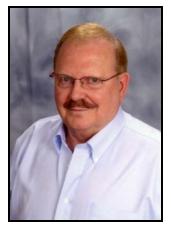
PIONEERS PRESS

Volume 24, Issue 2 May/June 2013

Message from the President



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

As in the past, the 2013 CEC Convention and Expo in beautiful San Antonio was a venue that provided numerous opportunities for professional and personal renewal. It was really nice to see many of you there! For those of you who could not attend, you were missed. We hope that you will be able to make it to the 2014 convention to be held in

historic Philadelphia, April 9-14, 2014.

The Pioneers' Executive Board met on Thursday, April 4 and addressed various issues related to the work of the Division. Many good ideas were shared and incorporated into future action plans. As you may recall, several goals were established for this year, thus progress toward those goals were examined. We want to share the progress that is being made to help the Pioneers Division to become a more viable entity within CEC.



Goal #1: Work toward increasing membership.

Under the leadership of **Cathy Costello**, Chair of the Membership Committee (2011-2013), a large membership campaign was launched earlier this year. Special invitations to join the Pioneers' Division were sent to about 2,000 members of CEC who meet the Pioneers membership criteria of being members of CEC for 15 or more years. As a result of the initiative, several individuals have promised to add a Pioneers' membership with their CEC renewal. We are optimistic that this may result in several new members!

Goal #2: Increase fiscal sustainability.

In these tough economic times, educational associations are having difficulties sustaining membership – thus, maintaining revenue. Although only a mere temporary boost in revenue was gleaned through the gracious generosity of **Eleanor Guetzloe's** brother, Arthur Carden, who committed a week's free lodging at a resort in North Carolina to be used in a drawing based on donations to the Pioneers. In addition, a quilt was provided as a "give-away" through a drawing for donations made to the Pioneers. Thanks to **Matthew Thew** for his leadership in facilitating the donation campaign.

Goals #3 and #4: Refine the Constitution/Bylaws to ensure all elements are consistent and align all policies and procedures to be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.

Last year, we were successful in updating the Pioneers' Constitution. As with anything new, we have discovered that some tweaking was needed to ensure that the Constitution and Bylaws, and all policies and procedures are aligned. **Diane Johnson**, Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (2013-2015) is assuming that task. Diane's long time service on the Executive Board makes her an ideal person to take on this leadership role.

Goal #5: Consideration on how to bring all committee memberships in compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws.

Jamie Hopkins and Lyndal Bullock are assuming the responsibility to work with standing committee chairs to help bring about this compliance. Thanks to the cooperation of Michael Weinroth, Chair, Awards and Honors Committee (2011-2014); Jean Lokerson, Chair, Advocacy and Public

See President's Message Page 2

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Policy (2012-2014); Cathy Costello, Membership Chair (2011-2013); Hellen Bogie, Chair, Finance Committee (2012-2013); Pamela Gillet, Chair, Resolutions Committee (2012-2014), and Diane Johnson, Chair, Constitution and Bylaws Committee (2013-2015) and Historian (2011-2015) in helping to bring consistency in our work.

One highlight of the Executive Board meeting was the resolution honoring **Pamela Gillet**, longtime Coordinator of the Mentorship Program, authored through the leadership of **Bill Bogdan**, which was presented to the Representative Assembly by members **Beth Bobel** (2012-2014) and **Sue Greene** (2012-2013). Another highlight was the appointment of **Linda Marsal** to assume the role of Mentorship Coordinator beginning July 1, 2013.

Personally, I want to express gratitude to **Nancy Riggin** (2013-2015), Secretary, for her skills in capturing the work of the Executive Board and to **Lee Sherry**, Newsletter Editor (2013-2015), who so competently captures the work of the organization and communicates that to the membership. Also, thanks to **Parthenia Cogdell** for her work as liaison to the CEC Knowledge and Skills Committee.

If you would like to become more involved in the Pioneers' Division, think about how you could contribute. Is there a committee on which you would like to serve? Let us know about your desires and we will try to pass it along to the people who may be able to make it happen!

Good things are happening with the Pioneers! In closing this report, as President of the Pioneers Division this year, I want to issue every member a challenge – MAKE IT YOUR GOAL THIS YEAR TO RECRUIT ONE OTHER PERSON TO JOIN OUR DIVISION!

