
PIONEERS PRESS

Volume 27, Issue 1

January/ February 2016

Message from the President



Mary Ruth Coleman, CEC Pioneers President 2016

Dear Pioneers,

We are the Pioneers!!

Pioneers: Men and women who explore, trailblazers, those who introduce, develop, evolve, launch and/or spearhead initiatives. Pioneers and both founders who settle new territory and those who continue to expand the boundaries. "Pioneer" is both a noun and a verb – a person and their activities. We are the Pioneers. Our contributions have shaped the past, our work is shaping the present, and our leadership will shape the future! We start the New Year reflecting with gratitude for all that was accomplished in 2015!

The 2015 Board:

1. Partnered with CEC to strengthen the mentoring program: Thank you Linda Marsal, Pam Gillette, and Jamie Hopkins.
2. Participated with IDC in their workgroup on Maltreatment of Students with Disabilities, thank you Jamie Hopkins.
3. Continued working with inventory which is CEC archives, almost up to date. This has been a huge undertaking and will likely be completed in 2016, Thank you Diane Johnson.
4. Connected with members who were lapsed to invite them back and with new members to

5. Ended 2015 in the Black! Thank you Carol Eisenbise and Helen Bogie!
6. Recognized and honored Lyndal Bullock with the Mackie Award, thank you Michael Weinroth and the Awards Committee members!
7. Sustained our advocacy efforts with the Political Action Committee, thank you Paul Zinni!
8. Offered recommendations to CEC on the resolutions process and procedures, thank you Pam Gillet!
9. Partnered with CEC on a process to update the "Bright Futures Report" thank you Bill Bogdan and Mary Ruth Coleman.
10. Nominated a strong slate of officers for 2016, thank you Jamie Hopkins and the Nominations Committee!
11. Continued work with CEC knowledge and skills, thank you Parthenia Cogdell!
12. Produced three informative and excellent newsletters to keep our members connected thank you Lee Sherry!

Special Thanks to:

Michael Thew for his leadership. Your thoughtful dedication and patient presence guided us through a busy year. I look forward to your continued mentorship in the coming year!

Nancy Riggs, for your service as secretary for the PD. Your attention to detail and your grasp of the big picture kept us in line and moving forward we will miss you!

Lee Sherry for your service as Newsletter Editor. You gave of your talents, time, and treasure to make the newsletter excellent. We thank you for your service and will miss you!

Welcome to New Board Members:

Joan McDonald, President Elect

Pam Matlock, Secretary

Gloria Taradash, Member-at-Large

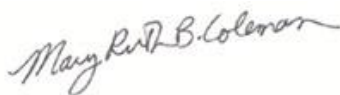
Linda Marsal, Member-at-Large

President's Message continued

Please see the complete list for your 2016 Board Members in this issue of the newsletter. Your Pioneer's Board was busy writing on your behalf and on behalf of children with exceptional needs, their teachers and their families.

The Pioneers Division is more than our hardworking Board. The Division is our membership – you are a Pioneer!! We thank you for all you are doing to continue the Pioneering spirit!!

Sincerely,



Mary Ruth Coleman
President, Pioneers Division 2016

CEC 2016 SPECIAL EDUCATION
CONVENTION & EXPO
ST. LOUIS | APRIL 13-16

CEC 2016: Registration is OPEN!

Ready, set, register for the 2016 CEC Convention & Expo, April 13-16 in St. Louis! You can up your game with new knowledge, skills and the latest evidence-based practices available in a variety of formats, including [sessions](#), town halls, and strands. Join thousands of fellow special educators for an abundance of networking opportunities at CEC 2016, where you can connect with old colleagues and expand your network with new ones. NEW this year: half- and full-day [Convention Workshops](#) that are focused on the Hot Topics you said you need to support your kids, and three exciting, big-picture General Sessions that will bring you and thousands of other special educators together as a community around thought-provoking themes. There are a variety of registration options to meet every budget and schedule, so don't miss your chance to attend the biggest, baddest special education professional development event of the year! [Register as an Early Bird and save \\$100!](#)

