
PIONEERS PRESS

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President's Message: Pioneers Leading the Way



Mary Ruth Coleman, CEC Pioneers President 2016

“Taking the Risk of Leadership”

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”-Margret Mead

Margaret Mead’s quote, above, is on my office door. I see it first thing as I open the door to begin my work day, each time I enter my office during the day, and also as I close the door to head home. It reminds me that if we want to make a difference we must take the risk of leadership. What are the risks of leadership? The risks may feel personal...we risk criticism, censure, ridicule and even failure. The risks may seem daunting...the investment of time, talent, and treasure in our undertakings. The risks may be discouraging if we doubt that a difference can be made. The risks are real but they can be mitigated. When our leadership is offered as service and not as a vehicle for personal glory we can better survive the criticisms that may follow. When our undertakings are made for the benefit of others the investment we make is placed in the

perspective of the greater good. When we realize that it is within our power to make a positive difference we take heart and with the combined support of others we move forward!

In choosing this theme for my President’s message I fully realize that I am preaching to the choir... *we are the pioneers* and collectively and individually we have been involved in leadership for many years. Still, exploring our leadership responsibilities is important. Most of us became leaders, either intentionally or by default, because of our commitment to individuals with exceptionalities. We sought or accepted our leadership responsibilities because we hoped to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Because of our



Council for
Exceptional
Children

**CEC Pioneers
Division**

The voice and vision of special education

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President's Message continued

the work we do, a child who is successful in part because of our efforts. These outcomes keep us going and make the risk of leadership worthwhile. Reflecting commitment we have continued our work during difficult and discouraging times. Because of our commitment we have also seen positive outcomes. A teacher who is more skilled and confident, a parent who is grateful for on the reasons we offer ourselves through leadership helps to strengthen our motivation...celebrating the outcomes of our work helps to reinforce that we actually can make a difference and accepting the risk of leadership allows us to reap the rewards!

Our Pioneer's Division Mission statement says that "...the primary purpose of CEC-PD is to provide a service to the Council for Exceptional Children...and provide support to CEC in all its efforts on behalf of children and youth with exceptionalities by: 1) responding to and addressing emergent and critical issues in the field; 2) advocating on behalf of children and youth with exceptionalities; and 3) participating in all appropriate governance activities of CEC..." Our mission compels us toward leadership and as you can see, from the summary below, we take our mission seriously!

Summary of CEC-Pioneers Division Leadership Activities 2016

1. Mentoring Program

"The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers." --*Ralph Nader*

The Mentorship program, started by the Pioneers, has become a joint effort with CEC support. Pioneer Past President, Jamie Hopkins, continues to represent the PD in the CEC mentoring program (see article within this issue) which is expanding to include first year teachers and to offer individualized support for mentees who have disabilities.

2. Educators with Disabilities Position Paper

"True leadership lies in guiding others to success--in ensuring that everyone is performing at their best, doing the work they are pledged to do and doing it well." --*Bill Owens*

The Educators with Disabilities Caucus (EDC) workgroup, at the behest of the CEC Board of Directors, developed a position statement on the need to support educators with disabilities. Pioneer President, Mary Ruth Coleman, a member of the EDC was part of the workgroup. [CEC Educators with Disabilities Policy Paper](#)

3. State of the Profession: Special and Gifted Education in the New Millennium

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." --*Rosalynn Carter*

The Pioneer Board has established a workgroup charged with seeking funding for a study to explore the current status of and future needs for our profession: special and gifted education. This work, under the direction of Pioneer Member and CEC Past President, William Bogdan, is critical to ensuring that special and gifted education evolves to address the changing needs of young professionals and the students they serve and that CEC remains as relevant tomorrow as it has been today.

4. Membership Survey

"Real leadership is leaders recognizing that they serve the people that they lead." --*Pete Hoekstra*

You will soon receive a member-survey from Joan McDonald, Pioneers President Elect. The survey will help us get to know who we are, our interest and expertise, and the ways that we would like to make a contribution. Please take time to respond as the information from the survey will help us serve you better!