Lyndal M. Bullock President



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We're Collecting the History of the Pioneer Division

Do you have pictures, programs, information, or other treasures related to the CEC Pioneer Division that should be incorporated into our PD history? If so, please send these to PD Historian Diane Johnson via email at dianej99@gmail.com or send them via the U.S. Mail to her at 3010 Avon Circle, Tallahassee, FL 32312.

Be sure to include information that identifies the activity and the names of the people involved as well as pertinent dates and other important facts. There should be pictures from the recent Convention in San Antonio to add as the most current, but pictures of prior conventions and Pioneer activities are always welcome as well. If you have any questions or have a desire to discuss any items that might require special handling, please contact Diane at the email address above or give her a call at 850-556-2823. As PD members, you play an important role in helping to collect and maintain the history of the organization.

Report of the Interdivisional Caucus (IDC) Meeting San Antonio

The IDC met on Tuesday, April 2, in San Antonio at the CEC Convention and Expo. CEC-PD was well represented by President Lyndal Bullock and President-Elect Jamie Hopkins. Diane Johnson, CEC-PD veteran member is completing her term as Chair of the IDC. Immediate Past-President, Bill Bogdan is the IDC Vice-Chair.

Reports on the status of CEC, future directions, and public policy issues were presented by CEC President, Christy Chambers; CEC Executive Director, Bruce Ramirez; and Deborah Ziegler, Associate Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy Services. In addition there was a review of the call for nominations of the Board of Directors. Also discussed was the work on revisions to CEC's membership categories.

A major portion of the meeting was spent discussing technology and how it can be used collaboratively and effectively by the divisions and CEC. Topics covered included: (1) Communications such as the CEC web platform, hosting of divisions' communication strategies (e-blasts, etc.), and the new discussion communities; (2) Professional Development options through webinars, virtual conferences, and collaborative efforts across divisions and with CEC; and (3) Publications (online) electronic reviewing for journals and newsletters, CEC's publications policies, CEC assistance, and other collaborative efforts and initiatives. Many positive suggestions were generated and the divisions will continue to explore avenues for collaboration across these areas.

Small group discussions on current issues in the field included **mentoring**, including the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program led by **Bill Bogdan** and **Abuse and Bullying** led by Harold Johnson of DCDD. It is hoped that this discussion will create increased awareness and participation in our own Mentor Program.



COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Courtesy Resolution

Pamela Gillet

Whereas, the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Pioneers Division of CEC jointly created a Mentoring Program, piloted in 2007-2008, and fully instituted as a program of the Council for Exceptional Children in 2008-2009;

Whereas, the purpose of the CEC/CEC Pioneers Division Mentoring Program is to create a supportive, caring, virtual information sharing and professional relationship between volunteer CEC mentors (professional members) and CEC student members (mentees);

Whereas, Dr. Pamela Gillet has served as the Mentoring Program Coordinator and chair of the program steering committee during its six years of operation;

Whereas, a steering committee has provided oversight and coordination of ongoing cooperation of the CEC/CEC Pioneers Division Mentoring Program comprised of the Mentoring Program Coordinator, the CEC Assistant Executive Director for Membership, Marketing and Communication services, as well as the faculty advisors from the CEC student chapters participating in the program;

Whereas, in the six years of the program, 424 students have participated as mentees, of which 53 have been in the program two years or more; 151 CEC members have served as program mentors; 32 college/university chapters have participated in the program; and during this sixth year of the program, 93 mentors are supporting 104 student mentees in 20 colleges/universities;

Whereas, the CEC/CEC Pioneers Division Mentoring Program has become a preeminent, field-based program of the Council for Exceptional Children;

Whereas, Dr. Pamela Gillet has been instrumental in the success of the CEC/CEC Pioneers Division Mentoring Program through her consistent leadership, her vision, her ongoing support of program mentors, mentees, and college/university chapter advisors, and her spirit of collaboration with CEC leaders and CEC staff;

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved that, the Council for Exceptional Children, during the Annual Meeting of the Council's Representative Assembly in San Antonio, Texas, the 5th day of April, 2013, and on behalf of the Pioneers Division of the Council, conveys deep thanks and appreciation to Dr. Pamela Gillet for her passion, dedication, and leadership of the CEC/CEC Pioneers Division Mentoring Program.



Honors Resolution for Pam Gillet

Dear colleagues,

I recently returned from West Africa. I was there for thirty-seven days. It was a long time to be away from home, but was an adventure to say the least.