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2016 CEC Convention and Expo Pioneers Division Events:

Wednesday, April 13, 2016:

Opening General Session, 5:00 pm
Expo Grand Opening and Welcome Reception, 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 14, 2016:

Second General Session, 8:00 am
CEC-PD Executive Board Meeting, 11:00 am
CEC-PD General Business Meeting, Awards Presentation and Social 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Friday, April 15, 2016:

Third General Session, 8:00 am
CEC-PD Showcase Session, TBA
Representative Assembly, 12:30-4:00 pm

Saturday, April 16, 2015:

Convention and Expo Ends

Pioneer Division Showcase 2016

“Bright Futures”: Special Education in the Coming Millennium!

Leaders: **Mary Ruth Coleman**, *University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*

William Bogdan (*Retired*), *University of Cincinnati Edgewood, Ky.*

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? In this session, we will explore the current and future needs of special education. Join in as experienced leaders, new teachers, and students still in their teachers in preparation programs discuss how we can create a Bright Future for students with exceptionalities!

After attending this session, you will be able to:

- Understand the current and future societal and educational context for special education.
- Discuss the current and future needs of special education teachers and students.
- Understand CEC’s Leadership with the Bright Futures Project and how you can be part of this work.

2016 CEC Convention & Expo

Save the date for the 2016 CEC Convention & Expo in St. Louis, *the* premier professional development event for special and gifted education.

Experience first-hand the cutting-edge products and services available to children with special needs from 200+ special education companies in the Expo Hall. Stock up on excellent tips, evidence-based practices from your choice of 800+ sessions. Reconnect with the work you love and network with thousands of amazing individuals who share your passion for improving the lives of students with exceptionalities.

Thousands of special education teachers, administrators, researchers, professors and students from around the world will discuss pressing issues and share information in areas such as Common Core State Standards, administration, autism, co-teaching and collaboration, emotional and behavior disorders, instructional strategies for math, reading, and science, policy, technology, response to intervention and more.

Opening General Session

April 13, 5:00 - 6:30pm

Join CEC for the kickoff of the 2016 Convention & Expo at the **Opening General Session on Wednesday, April 13**. Don’t miss the CEC President’s Remarks and presentation of the **CEC professional and student awards**.



Temple Grandin, Ph.D., is the world’s most well-known adult with autism spectrum disorder. She didn’t talk until she was three and a half years old, communicating her frustration instead by screaming, peeping, and humming; when she was diagnosed with autism in 1950, her parents were told she should be institutionalized.

Even though she was considered different in her young school years, she eventually found a mentor who recognized her interests and abilities. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Franklin Pierce College in 1970, a master’s in animal science from Arizona State University in 1975, and a doctoral degree in animal science from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign in 1989. Dr. Grandin has had a

successful career as a livestock-handling equipment designer, one of the very few in the world. Half the cattle in the United States are handled in facilities she has designed, which are based on her desire that these processes be humane, and reduce livestock stress, panic, and injury.

Dr. Grandin has become a prominent author and speaker on the subject of autism because, she says she believes some people continue to find it “incomprehensible that the characteristics of autism can be modified and controlled,” adding, “I feel strongly that I am living proof that they can.”

Her fascinating life, with all its challenges and successes, has been well documented. She has been featured on National Public Radio, major television programs, such as the BBC special “The Woman Who Thinks Like a Cow,” ABC’s Primetime Live, The Today Show, 48 Hours and 20/20, and has been written about in many national publications, such as *Time* magazine, *People* magazine, *Forbes*, *U.S. News and World Report*, and *New York Times*. Dr. Grandin’s life story was the subject of a 2010 HBO original movie, which won seven Emmys, including Best Made for TV Movie. In the 2010 *Time* 100 list of the one hundred most influential people in the world, she was named in the “Heroes” category.