President's Message continued

5. Leadership Conference 2016

"The highest of distinctions is service to others." --King
George VI

Pioneers are taking a crew to the CEC Leadership conference this year! President and President Elect Mary Ruth Coleman, Joan McDonald; Can Coordinator, Paul Zinni; Membership Chair, Susan Fowler; Newsletter Editor and Chair of Communications, Dennis Cavitt; Past President, Jamie Hopkins; and Workgroup Chair, Bill Bogdan will all be attending. Mary Ruth and Bill will be presenting "*State of the Profession: Special and Gifted Education in the New Millennium*" as one of the breakout sessions.

6. Maltreatment Workgroup

"Do what you feel in your heart to be right, for you'll be criticized any way." --*Eleanor Roosevelt*

Past President Jamie Hopkins continues her efforts with the IDC Maltreatment workgroup and President Elect Joan McDonald (our Program Advisory representative) has been helping this group organize a strand proposal for the CEC Convention. We are working to bring this effort to the CEC Board and proposed a motion at the Representative Assembly that the maltreatment workgroup become part of CEC's agenda.

7. It takes a team

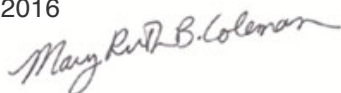
"No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it." --*Andrew Carnegie*

The Board has been very busy working on your behalf. We invite you to join us in these efforts. Please contact me maryruth.coleman@unc.edu if you would like to be part of any of these efforts or if you have other ideas you wish to initiate. Pioneers are leading the way!

Proud to be a Pioneer,

Mary Ruth Coleman, Ph.D.

Pioneer President, 2016



Mackie Award

The **Mackie Award** was initiated in 1993 to honor a person who has demonstrated leadership over time in programs for exceptional children and youth. The Award was named for Romaine P. Mackie who was a U.S. Commissioner of Education and a devout supporter of special education in the very early years. She was a pioneer in the early development of special education as a profession within the field of education. Romaine Mackie was an active member of the Council for Exceptional Children and promoted the mission of the Council in all the work with which she was involved. She was a significant person who provided the leadership for the development of a section within the U.S. Department of Education designated for special education. For these reasons, the Pioneers Division established the Award in honor of her impact on the field of special education. Selecting and presenting this award to an individual who best represents leadership in the field of special education honors her. This award in the form of a selected commemorative item is presented at the annual Business Meeting held at the CEC convention.

Our 2016 Mackie Award Winner!!!

Mary Ruth Coleman

Mary Ruth Coleman, Ph.D. is a Senior Scientist, Emeritus, at the FPG Child Development Institute, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She directs Project U-STAR~PLUS (Using Science, Talents and Abilities to Recognize Students – Promoting Learning in Underrepresented Students). Her projects have included: ACCESS (Achievement in Content and

Our 2016 Mackie Award Winner continued
Curriculum for Every Student's Success, a National
Significance Project funded by

OSEP and applications of RtI for young children
through the Recognition & Response Project sponsored
by the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation. Dr. Coleman
has numerous publications including the 14th Edition of
the seminal textbook, "*Educating Exceptional Children*"
by Samuel A. Kirk, James J. Gallagher, Mary Ruth
Coleman (2015). She has served three terms (9 years)
on the Board of Directors for the Association for Gifted
(TAG), one of which she was President; three terms (9
years) on the Board of the National Association for
Gifted Children (NAGC); and two terms (6 years) on the
Board of Directors for the Council for Exceptional
Children (CEC). She was president of the CEC in 2007.

Congratulations Mary Ruth!!!!

CEC Pioneers: Leadership in Action **William K. Bogdan Ed.D.**

Pioneer Division Showcase Session 2016

Today we face the age of information utilization
where analytical thinking, creativity, and insight are
needed to make use of the plethora of information at our
finger-tips. In this age of "making meaning" what do
today's special education teachers and students need?