Upon my arrival home, I learned of the honors resolution put forth on my behalf by the Pioneers Division in recognition of



Pam Gillet, Coordinator CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring

my role as the coordinator of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program. The resolution was a complete surprise and, indeed, an honor to receive.

Please accept my gratitude for your thoughtfulness in preparing the resolution.

The Mentoring Program is a definite asset to our Division, as well as to CEC. It has evolved during the six years of operation and has been a viable offering to student members of CEC because of the dedication of the mentors and faculty advisors involved with the virtual mentoring process. The student members who have been mentored have all benefited from the experiences and resources provided by the mentors.

I look forward to seeing the Program grow and improve under the leadership of Linda Marsal. Here's to a very bright future of the CEC/CEC -PD Mentoring Program.

Again, thank you.

Pam



CEC-PD Drawing Winners

To those who purchased tickets for the CEC Pioneer Division fund raiser for the vacation beach house or the quilt, I wanted to provide you with the details of the winners. Unfortunately, if you have not been contacted previously, you did not win one of the prizes.

The beach house vacation was won by Parthenia Cogdell, CEC Past President (1978-79) and now retired special educator from New Jersey. She told me she plans to celebrate her 75th birthday with her girlfriends at the beach house. The quilt was won by Gina Scala, Professor and Chair of the Department of Special Education at East Stroudsburg University.



Parthenia Cogdell

Thank you all for supporting the fund raiser, we raised \$2245 with the donations for the two prizes. The money will be used to continue our Mentor Program for Special Education majors from across the country who are experienced special educators and CEC PD members.

Thanks again for your support.

Mike

Michael D. Thew, Ed.D Executive Director Lincoln Intermediate Unit 65 Billerbeck Street New Oxford, PA 17350 Phone: 717-624-6404

Fax: 717-624-6518 E-mail: mdthew@iu12.org



Gina Scala



CEC Pioneers Division

The voice and vision of special education

CEC Pioneers at the 2013 Annual Convention and Expo

San Antonio, Texas



CEC-PD Board members take a break from their meeting: Diane Johnson, Beth Bobel, Michael Weinroth, Nancy Riggin, Lyndal Bullock, Hellen Bogie, Bill Bogdan, Jamie Hopkins, Parthenia Cogdell, Michael Thew and Sue Greene.



Above and below $\uparrow \downarrow$ at the Annual Dinner at the Cactus Flower Restaurant, San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk.





Bill, Jamie, Lyndal and Michael at work at the CEC-PD Board Meeting in San Antonio.



Along the San Antonio Riverwalk . . .

2013 Representative Assembly Report

submitted by Beth Bobel and Susan Greene

The Representative Assembly was held Friday April 5, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. In attendance were 125 delegates meeting the quorum of 98 delegates in attendance. Pioneers along with other divisions/state units participated on SharePoint to determine topics of concern for further exploration. Topics included use of restraint with students, methodology, teacher evaluation, teacher preparation, value of special education, nontraditional certification, transition and the uniqueness of special education.

Christy Chambers, CEC President, announced locations of future Conventions: 2014-Philadelphia, 2015-San Diego, 2016-St. Louis and 2017-Boston. The 2014 dates are April 9-12. CEC now has three workgroups: Diversity, Membership Categories and Professional Standards. Diversity is looking to advance diversity within the field of special education and within the CEC organization at all levels. Membership continues to explore membership tiers within the proposed membership model. Professional standards will examine the process to be sure it is well integrated.

The financial report for 2012 showed a deficit of \$848,083. At this time there is no plan for a membership dues increase, but a slight increase at future conventions to cover the cost of Wi-Fi.

The Executive Director's report centered on select key strategies, activities and outcomes for each of the four strategic plan goal areas: Goal 1-Quality Teaching and Learning Conditions; Goal 2-Advocacy; Goal 3-Collaborative Partnerships and Goal 4-Organizational Vitality. E-book formats for periodicals will be forthcoming. Webinars will be increased as membership demands. The *Life Centered Career Education* life skills curriculum is now available as an interactive online portal. The CEC Representative Assembly (RA) Electronic Community is up and running. The website is:

http://www.community.cec.sped.org

Online communities are occurring in: collaboration and coteaching, common core state standards, special education teacher evaluation, swap and share and Reality 101.

Bruce Ramirez made some parting remarks, as his retirement is imminent after a 37-year career with CEC. He received a standing ovation by the delegates.

