address the complex educational needs of students with disabilities. Our students and their families deserve to know whether their teachers have completed their training and, therefore, are fully prepared and highly qualified under ESEA.

# Program Report August, 2013

#### **Pamela Gillet, Coordinator**

- Managed the operations of the CEC/CEC-PD
   Mentoring Program during the first six years of the
   Program's existence.
- 2. Implemented the changes to the Program per the recommendations from the 2011-2012 annual evaluation.
- Chaired the Pioneers Work Group on the Study of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program and prepared a report with the results of the study and recommendations for adoption by the CEC Pioneers Board.
- 4. Participated in a conference call with the leadership of the Pioneers Division, the president of CEC, and the CEC executive director to discuss the recommendations made in the report and to determine the next course of action for implementing the recommendations.
- 5. Developed a sequential timeline for the activities of the Program at the request of CEC.
- Responded to questions by CEC and Pioneers leadership regarding the role of the coordinator of the Program regarding the time commitment, relationship to the Pioneers Board, and the specific role responsibilities of the position.
- Developed talking points for use by the Pioneers for the presentation of the Program during the 2013 CEC Board of Directors meeting.
- 8. Submitted my resignation, effective June 30, 2013, as coordinator of the Program and notified the mentors and faculty advisors of the resignation.
- 9. Completed the 2012-13 Annual Report for the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program and filed the report with the Pioneers Board and CEC.
- 10. Worked with the new coordinator of the Program, Linda Marsal, to exchange all information, forms, and other associated paperwork for the Program.



# **2013 CEC Leadership Institute: Pioneers Division Microsite**

#### **Jamie Hopkins, President Elect**

At the summer Leadership Institute held at CEC Headquarters in July, CEC staff member, Diane Shinn presented Divisions with an interesting opportunity. Diane is the Senior Director for Communications for CEC and she explained the process for divisions to develop their own "microsite" within CEC's website. This would be done at no cost for divisions. A microsite would be connected with the CEC website, the CECommunity and the CEC member database.

With a microsite, we can post our newsletters, communicate with our members, develop our own blog, post information about upcoming activities, and keep in touch with members on a regular basis.

We are currently exploring our options and the process for developing such a microsite. We will keep you informed as to our progress.

The *Pioneers Press* is published three times per year by the Pioneers Division of the Council for Exceptional Children.



Lee Sherry, Editor, Department of Special Education and Child Development, UNC Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28223-0001 Subscription rate is free to members of Pioneers.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Council for Exceptional Children, 2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22202-3557.

## **Preserving Our History Provides Building Blocks to the Future**

Do you have photos, programs of special events, mementos of a CEC-PD Dinner at the annual convention, or other items related to CEC-PD activities? If you have answered "yes" to this question, you may want to consider how these can be incorporated into the history of CEC and the Pioneers Division. The Pioneers historical file provides a way to capture the activities of our division and members, while also creating a resource showing how CEC-PD has progressed over the years.

In addition, CEC-PD is collaborating with CEC to catalogue and preserve the history of the organization in the Archives located in Arlington, Virginia in the CEC office. In 2012, CEC celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> year as an organization. The Archives contain many of the documents, programs, policy papers, and publications that show how the field has evolved and more importantly the positive impact for exceptional children, their families, and those who provide services. If you have items that you think might be appropriate for inclusion in the CEC Archives, please take the time to send them in for review rather than tossing them into the recycle bin.

Another way to support the preservation of CEC history is to contribute to **The June Jordan Fund**. This fund was established in 1994, by the Pioneers Division in honor of June Jordan who was a former CEC staff member. June was instrumental in providing the leadership and support for establishing the Pioneers Division. In addition, she led CEC in the collection of documents and other types of information of historical significance to CEC and the field of special education. The official title of the fund is "The June Jordan 'I have a Dream' Memorial Fund". The purpose of the fund is to support The Council for Exceptional Children in maintaining the Archives and history of the Council. The Fund is financed through direct contributions which are then allocated for expenditures to support the expansion and maintenance of the CEC Archives. Please consider donating to the June Jordan Fund using the form provided to assist with this important activity.