The CEC-Pioneers Division Showcase explored this
question and asked, "How can we create a Bright Future
for students with exceptionalities?" A panel of six
exceptional special educators, along with presenters
Drs. Mary Ruth Coleman and Bill Bogdan, engaged with
50 session participants to discuss ways to not only
envision the future of special education but also ways to
create that future for children and youth with
exceptionalities and for those professionals working with
them. Panel members included: Dr. Susan Fowler, Ms.
Jamie Hopkins, Mr. Paul Zinni, Ms. Charlotte
Brickhouse, Ms. Jamie Pearson, and Ms. Whitney

McCorkle. A rich and meaningful dialogue created
shared perspectives and "take away ideas." Thanks to
all who attended this convention Showcase session.

Proposal for Action

The CEC-PD Executive Board, in partnership with
the CEC Board of Directors, approved a grant proposal
to conduct a "*State of the Profession: Special and Gifted
Education in the New Millennium*," a national study and
action plan that will define areas of strengths and needs
within the profession; inform priority setting and
allocation of resource; support policy development and
advocacy efforts; engage educators in planning for
better outcomes for students with exceptionalities;
establish a long-range plan of action to meet the needs
of the profession in order to improve services for children
and youth with exceptionalities and those with gifts and
talents. The CEC-PD Board allocated funds to
commission a workgroup to design a grant funding
proposal
and an organizing plan to coordinate the national study
and follow up action planning report and
recommendations.

CEC Summer Leadership Institute

The story continues with a presentation at the CEC
Summer Leadership Institute (July 8-10, 2016) with an
interactive session exploring the trends and issues
affecting the profession, the current and future needs of
special education professionals, and strategies CEC
state, provincial units' and divisions' use to build
relationships and ensure that current and emerging
professionals realize the benefits of membership within
CEC and its 18 divisions.

For more information, please contact Bill Bogdan:

wkbogdan1@gmail.com.



CEC Pioneers: Professional Development

Joan MacDonald-President Elect-Pioneers Division

The Pioneer Division is already in the process of planning professional development for next year. A survey is being prepared to send out to all members and it has a dual purpose. One is to gather demographic data regarding who our members are and what areas of experience and expertise they have. Hopefully we will be able to use resources from within the division for future professional development activities. The second purpose is to gain insight from members as to what they need or would like to see as content for future professional development.

The second activity we are working on is related to the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) and its planning for the 2017 Conference in Boston, MA. One of the topics being considered for a strand is "Maltreatment and Trauma Care for Children and Youth with Exceptionalities." This topic is broadly supported by the Interdivisional Caucus (IDC), the Representative Assembly (RA) and the Board of Directors (BOD) of CEC. Other topics being considered by Pioneer Division for the conference are: Parent Involvement connected to Student Engagement (Self Determination) and Twice Exceptional. We are also seeking suggestions from our members on other relevant topics. If you do have any suggestions please contact: Joan McDonald, President Elect of Pioneer Division at: Kwapick@cox.net

CEC/Pioneers Division Mentoring Program **Jamie Hopkins**

The Mentoring Program continued its efforts to provide support for University CEC Student Mentees. The CEC/PD Steering Committee, appointed in May 2015 in collaboration with CEC and the CEC Board of

Directors, evaluated the program and developed several recommendations over the 2015-2016 school year. Several activities were conducted to market the program in order to enroll additional student mentees. The program has been advertised on CEC's website, a podcast was developed with testimony from a former mentor, mentee, and current faculty advisor. Several email blasts were also sent to CEC student members and faculty advisors. Approximately 63 mentees from 20 universities were served. Over 100 applications for mentors were received. Activities were held at the annual CEC convention in St. Louis at the student forum and student social/reception for mentees and mentors.

An evaluation of the program was completed in April 2016 by mentors, mentees and faculty advisors. Results indicated that the majority of respondents would recommend the program to their colleagues or fellow students and they would take advantage of the program if it is expanded to early year teachers. The program will be expanded in fall of 2016 to include first through third year teachers. CEC and the Steering Committee are now in the process of updating forms and procedures for online applications that will include early year teachers. In addition, the Steering Committee is working with the CEC Educators with Disabilities Caucus to develop a mentoring program for educators with disabilities.