There was a Call for Nominations for the following positions: President-Elect, Treasurer, Member at Large: Non-designated and Member at Large: Diverse Ethnic/Multicultural with preference for Hispanic candidate. Deadline for these nominations is May 10, 2013. Elections will be held September 30-October 28, 2013. The nominations chair stressed the importance of membership voting

with the goal of reaching 10% participation of the entire CEC membership.

Discussion Items included the need to conduct a membership survey every three years. This practice will continue.

The Tiered Membership Model is in the discussion phase-information and a first draft. There was a long discussion with comments from many state and division representatives.

Comments included: concern about voting rights in Tier 1, good support for divisions, offering division membership within Tier 1, definition of student member and length of time as student member, holding elective office if Tier 1, consider group members for district or organizations. The general discussion focused on Tier 1 membership and the benefits that come with Tier 1 membership. Second draft will be available in June or July 2013. To make comments regarding Tiered Membership proposals email to: membership@cec.sped.org. (Subject Line: Attn: Membership Categories Workgroup) To contact the chairpersons of this workgroup communicate with Michael.Hardman@utah.edu or HeidenJ@cudahy.k12.wi.us.

Additional topics of discussion were: (1) CEC's Future Direction, (2) Executive Director Qualities and (3) School Safety and Mental Health Issues. School Safety and Mental Health Issues need to be addressed as a community issue requiring interdisciplinary support.

Representatives continued with a meaningful discussion regarding the meeting dates for the Convention and Expo. A proposal to include the month of March as the time the convention will occur was presented. Discussion regarding the proposal included: statewide testing dates in March, cost of hotel accommodations, competition with other organizations, and personal issues such as vacations and individual spring break schedules.

Under the final Discussion Item/Recommendations: Member Needs and Concerns, CEC-PDs own Andy Berg representing California asked that we look at the current Resolution policy and who qualifies to have a Resolution prepared and presented at the Representative Assembly.

At the end of the Assembly, Courtesy Resolutions were read to honor Maynard Reynolds, Pam Gillet, Kay Wright Rush, Wayne Nesbit, 2013 Annual Convention and Expo and Bruce Ramirez.

Announcements were made and with no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Highlights from the 2013 CEC Convention & Expo

More than 4,000 special and gifted educators arrived in San Antonio to take part in more than 1,000 educational sessions and nearly 200 business and social events, a buzzing Expo Hall and invaluable networking opportunities.



Amy Brenneman of TV's Judging Amy and Private Practice

Activist and actress Amy
Brenneman kicked off the
Convention with the Opening
General Session keynote.
Brenneman thanked educators for
their hard work and for making a
difference in the lives of students
with disabilities. Her first-hand
experience as a parent provided
educators with insight and
encouragement and a little humor
to continue their great work. Her
final thoughts: "Sometimes the
problem is just puberty!"

Also at the Opening General Session, CEC celebrated the accomplishments of the 2013 professional award recipients. CEC Lifetime Achievement Award winner was Barbara Bateman. The Outstanding CEC Leadership Award recipient was Rosa Milagros Santos and the CEC Special Education Research Award winner was Russell Gersten.

The Yes I Can! Awards ceremony brought both laughter and tears to a packed house of attendees as master of ceremonies, Bill Bogdan, shared the remarkable accomplishments of the award recipients.

CEC Teachers from around the world were honored at the Teacher of the Year Brunch. CEC's Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year, Ashlie Abercrobmie Allardyce, shared an emotional keynote about her journey into special education.

Pioneer Division Showcase 2013

The 2013 Pioneer's Showcase session featured Dr. Mary Ruth Coleman, Senior Scientist, Emerita and Research Associate Professor at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute and CEC Past President. Presenters who shared their experiences with Mary Ruth included Dr. Linda Marsal, Past President CEC, Dr. Susan Fowler, Past President CEC and Professor University of Illinois, Dr. Susan Johnsen, Professor, Baylor University, Dr.



Mary Ruth Coleman

Samuel Odom, Director Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, and Jamie Hopkins, Past President CEC. We were also excited to hear from Dr. James Gallagher through a previously recorded video. Friends and colleagues from the audience, Daphne Pereles and Julia Roberts also shared remarks regarding Mary Ruth and her many accomplishments.

It was an inspiring session as we learned of Mary Ruth's dedication and many achievements in the areas of early childhood education, twice exceptional learners, response to intervention, and differentiation of instruction. It was clearly evident that Mary Ruth, a true humanitarian and leader, has made a tremendous contribution to the education of exceptional children.