Building on the work of our early Pioneers and having a place to go to learn and explore our roots is important for all successful organizations. In order to use the past as prologue, we must be sure that we capture the events along the way for reflection, inspiration, and a strong focus for the future. Please send any items that you would like to add to the CEC Pioneer division files to: Diane Johnson, PD Historian, 3010 Avon Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32312

# The June Jordan "I Have a Dream" Memorial Fund Contribution Form

Mail contributions to CEC-PD c/o Dr. Michael Thew, 4524 Valley Acres Road, York, PA 17406

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# Council for Exceptional Children

### Join Online Today: www.cec.sped.org

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000 Arlington, Virginia 22202-3557 Toll Free 1-888-232-7733

## **Retired Membership Application**

TTY 1-866-915-5000 • Fax (703) 264-9494

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\*CEC dues include a \$2.00 tax deductible contribution to the Yes / Carl Program.

Dues rates are valid through December 31, 2019 and are subject to change.

Annual membership dues in CEC include \$24 for subscription to Exceptional Children and \$36 for TEACHING Exceptional Children; CCBD includes \$8 for Behavioral Disorders; and DADD includes \$8 for Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities. This information is given in order to meet postal regulations. Please do not use as a basis for payment.

### 2013-2014 CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program

Fall 2013 begins the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program with 23 chapters representing 23 universities scattered across the United States and Canada. Six of the universities are participating in the program for the first time. We have requests for 187 mentee slots, and we have 123 mentors to meet the needs of this program, including 7 who will be mentoring with us for the first time. We have not made any of the mentor/mentee matches as of this date. We are still recruiting mentors; thus if you know of anyone who would be interested in serving in this role, please refer them to the information in this article.

#### **CEC Mission Match**

The Mentoring matches the mission of CEC by:

- Establishing and conducting programs and activities for the membership.
- Providing technical support and cutting-edge information to its members.
- Supporting individuals who are entering the profession.
- Supporting student chapters.
- Encouraging and assisting student members to transition to professional members.

#### **Mentoring Program Purpose**

The purpose of the Mentoring Program is to create a supportive and information rich virtual relationship between volunteer CEC members in the role of mentors and CEC student members from selected CEC student chapters as the mentees.

#### This Relationship is Built through Sharing:

- The resources of CEC;
- General state-of-the art special education materials (e.g., RTI, technology apps, formative assessment, bullying, and the reauthorization of NCLB);
- Suggestions related to specific student learning/ management situations;
- Experiences of the mentor relevant to the mentee's questions/ comments; and
- The resources now available to the mentors through the relationship with the IDEA Partnership.

#### **Participants**

Mentors are all CEC members with more than five years of professional membership in CEC. Field experience ranges from 5- 30+ years. All mentors are volunteers and receive no type of reimbursement or stipends from CEC or the Pioneer Division. Twenty mentors have continued with the Program since its inception. The CEC leadership is quite visible in the Program with 8 past presidents of CEC; an executive director of a CEC division; eighteen current/past presidents of divisions and state/provincial units; and 8 Clarissa Hug nominee/winners.

**Mentees** are CEC student members (undergraduate and graduate) who are members of CEC student chapters that have made application to CEC for participation in the Program.

**Universities** that are participating in the 2013-14 program are listed below:

Alaska, State-Wide SCEC Chapter Anderson University, Anderson, IN Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY Bloomsburg, University, Bloomsburg, PA Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, GA Georgia Regents University, Augusta, GA Georgian Court University, Lakewood, NJ Gwynedd-Mercy College, Gwynedd, PA Morehead State University, Morehead, KY Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY Texas A&M University San Antonio, TX The College of Saint Rose, Albany, NY Towson University, Towson, MD University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA Walsh University, North Canton, OH Weber State University, Ogden, UT

#### **2013 CEC-PD Officers and Committee Chairs**

#### President

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#### **President Elect**

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#### **Professional Development Committee**

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