Dr. Grandin currently works as a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. She also speaks throughout the world on both autism and cattle handling. Her bestselling books on autism include *Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism*, *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger’s*, *Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships*, *Animals Make Us Human*, and her most recent publication, *The Autistic Brain: Helping Different Kinds of Minds Succeed*.

CEC is pleased to welcome Dr. Grandin as our Keynote Speaker for CEC 2016. Don’t miss her at the [Opening General Session](#) on Wednesday, April 13, 5:00 - 6:30 pm!

CEC PIONEERS DIVISION AWARD PRESENTATION AND SOCIAL

*Plan to join us for the Annual CEC Pioneers
Business Meeting, Awards Presentation and
Social!**

Thursday, April 14, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Location TBA

(See your CEC Program)

Come learn about the Pioneers, Honor your Colleagues, and Meet the Members

**This year the Pioneer’s Social will take the place of the CEC-PD Dinner.
We hope you will join us!!*

explore **st.louis**

2016 CEC Annual Convention and Expo
St. Louis, Missouri
April 13-16, 2016

We hope you are planning to join us in St. Louis at CEC's Annual Convention and Expo. Participate in the many educational sessions and reunite with colleagues and friends. The convention officially opens on Wednesday, April 14, 2016 and continues through Saturday, April 16th. Below are important events scheduled during the convention.

SEE & DO

Journey to the top of the Gateway Arch, interact with butterflies, try your hand at some science experiments or immerse yourself in a little arts and culture – it's all in a day's fun in St. Louis, Missouri. From sports and shopping to tours and attractions, check out what St. Louis has to offer by exploring the Explore St. Louis website. Or visit their [Itineraries](#) page and let our themed suggestions inspire you!



Explore St. Louis (800) 916-0092



[Saint Louis Art Museum](#)

Built as the Fine Arts Palace of the 1904 World's Fair and one of the nation's leading comprehensive art museums. Collections include works of art of exceptional quality from virtually every culture and time period. Highlights include free admission to special exhibitions on Fri. and programs that range from films to performances. FREE



[Saint Louis Science Center](#)

Explore 700-plus exhibits, the OMNIMAX® Theater, James S. McDonnell Planetarium, special traveling exhibitions, and more. Group rates available. Open daily. General admission is always free.



[Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis \(New Cathedral\)](#)

One of the largest mosaic collections in the western hemisphere; museum and shop. Daily for Masses and tours. Lower-level Mosaic museum, \$2 admission.



[St. Louis Fun Tours](#)

A great way to get acquainted with the popular sights and local favorites that St. Louis offers during a narrated 75-minute tour aboard an authentic trolley

Goals for 2016: We Need You!

As we begin the New Year the work continues. Pioneers Division goals for the coming year are:

1. To meet members needs through outreach, support, and services.
2. To nurture the next generation of leaders within CEC and for the field.
3. To honor past service and preserve the history of CEC.

This year we have several members centered initiatives and we invite you to participate!

- ❖ Our Membership Chair, Susan Fowler, is planning a new membership drive.
- ❖ Our Vice President, Joan McDonald, who is in charge of Professional Development will be looking at how our members can contribute their expertise.
- ❖ Our historian and archivist, Diane Johnson, will be exploring the creation of a new series "Leadership and Legacy" featuring the Life stories of Key CEC leaders and sharing their accomplishment and contributions.
- ❖ Mentors are always needed!! Please consider sharing your experience, insights, and wisdom. Joan Hopkins, Mentorship Chair, will be recruiting for mentors and we hope you will respond.

With all that is going on please consider getting involved in 2016! You are a Pioneer and we need you!!