Pioneer Division Annual Dinner at the Convention

The annual Pioneers Dinner was held at the Cactus Flower Restaurant in the Marriott Riverwalk. President Lyndal Bullock welcomed everyone as we enjoyed the local cuisine while reconnecting with friends and colleagues. The raffle drawing was held and the vacation at the Outer Banks, NC was won by Parthenia Cogdell who was present to receive this exciting prize!

The Romaine P. Mackie
Annual Leadership Award
was announced and the very
deserving winner was
Pioneers Past President,
Eleanor Guetzloe. Thank you
to all members who were
able to participate in the
dinner as we honored
Eleanor.



2013 Mackie Leadership Awardee Eleanor Guetzloe

Immediate Past President's Report

submitted by Bill Bogdan

The 2013 CEC Convention and Expo was a busy time for the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program. Activities included annual program events as well as meetings and presentations, outcomes from a program action plan generated from the work of the 2012 division Mentoring Program Committee.

A highlight of the Pioneer Division convention events was the Mentoring Program breakfast, a wonderful event co-sponsored by CEC and CEC-PD. A room filled with enthusiastic student mentees, their mentors and college/university advisors spent time sharing testimonials of personal successes and growth enriched by participation in the Mentoring Program. CEC President, Dr. Christy Chambers and CEC Executive Director, Dr. Bruce Ramirez congratulated participants in program and shared their perspective that the program continues to serve as a preeminent program of the Council, is highly regarded and successful, and stands as a model of collaboration between CEC and the Pioneers Division. The annual breakfast is always a great time for sharing stories, enjoying breakfast together, and exploring ways to enhance the Mentoring Program. A possible outcome of the discussion may include the creation of a CECommunity for the Mentoring Program.

From the final report and recommendations of the 2012 CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program Committee, an action plan was developed to guide follow-up for division board actions. Several presentations and discussion events occurred during the CEC convention.

- Dr. Linda Marsal and Dr. Bill Bogdan presented a report to the CEC Board of Directors on Mentoring Program successes, challenges, and opportunities for growth and enhancement. Dr. Christy Chambers and the CEC Board expressed their appreciation for the leadership provided by the Pioneers Division and extended their support for its continuation as a premier program of CEC and the Pioneers Division.
- During the Interdivisional Caucus Meeting (IDC), a facilitated small group discussion was conducted with CEC divisions who expressed interest in exploring ways to participate in, support, and enhance the Mentoring Program. Further discussion is planned for the July Division Leadership Seminar.
- ➤ The Pioneers Division Executive Board committed its continuing support for the Mentoring Program. In her role as program coordinator, Dr. Marsal will also serve as a member of the division executive committee. In addition, the Pioneers executive board, to the best of its ability, will continue to offer its financial and other resources to the future success of the Mentoring Program.

And on the "good news" front, with the retirement of Dr. Pam Gillet as Mentoring Program Division Coordinator, it was been announced by Division President, Dr. Lyndal Bullock, that beginning July 1, Dr. Linda Marsal will serve as Program Coordinator. With Dr. Marsal's long history of leadership in CEC as well as having served as a CEC staff member, the future of the Mentoring Program is in great hands. And in honor and celebration of Dr. Gillet's tireless efforts, leadership, and success in building the Mentoring Program from its pilot to a highly successful program, a courtesy resolution was approved by the CEC Pioneers Executive Board and the CEC Representative Assembly. (See page 4) Congratulations to both Pam and Linda!



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, Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd., NC 28223-0001

