
PIONEERS PRESS

Volume 28, Issue 2

Spring/Summer 2017

President's Message: Pioneers Leading the Way



Joan McDonald, CEC Pioneers President 2017

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”
~Barack Obama

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”
~Mother Teresa

As I was considering a theme for this message I came across the two quotes above. Not being able to choose which one to select, I selected both. If you haven’t guessed, “change” is my theme for this article. I believe that CEC is an agent of change. But who is CEC, it is a compilation of all of its members. We are CEC and we are the agents of change. Looking forward to the challenges ahead of us, let us not look to just the CEC Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly to come up with solutions, we need to look inside of each of us and be willing to share our thoughts and ideas for continued growth and success. When asked for input, take a few minutes of your busy schedules

and provide it. It can make a difference (“...cast a stone across the waters...”). (Mother Teresa)

Some of the challenges we face are the restructuring (or dismantling) of public education, as we know it. I believe that as leaders we are not opposed to change, however, how we implement change is important. We should be proactive and give feedback to CEC regarding policy to suggest and support recommendations that will go forward to this Administration and Congress regarding services to students with exceptionalities. We cannot let Congress forget that there are many students across this country that have challenges related to poverty; cultural, racial, ethnic and language differences. When we receive an action alert through CEC, take a few minutes and respond through the Legislative Action Center (LAC) or any other method you feel is appropriate (email, social media, etc.) to let your legislators know how you feel and give proactive feedback.



Council for
Exceptional
Children

**CEC Pioneers
Division**

The voice and vision of special education

Inside This Edition

<u>Item</u>	<u>Page</u>
Presidents Message	1
2017 CEC Conference	2
Annual Business Meeting	3
Past President/Nominations Committee	4
Romain P Macke Award Winner	4
Keeping in Touch	6
Professional Development	7
PD Officers	8

*A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way
and shows the way.
~John C. Maxwell*

Not only are we looking at change at a national level, we are looking at change within our own organization. As the Governance Assessment Workgroup is looking at changing the governance structure of CEC we look forward to a thoughtful process. It has been 20 years since the restructuring of leadership within CEC and to stay current, dynamic and productive in this fast paced time in our society, it is time to reconsider who we are, how we service our members and develop a sleek, streamlined organizational structure. As individual members of CEC we need to be active, supportive and contributing members of the organization to maintain a healthy and productive environment so CEC can continue in its work and membership growth.

Within CEC our own Pioneer's Division is also changing. We have changed our By Laws to be more inclusive. CEC members can now join our division through leadership in CEC at the local, state/provincial, and national levels and/or 15 years of membership in CEC. The results of the Pioneer Division Membership Survey many of you completed is also going to be the foundation of how we can serve our division members in a meaningful way. This occurs when our members are involved and active and willing to participate through providing time, services, information and personal leadership experiences. The State of the Profession project that CEC and the PD is now very actively involved in can change the structure of CEC. This project can provide us with the information we need to make meaningful change. Should you receive a survey later in the year, please be the one to "...cast a stone across the water...?" (Mother Teresa) and participate.

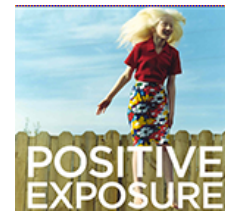
I wish you all a happy and restful summer and hope that you take some time for yourself to regenerate and reenergize yourself to accept my challenge to you to be a change agent yourself by participating,

providing feedback, taking on a leadership role and remembering that "We are the change that we seek." (Obama)

Joan McDonald
President, Pioneer Division 2017

2017 Convention – Boston

The 2017 CEC Convention in Boston was a success. From the First General Session to the last of the Breakout Sessions, so much was shared and learned. The Opening Session on Wednesday, April 19th by Rick Guidotti put everyone in a positive and uplifting frame of mind for all the sessions to follow. The Welcome Reception open to all added an inclusive atmosphere and high energy to end the first day of the Convention.



Check out Rick Guidotti's website Positive Exposure!

Thursday, the second day of the convention started off with a topic that is extremely important and relevant in our field. "Addressing Disproportionality in Special Education: Culturally Responsive and Equitable Education for All Students" was well attended and practical for the attendees. Research, policy and practiced based solutions were presented to address this ongoing challenge. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend any other sessions this day because we had a discussion packed agenda for the Pioneer Division Board of Directors Meeting which took place from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm that day. The agenda included discussions and input for the IDEA Reauthorization Principles and Recommendations Draft Document, the mentoring program, the Mackie Award, the State of the Profession Project, results of the PD Member Survey, membership and IDC's Maltreatment Committee. So much to do and so little time to do it, but we managed. We ended the day with a PD Business Meeting, Mackie Award Presentation and Social. All's well that ends well.