If you are interested in any of these initiatives, if you have any questions, or if you have other ideas/thoughts to share please contact me: maryruth.coleman@unc.edu



**CEC Pioneers
Division**

The voice and vision of special education

Past President's Report: Call for Nominations

As I begin my new role as the Past President of the PIONEERS Division I want to thank all the members, especially the Board of Directors, for all the support, advice and work done on behalf of the Division and in support of CEC overall. All of you made my tenure speed by and you made it a pleasure to work on behalf of all PIONEERS.

CEC through the PIONEERS has a treasure trove of experience, wisdom and expertise that must never be forgotten. The foundation of the total organization can be found within the PIONEERS Division. The historical context for all that has been gained in the field of Special Education can be traced back to members of the PIONEERS Division. We need to keep our voices heard loud and clear and I am certain that under the leadership of Mary Ruth Coleman, President and Joan McDonald, President-elect, with the on-going support of our members, the Division will continue to be a positive influence in the future of CEC.

As the Past President, I have the task of organizing a Nominations Committee to select candidates for future officers of the Division. I am asking for volunteers to serve on this Committee and also asking our members to step up and volunteer to serve as an officer of the PIONEERS. If you are interested in serving on the Nominations Committee or in being an officer for 2017 forward, please contact me at: mdthew@gmail.com or call me at: 717-891-2316 or send me a note: 4524 Valley Acres Road, York, PA 17406.

I hope everyone had a fantastic Holiday Season and that 2016 brings you prosperity, good health and loving relationships!

Thank you for all your support!

Mike



Introducing Joan McDonald – CEC-PD's New President-Elect

Joan McDonald retired from the Arizona Department of Education as the Deputy Associate Superintendent for Exceptional Student Services in 2012. Previously she served as Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services in the Tolleson Elementary School District. She was responsible for the administration of IDEA NCLB, ELL Programs, Gifted Programs and curriculum and assessment. She also served as a Lecturer in Special Education at Arizona State University.

Original from Brooklyn, NY, she has more than 45 years experience as a special education teacher and administrator in New York, Massachusetts and Arizona. Joan served on the Executive Committees of the Arizona CEC and Arizona CASE.

She earned her BA in psychology from Holy Family University in Philadelphia, her MS in Special Education from Fordham University in New York and has completed all but her dissertation for her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University.

Areas of interest include self-determination for students with disabilities and collaborative teaching for general and special education.

Honors and Awards Committee Begins Selection Process for the 2016 Mackie Award

Members of the Pioneers Honors and Awards Committee have been sent information on the criteria and eligibility for the Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award. Several nominees for the Award have been discussed and support letters have been received and shared.

Each year at the CEC Convention and Expo, a Mackie Award winner is announced. This year will be no different. On Thursday evening, April 14, during the Pioneers Awards Presentation and Social the 2016 Mackie Award winner will be announced. Winners are recognized for their outstanding contributions not just to Pioneers, but their long term commitment to children with special needs and their years of participation in CEC. The list of past Mackie Award winners is a Who's Who in the leadership of CEC and professionals who have made critical contributions in the area of Special Education.

It is not too late to submit a name of a Pioneer who you feel exemplifies the leadership and involvement in CEC that has resulted in positive growth in our profession. Nominations must be made no later than February 26, 2016. Please forward submissions by email to mikeweinroth@aol.com.

Pioneers hopes you will make every effort to attend our upcoming convention in St. Louis, April 13-16, 2016.

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



Lee Sherry, Chair, Communications Committee,
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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.



Membership Matters

The Pioneer Division as of November 2015 is comprised of 272 CEC members. Of these members, 15 were newly renewed and three were new to the Division. This represents a slight decline over the prior 6 months when our Division membership consisted of 280 members. We have been contacting Division. Likewise we have been contacting all renewed and new members. At this time most contact is made via email since 95% of our members have email addresses.

We are planning to launch a new membership campaign this year for each member to recruit a CEC colleague to the Division. The average age of CEC members has increased and we suspect that many CEC members may not be aware of their eligibility for Pioneers!