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phone number to provide WORK NUMBER quality customer service. HOME NUMBER MOBILE NUMBER E-MAIL ADDRESS Required to receive certain member benefits Do not share my contact information with other education organizations and companies. 2. CEC Dues 3. Choose Your Special Interest Division(s) Please select all divisions you wish to join. Retired membership provides all the benefits of Only CEC members qualify for membership in CEC Divisions. Outside Professional membership at a special rate. U.S./Canada U.S./Canada Divisions \$80 To qualify for CEC Retired membership, you must have officially retired from your employing agency, \$30 been a member of CEC for at least ten (10) years prior to retirement, and have not accepted another full-time \$45 position. (CEC Retired members as of 12/31/05 are Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD). \$30 \$45 Division for Communicative Disabilities and Deafness (DCDD) \$30 exempt from the 10-year membership requirement.) \$42 \$42 Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL) \$20 Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES). \$29 \$15 71 U.S./Canada Division for Physical, Health and Multiple Disabilities (DPHMD)......\$25 \$33 Division on Visual Impairments (DVI)......\$25 \$31 The Association for the Gifted (TAG)\$25 All non-U.S./Canada locations \$ Technology and Media Division (TAM)......\$30 \$50 Teacher Education Division (TED). \$35 SUB TOTAL 4. Calculate My Dues Rate 5. Payment Options Check (in U.S. funds) (All returned checks are subject to a \$35 U.S. return fee) Purchase Order (U.S. and Canada only - must submit with application) CEC Dues* Credit Card (credit card transactions in U.S. funds) (from Section 2) VISA ■ MasterCard ■ Discover ■ American Express CEC Division Total Dues Card # (from Section 3) FORM CECOSER (REV □ Bill entire amount □ Bill via Dues Installment Plan** U.S. My Total Dues Send this form and payment to: Council for Exceptional Children, P.O. Box 79026, Baltimore, MD 21279-0026 Promotion Code: GENAPP

'<u>Dues Installment Plan:</u> One third of your total dues will be charged to your credit card when you join/renew. Your second installment will be charged automatically to your credit card on the first day of the next month. The final installment will be charged automatically to your credit card on

the first day of the second month following the month you joined/renewed.

Dues Subject to Change After December 31, 2012

CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program

submitted by Pamela Gillet, Coordinator

In June, 2013, the *sixth* year of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program concludes. I have included in this report to the CEC-PD membership some historical data for the purpose of sharing a capsule of the participation of the mentors, mentees, and colleges/universities in the Mentoring Program during this six year time period.

Program Participants

1 1 0 8 1 11 1 11 11 11 11					
Year	#	#	#		
2007-08 Pilot	5	3	2		
2008-09	6	4	3		
2009-10	1	8	6		
2010-11	1	1	9		
2011-12	1	1	1		
2012-13	2	1	9		

Mentors: Number of Years In Program

# Years Served	# Mentors
6	14
5	5
4	22
3	41
2	31
1*	38
Total	151

^{*}Members who served 1 year and new mentors this year.

Some other interesting statistics include:

- In the 6 years of the Mentoring Program, 424 students have participated as mentees.
- Of those 424, 53 have been in the program two years or more.
- In the 6 years of the Mentoring Program, 32 student chapters have participated. Two chapters, Georgian Court Univ. (NJ) and Southern Illinois Univ.-Edwardsville, have been with the program all 6 years.
- In the 6 years of the Mentoring Program, 151 CEC members have served as mentors.
- Of the 92 mentors in the 2012-13 Program, 28 are members of CEC-PD; 64 are not CEC-PD members.
- Of the 151 mentors over the lifetime of the program, 40 are members of CEC-PD and 111 are not CEC-PD members.
- It has been shown over the years of operation, that the Mentoring Program has a definite relationship with the goals and mission of both CEC and the Pioneers Division.

CEC

"Mentor and support individuals entering the profession Support of student CEC chapters Encourage and assist student members to transition from the student membership category to the professional category at the appropriate time

Recruit and retain CEC members

Provide technical support and cutting edge information to CEC members

Establish and administer programs and activities for the education of its members"

CEC Pioneers Division

"Share experience and knowledge accrued during 20+ years of membership in CEC to others within CEC

Assist and support the programs and services of the Council Render time, effort, and expertise to activities which promote the education and welfare of exceptional children and youth"

The Program has offered various forms of virtual mentoring:

- resource provision
- general support to the mentee
- assistance with research papers and course assignments
- guidance with individual student related questions
- examples of direct instruction
- suggested uses of technology in the classroom and with individual students
- descriptions of the benefits, services, and programs offered by CEC
- sharing of views on various educational topics
- curriculum-based assessment practices
- best practices and instructional models for special education
- explanations of current policy and legal issues in the field assistance with résumé preparation and job search skills

Depending on the geographic location of the mentor and mentee, there may also have been an opportunity for personal contacts between the two. During the six years of operation, this personal contact occurred about 20% of the time. Every year at the CEC Convention, CEC and the Pioneers Division host a breakfast where all the Mentoring Program participants who are attending the Convention can meet personally and exchange ideas and suggestions about the Program itself, and about the process of virtual mentoring. This has always been a highlight of the Program for the participants.