Friday, was another busy day. One of most exciting events of the convention is always the “Yes I Can Awards Celebration.” What a wonderful way to start a day. There were 12 award winners whose prowess in academics, school and community, arts, technology, self-advocacy and transition put me to shame. How proud we should be of our special education teachers and the families of these award winners who are such productive and contributing members of our society. Following the “Yes I Can Awards Celebration,” the Pioneer’s Division Showcase presentation was held. “Parent and Student Engagement through Interagency Collaboration: Triad for Success” was the name of the presentation. This session addressed strategies to improve the collaboration of school, university, parent and parent groups to lead to student success. Ida Malian from Arizona State University, Michael Remus representing parents and Joan McDonald (retired Assistant Superintendent, Tolleson Elementary School District) were the panelists. Friday afternoon kept us busy at the Representative Assembly (RA) which was extremely well organized and productive. The bulk of the RA agenda was spent in small workgroups discussing questions regarding the content of the IDEA Reauthorization Principles and Recommendations Draft Document. Feedback was collected and will be submitted to CEC Policy and Advocacy Division. At this time CEC is taking the stance of being prepared when IDEA does come up for reauthorization.

Saturday was another busy day. There were three focus groups held with a random sampling of CEC members attending the conference to give input on the content of the State of the Profession survey which will be developed this summer/fall. All in all a busy and productive time.

I was fortunate to spend a few days after the convention visiting family and friends in western MA. Having started my career in special education at a state facility in MA, I feel like I have come full circle. I am looking forward to visiting Tampa next February and hope to see many of you there.

Joan McDonald, President Pioneer Division 2017

CEC PD Annual Business Meeting April 20, 2017

The Annual Business Meeting of the Pioneer Division of CEC was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston, MA on April 20, 2017. A welcome and introductions were done by President McDonald and the agenda addressed approval of the minutes from the April 2016 Annual Business Meeting and the approval of the 2018 Preliminary Budget. Mentors and Mentees were welcome to the meeting and the social that followed by Jamie Hopkins. Thanks to CEC additional funds were provided to include this group in our social and award ceremony.

The Nominations Committee, represented by Susan Fowler, asked for nominations from the floor for the office of President Elect, no additional names were submitted at the meeting. At this time, Georgia Kerns was a name brought forward by the nominations committee and would be placed on the ballot.

The only action taken by the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Division was one that addressed The Mackie Award Winner. The motion passed to require Mackie Awardee to be a Pioneer Member and be notified 6 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting awarding. This action was taken to make every attempt to allow the award winner to arrange to be present at the conference to receive the award.

Results of the Member Survey was shared with the group by Joan McDonald. The survey had a 28% response rate, with members from 29 states responding along with members from British Columbia and Ontario, Canada. The top 5 initiatives that members of the Pioneer Division want to see our division address included: leadership development, advocacy, future work groups, mentoring program and State of the Profession. What the respondents want to see us engage in included: membership, policy, creating “fellow credentials” and specialist licensure. They would also like to see us engage in more leadership development for practitioners. Some of the ways our members would like to be involved included:

mentoring, working with local subdivisions, program planning, honors and awards, leadership, newsletter and website. Most of the respondents have experience in the areas of LRE, curriculum and instruction and teacher preparation. The majority of leadership experience was in the area of public schools with professional organization and institutions of higher education following at second and third. The clear majority of the respondents reported that the Pioneer Press was relevant and the website informative. The Board is currently taking this information and your input into account as we move forward.

Bill Bogdan gave an update of the State of the Profession project. Three focus groups were being held at the conference to get input from the general membership in order to develop the survey. The timeline includes getting feedback from members during the spring and summer of 2017 regarding content/questions, procuring possible funding sources to expand the survey, complete the development of the survey by the end of the summer or early fall, send the survey out in the fall and have a report prepared for the CEC BOD at the 2018 Conference in Tampa, FL.

The highlight of the meeting and the social was the Mackie Award given to a deserving long time member and contributor to CEC, Parthenia Cogdell. Although she was unable to attend the meeting, she was present electronically via Skype, thanks to the arrangements made by Gloria Taradash. She was quite surprised and honored.

A successful social followed the meeting and a good time was had by all. We look forward to seeing many of you in Tampa in February 2018.