We will be focusing on the benefits of sharing our knowledge and legacy to the field, both within and outside of CEC. At this time, the new membership structure has been in place for half a year. The least expensive individual membership includes one division membership with a fee for additional memberships. Pioneers remains among the least expensive. If you have ideas for the membership campaign, please contact President Mary Ruth Coleman or Membership Chair, Susan Fowler.



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CEC-PD Collaborates with CEC on the CEC Archive Inventory, Access, and Maintenance

Since 2010 members of CEC-PD have gone to CEC Headquarters at various times during the year to work on updating and completing the inventory listing of the current holdings in the CEC. Materials related to the founding of CEC, governance, advocacy, membership, awards, student activities, CEC's units (Divisions and State/Provincial units) committees, products, conferences, special events, and collections of special papers and photos, oral histories are all part of this important collection.

The Archive inventory is now well underway using the foundation that was provided by June Robinson, who served as the CEC Archivist establishing the collection and maintaining the CEC Archives until her death. There is still much work to be done, but this initial review and updating provides a beginning listing for accessing the materials.

CEC-PD has been connected to the Archives since its founding including as part of its purposes assisting in maintaining the Archives. There is also a special fund within the Pioneers budget (The June Jordan, I have a Dream Fund), that was established to allow for donations to assist with the maintenance of the Archives.

CEC will celebrate its 100th anniversary as an organization in 2022. The materials in the Archives hold a vast treasure of items that will be important during the 100th year and in the years leading to this celebration. Our history provides the strong base that has built the field that we know as special education. Many of the early CEC leaders are the people who we studied in textbooks and some of their initial work and activities are part of the CEC Archives. What a great way recruit and retain our future educators and to honor and acknowledge the legacy of those who were there in the beginning.

If you have articles that may be appropriate for the Archives, please be sure to contact CEC about making these available. If you would like additional information to assist with Archive preservation or wish to make a contribution to this effort, you can contact members of the CEC-PD Board.

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!



Help Wanted: *Pioneers Press* Newsletter Editor

We are currently searching for a Newsletter Editor for the Pioneers Division and it may be your chance to serve

The Newsletter Editor is an appointed member of the CEC-PD Board and is responsible for the preparation and distribution of the newsletter in a timely manner to all Pioneers members. The “Pioneers Press” is currently published three (3) times per year: January-February; April-May; and September-October.

Regular features that may be included in the “Pioneers Press” are: President’s Message, award information, “Keeping in Touch” (member news), June Jordan Fund donation request, nominations information, election results, convention information, and news pieces regarding the Showcase Honoree and the Mackie Award winner. Most features are contributed by members of the Board.

What does the Newsletter Editor do?

1. Attend the Annual Board Meeting, the Annual Business Meeting, the Annual Dinner/Social, and the Showcase Session.
2. Prepare reports for the Board Meeting and the Annual Business Meeting.
3. Complete layout, design and electronic distribution of the three issues of *Pioneers Press* annually: January/February; May/June; and September/October
4. Implement the annual listing of content for each edition of the CEC PD newsletter *Pioneers Press* to meet the information needs of the membership. (Based on guidelines established in the CEC PD Handbook).
5. Update CEC PD membership hard copy and electronic mailing lists three times per year – prior to the distribution of each edition of the newsletter. Complete data provided by CEC Member Services.

If you are interested please contact Mary Ruth Coleman, Pioneers President maryruth.coleman@unc.edu or (919) 923-3819.



2016 Romaine P. Mackie Annual Leadership Award

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 quality 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 vita or resume of the nominee
- 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 vita or resume for the individual nominated should include educational background, employment history, length of service, special projects undertaken, awards received, and other information which will assist the Awards Committee in making a decision.

All nominations and materials must be received by **Friday, February 26, 2016**.

Submit your nomination packet to:

Michael Weinroth, Chair
Awards and Honors Committee
200 River Vista Drive, Unit 411
Atlanta, GA 30339
C-404-375-1188
mikeweinroth@aol.com



**CEC Pioneers
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