For the past three years, the Mentoring Program has partnered with the IDEA Partnership. Through this collaboration, mentors and mentees have had the opportunity to e access the most current information from the organizations within the Partnership in addition to vetted materials from the Department of Education and other grant programs and contracts.

Each year, all participants have an opportunity to evaluate the Program. The results of all the evaluations have shown that a significant majority of the mentors, mentees, and faculty advisors stated that the Program has been beneficial to the participants and should continue to be offered by CEC.

Last year, the Pioneers Board approved the formation of a work group to study the Mentoring Program and to make recommendations to CEC and the Pioneers Division concerning the Program's future. Members of the work group agreed that the purpose of the Program should remain the focus:

The primary purpose of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program is to provide experienced and knowledgeable mentors for student CEC members. The mentors provide: (1) technical knowledge and resources related to the field of special education; (2) general support and professional assistance; (3) career guidance and job search advice; and (4) information about the benefits of continuing membership in the Council as the students transition to the professional membership category.

There was also agreement that the Program is critical to both CEC and the Pioneers Division. Continuing to offer leadership and coordination as a joint effort between the Division and CEC is critical for the Division's long-term vision, mission, and reputation and provides a means by which CEC is involved on a personal basis with CEC members.

The Pioneers Board adopted all of the work group's recommendations and has begun to move forward with implementing a plan of action. (See Past President Bogdan's report in this issue of the *Pioneers Press*.)

With six years of successful operation of the program, the ongoing implementation of changes in the operation of the Program based on the results of the annual evaluations, the completion of the internal study, and the commitment by both CEC and the Pioneers Division to continue the joint sponsorship of the Mentoring Program, I will conclude my tenure as the coordinator of the Program in June, 2013. Dr. Linda Marsal, Past President of CEC and a current mentor, will assume the role for coordinating the Program.

With her commitment to CEC and its members, she will do an outstanding job of leading the Program.

Due to the many mentors who so graciously volunteered to share their vast experiences, educational knowledge, and helpful resources with the mentees and because of the on-site support by the participating student chapter faculty advisors, the Program has made a positive impact on nearly 400 student CEC student members.

Thanks to all of the past and current mentors and faculty advisors.

If you are not a mentor already, why not join our current mentors and Linda as a participant in the 2013-14 CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program? For additional information and to make application, please contact Linda at <a href="mailto:linda:lind

CEC-PD Membership Alert

Just Checking on Those New Year's Resolutions

So... how are we doing with our New Year's resolutions? Remember our #1 resolution was inviting/recruiting at least one colleague/friend to join the Pioneers. Take a bow if you have already checked this one off your list! Thank you, thank you!

I only made two resolutions this year, and I am happy to report I have already checked off #1- recruit a Pioneer, because I am not doing so well with #2- exercise three times a week.

Actually, I snagged two new members for the Pioneers. I spied them in our CEC Chapter meeting in March, and I knew they had been in special education for many years. Then I chatted with them, and they both confirmed they had been CEC members for 15 or more years. So I asked them if they wanted to be in our CEC Pioneers, and they said "Sure!" Needless to say, I was thrilled!

And they were thrilled too! Jan said it was time for her to renew her CEC membership, so I gave her the CEC website address www.cec.sped.org, plus the CEC toll free number 1-888-232-7733. Sharon just needed to add Pioneers as a sub-division, so I gave her the toll free number so she could make arrangements to pay by check or with a credit card.

I decided this was so much easier than exercising. All I had to do was figure out who might qualify to be in the Pioneers and just ask them if they want to join. I also decided it was much more reinforcing than exercising, because I felt good after asking them, and I didn't have to break a sweat.

So if you have not been able to check our #1 New Year's resolution off your list, it is not too late. Just be on the lookout for friends and colleagues with 15 or more years of membership in CEC. (There are currently over 2000 CEC members who are eligible for membership in the Pioneers based on the old twenty year requirement.) Plus, those who have served as an officer of a CEC Division or state/provincial unit and Past Presidents of CEC also qualify.

Just think, with each of us getting one new member, we could have over 600 CEC Pioneers. Wouldn't that be absolutely amazing? Remember... all you have to do is ask!

And just so you know, our Membership Committee is working on this too. Special thanks to Andy Berg from California, Susan Poston from Florida, Carol Quinn from Georgia, Beverley Johns from Illinois, Jannis Floyd from Pennsylvania, Laura Mohr from South Carolina, and Diane Vandenbossche from Ontario. Cheers to all of us Pioneers and to those who are about to be asked to be Pioneers!