At the CEC Board of Directors meeting in April 2016, board members voted to continue the CEC/PD Mentoring Program Steering Committee for the 2016-17 school year. The Steering Committee will implement its Action Plan to explore marketing of the program, expand to include early year teachers, provide training for mentors as needed, revise forms and the current Program Guide and continue to evaluate the mentoring program.

Maltreatment and Trauma Work Group Activities

Jamie Hopkins

In 2014, the CEC Interdivisional Caucus (IDC), agreed to develop a work group that would study the implications of the maltreatment of individuals with disabilities. The group has representation from several CEC divisions including the Pioneers Division. Chaired by Harold Johnson from DCDD, the group developed a document for teachers to help educate them and provide resources for the prevention of maltreatment of children and youth with disabilities. A CEC webinar was conducted by Dr. Johnson, where a survey of division members regarding the importance of addressing maltreatment has been completed and the work group held a session at the 2015 CEC convention to address the important issues of maltreatment and trauma. During the IDC meeting in April 2016, a motion was passed to request that the CEC Board of Directors recognize the urgency of the issue of maltreatment and trauma of children with disabilities and to urge the Board to take action through the development of a CEC position paper in order to positively impact the welfare of children and families. This motion was also made at the Representative Assembly in 2016. The motion passed with enthusiastic and overwhelming support of the RA members. The work group is currently collaborating with the CEC Board to complete the following activities:

1. Document if, and if so how, existing CEC and division products and Activities address the issue of maltreatment and trauma as experienced by children with disabilities.
2. Based on that documentation and informed by the maltreatment and trauma knowledge base, suggest changes to CEC and division products and activities to enhance the safety and success of children with disabilities.

The resulting information and proposal will be organized in the form of a Position Paper. If you have questions or comments, please contact Jamie Hopkins at jamiehopkins777@gmail.com.

Meet the New Board Members

Pioneers Welcomes New Secretary to the Pioneers Executive Board

Pam Matlock was elected in fall of 2015 and took office in January 2016. She is currently Education Program Coordinator at Murray State University in Kentucky. Pam's CEC experiences began with her involvement as an undergraduate student member in the early 70's. Pam has served as a member of the Kentucky CEC Executive Board where she moved from Secretary through the progression of Vice-President Elect to Past President ending in June 2015. While on the Board, Pam was active in beginning the YES I CAN program in Kentucky, serving as Chair and Coordinator for their national winners to CEC Conferences. She assisted in hosting the 2007 CEC Conference in Louisville and has served as Kentucky's Delegate to the RA. She continues to serve on the KYCEC Board as the Pioneer Chair. Current Kentucky Pioneer missions include supporting and assisting at the annual State Conference and supporting and funding professional development grants to members of the Student Chapters. She has served as Faculty Advisor and Co-Advisor for the Student CEC Chapter at Murray State University and continues to support the students. Since starting in January, Pam has already been a great asset to the Pioneers, recording minutes for several conference calls and meetings. Welcome, Pam!

Pioneers Welcomes New Chair of the Communication's Committee and Pioneer Press Editor to the Pioneers Executive Board

We officially welcome Dennis Cavitt the newest member of the Pioneer Divisions Board of Directors.

Dennis is Assistant Professor, Special Education at Abilene Christian University. He holds the following degrees: *B.A., Pepperdine University, 1980; M.S., Abilene Christian University, 1987; M.Ed., Tarleton State University, 2000; and an Ed.D, Texas Tech University, 2014.*

We welcome his many areas of scholarship/expertise which include: Licensed Specialist in School Psychology, Emotional and behavioral disorders of school-aged children, Autism assessment and treatment, Special education programming and legal issues, and Response to intervention and differentiated instruction.

Dennis has been an active member of the Council of Exceptional Children Chairing the Representative Assemble work group, involvement with the Teacher Education Division, Council of Behavioral Disorders, International Special Education Services, and now serving as Chair of the Communications Committee and Editor of the Newsletter for Pioneers!!!

Dennis came on board at the April CEC Convention and with this Newsletter he makes his debut. As Chair of Communications he is also redesigning the Pioneer's website – so keep posted for more on this. We welcome Dennis to the Board and thank him for all he is doing!!!