Cathy Costello, Membership Chair

2013 CEC-PD Officers and Committee Chairs

President

Lyndal M. Bullock University of North Texas 1155 Union Circle #311335 Denton, TX 76203-1335 W-940-565-3583 or 565-2937 Lyndal.bullock@unt.edu

President Elect

Jamie Hopkins 217 Miami Lakes Drive Milford, OH 45150 H-513-576-9557 C-513-560-0506 Jamiehopkins777@gmail.com

Vice President

Michael Thew, Executive Director Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12 P.O. Box 70 New Oxford, PA 17350 717-624-6404 MDthew@iu12.org

Immediate Past President

William Bogdan 2951 Wildrose Street E. Edgewood, KY 41017 H-859-360-1113 C-828-989-0796 wkbogdan@aol.com

Secretary 2013-2015

Nancy Riggin 108 Prairie Road Carterville, IL 62918 618-889-3744 sonerai@frontier.com

Representative Assembly Member 2012-2014

Beth A. Bobel 568 Thorndale Road Park City, IL 60085-5730 O-847-708-4675 bobel568@comcast.net

Treasurer 2012-2013

Hellen Bogie 710 Kananaskis Drive Kingston, ON K7P 0A9 Canada H-613-389-4801 hmbc@sympatico.ca

Representative Assembly Member 2012-2013

Sue Greene 2009 Kingston Road Waukegan, IL 60087-2116 H-847-244-8816 C-847-989-8816 SusanK1025@aol.com

Division Committee and Appointments (Standing, Ad-Hoc, Workgroups and Liaison Positions)

Awards & Honors Committee 2011-2013

Michael Weinroth, Chair 335 Hunting View Ct. NW Atlanta, GA 30328-2779 W- 404-870-1630 C-404-375-1188 mikeweinroth@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Lee Sherry, Chair
Dept. of Special Education & Child
Development, UNC Charlotte
9201 University City Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28223
W-704-687-8186
lee.sherry@uncc.edu

Constitution & Bylaws Committee 2013-2015

Diane L. Johnson 3010 Avon Circle Tallahassee, FL 32312-2447 H-850-385-5234 dianej99@gmail.com

Nominations & Elections Committee

William Bogdan, Chair (see Past President for contact information)

Subdivision Liaison 2011-2013

Laura Mohr 173 Midhurst Court Irmo, SC 29063 H-803-781-0829 C-803-530-4076 Mohreduc@aol.com

Membership Committee 2100-2013

Cathy Costello 2525 NW 19th Way Gainesville, FL 32605-3808 352-955-6841 352-377-0476 mamacathy@cox.net

CEC Committee on Diversity (convention meeting)

Eleanor Guetzloe 812 Woodside Drive Clearwater, FL 33756 H-727-447-2942 CCBD1@aol.com

Subdivision Liaison

Laura Mohr 173 Midhurst Ct. / PO Box 503 Irmo, SC 29063 H-803-781-0829 C-803-530-4076 Email: Mohreduc@aol.com

Archivist

Currently vacant

Historian 2011-2015

Diane L. Johnson (see Constitution & Bylaws for contact information)

Resolutions Committee 2012-2014

Pamela K. Gillet
413 Courtlea Oaks Blvd.
Winter Garden, FL 34787-4515
H-407-654-6708
Pamelagillet@aol.com

Advocacy & Public Policy Committee

Jean E. Lokerson 3914 Monument Avenue Richmond, VA 23230-3902 H-804-358-5474 jlokerso@vcu.edu

Finance Committee

Helen Bogie, Chair (See Treasurer for contact information) Michael Thew, Co-Chair (See Vice President for contact information)

Registered Agent

Gerald J. Reynaud 4622 Holly Court Kansas City, MO 64116 H-816-452-1553 gjreynard@gmail.com

Professional Development Committee

Jamie Hopkins (see President Elect for contact information)

CEC Interdivisional Caucus

Lyndal Bullock, President Jamie Hopkins, President Elect

CEC Knowledge & Skills Committee

Parthenia Cogdell 117 Harrington Circle Willingboro, NJ 08046-1827 609-8774646 608-706-0988 parcogdell@comcast.net

Pioneers Press

Lee Sherry
Dept.of Special Education & Child Development
UNC Charlotte
9201 University City Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001

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