Past President's Report: Nominations Committee Recommendations

The Nominations Committee for the PIONEERS Division, (Jamie Hopkins, Constance Lyttle and Michael Thew, recommend the following name be placed on the 2016 nominations ballot of the PIONEERS Division for the position of 2017 President-Elect. This is the only name being placed in nomination and we will of course offer a space for write-in nominations if there are any candidates. The ballot is included in this current

Newsletter for voting. Please, return the votes to me at , Mdthew@gmail.com or mailed to me at: 4524 Valley Acres Road, York, PA 17406.

Brief Bio of Dr. Fowler:

Susan Fowler has been a member of CEC since 1975 when she joined as a graduate student at the University of Kansas. Over the years she has served on the CEC Board of Directors (2005-2011) as president of CEC (2009), DEC (1992), Kansas DEC (1988) and has served on and chaired numerous state and national committees for CEC. In her professional role, Susan began her doctoral career as a Research Associate at the University of Kansas, served in the USDE Office of Special Education Programs, and in 1990 moved to the University of Illinois, where she held positions of Department Chair, Associate Dean and Dean of the College of Education (1990-2006). She retired as a professor emeritus in 2016 from the Department of Special Education at Illinois. Her research over the years has focused on coordinating services for young children with disabilities and their families, particularly at transition from NICU to home to EI to preschool and to kindergarten as well as developing interventions to support young children in inclusive environments. Susan has been active in HECSE, a member of DEC, TED, DR,DLD and most recently Pioneers where she has served as membership chair for 3 years. She resides in Champaign, Illinois.

The Ballot can be found at the end of the newsletter. Once you have filled it out, Email, scan or mail the ballot to:

Michael D. Thew
4524 Valley Acres Road
York, PA 17406
Mdthew@gmail.com

“The present defines the future. The future builds on the foundation of the past.”

– Lailah Gifty Akita, Think Great: Be Great!

Call for Pioneer Division Historical Documents:

We are in the process of adding some additional pages to our website. One of the pages we would like to develop is a historical archive page of Pioneer Division materials. Please forward your documents to Dennis Cavitt

dennis.cavitt@acu.edu

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Preserving CEC's History

The June Jordan 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 CEC in maintaining the Archives and history of the Council. The Archives are maintained by a CEC Archivist who holds a non-voting position on the CEC-PD Board. The Fund is supported by direct contributions to the Fund. These funds are then allocated for expenditures to support the expansion and maintenance of the CEC Archives.

In the past, the support for the CEC Archives consisted of providing dollars from the June Jordan Fund to purchase supplies needed by the CEC Archivist, and to provide assistance to the Archivist by other members of the Pioneers Division in preparing and in placing materials in the CEC Archives. It is hoped that the plan developed by the History Initiative Work Group will provide additional opportunities to share, as well as, preserve the history of CEC and CEC-PD.

Please consider donating to the June Jordan Fund using the form below to assist with this important activity.

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

Mail contributions to: Carol Eisenbise, 4528 E. Catalina Ave., Mesa, AZ 85206

My contribution to the June Jordan Fund is \$_____.

Name: _____ **Phone/email:** _____

Address: _____
Street **City** **State/Province**
Zip/Postal Code

Indicate if your contribution is in memory/honor of:

Please provide name and address for acknowledgment card:

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street **City** **State/Province**
Zip/Postal Code

Please make checks payable to the Pioneers Division of the Council for Exceptional Children and attach to this form. Thank You!

**PIONEERS DIVISION OFFICER ELECTION BALLOT FOR 2017 OFFICE
OF PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Please place an X next to the candidate's name for President-Elect or write-in a candidate's name.

Dr. Susan Fowler - candidate for PIONEERS Division President-Elect _____

Write-in candidate for PIONEERS Division President-Elect _____

Email, scan or mail the ballot to:

Michael D. Thew
4524 Valley Acres Road
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“Don't be a prisoner of the past, become a pioneer of the future.”

– Farshad Asl