Joan McDonald
President, Pioneer Division 2017



**Past President/Nominations Committee
Mary Ruth Coleman-Past President**

The Pioneers Division Nominations Committee is glad to announce:

**Candidate for Pioneers President Elect
2018
Georgia Kerns**



Georgia Kerns, Associate Professor of Education at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), has been a member of CEC for more than 25 years. During that time she has served as Chair of the Small Special Education Program Caucus of the Teacher Education Division (TED) and was awarded the Nasim Dil Service Award. Dr. Kerns has served as a member of the Knowledge and Skills subcommittee of CEC for TED; as well as a reviewer for program portfolios for IHEs preparing special educators. She has served as Vice-President, President-Elect, President, and Past-President of TED. Dr. Kerns has also co-chaired 2 TED annual conferences in Portland, ME and St. Louis, MO. She also co-chaired the Volunteer Committee for the CEC Convention when it was held in Nashville. She continues to be an active member of TED and CEC, most recently she served as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee for TED. Dr. Kerns has been a faculty member at UNH for 30 years and will be serving next year as the

Director of Educator Preparation in the UNH Department of Education.

Voting is now OPEN! To Vote, Please send an email to Mary Ruth Coleman with you vote at: <mailto:maryruth.coleman@unc.edu>

Voting will be open until July 3, 2017.

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. ~ John F. Kennedy

**Honors and Awards Committee
Gloria Taradash
Romaine P. Mackie Leadership
Award Winner:**

**And the
Winner Is!!!**

D. Parthenia Cogdell



The 2017 Romaine P. Mackie Award ceremony included some unusual highlights. The winner was unable to attend CEC, missing the national convention for the first time in over 30 years. In order to keep the name confidential until the ceremony, the committee arranged a Facetime telephone call with the recipient using a

request for participation in the Pioneers business meeting. To her great surprise, during that Facetime call Parthenia Cogdell was awarded the 2017 Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award. The Mackie Award, initiated in 1993, honors a person who has demonstrated leadership over time in programs for exceptional children and youth. Parthenia, the first and only African American president of CEC is recognized for the great expansions in membership and professional development accomplished under her leadership. She is a mentor to local and national emerging leaders while continuing to work in her state federation of New Jersey. Optimistic, positive, sensitive, caring and always honest are appellations applied to Parthenia.

Par is renowned throughout CEC for her knowledge, persistence and skill when involved in issues of fairness, equity and justice. Her focus is grounded in raising awareness and improving understanding and acceptance of differences including cultural, linguistic and racial diversity.

The Pioneers Division congratulates!!

D. Parthenia Cogdell

Advocacy Update (CAN Committee)

Paul Zini



The political landscape for education continues to be unsettled. Paul will keep us informed through his Education Update email blasts until the landscape settles down!

Keeping in Touch

The Keeping in Touch section of the newsletter is taking a new direction. We will highlight a new or nearly new member each newsletter.

We are Highlighting Dr. Clinton Smith:

Dr. Clinton Smith has served as assistant professor of special education at the University of Tennessee at Martin since 2012 recently earning tenure and associate professor status. He earned his Masters and Doctorate in Special Education and Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) from the University of Memphis in 2010. He is also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D). Clinton serves as co-advisor for STEA, Kappa Delta Pi, and CEC at UT Martin. He also coaches 6th grade and varsity basketball at Martin Middle School.

While an undergrad at Arkansas State University, Clinton volunteered for Special Olympics. This is where his love of working with people with disabilities began. Originally a social science education major, he began his career as a resource teacher at Central High School in West Helena, Arkansas in 1990 where he taught civic, math, history, and even art and music appreciation. He also served as a full and part-time youth and education minister for churches in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee for 17 years. But, when working full time in the ministry, he continually yearned to be in the classroom daily with the kids. He returned to public education and served as a special education teacher at Shadowlawn Middle School in the Shelby County School district for 10 years. He served as a Co-Teacher, Expanded Resource (CDC) teacher, and a Behavior Intervention Specialist. At Shadowlawn, Clinton participated in many extra-curricular activities with students that included advising Builder's Club, coaching basketball, and coordinating the Special Olympics program. He was the recipient of the Special Education Teacher of

the year from the Pilot Club of Shelby County in 2005. He received the 2012 Jo Bellanti Special Educators Award and was nominated for the Heart Award from the Shelby County Education Association (SCEA). In 2012, he was honored as a Distinguished Alumni for the Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership in the College of Health, Education, and Human Sciences at the University of Memphis. In 2013, Clinton was recognized as a Kappa Delta Pi Master Teacher of Honor. In 2014, he was recognized as the Tennessee Education Association's Distinguished Educator for Higher Education and the Louisiana-Mississippi-West Tennessee Kiwanis Teacher of the Year.

He has presented at many international, state, and local conferences. He is primarily interested in research that involves social skills, parental stress, teacher praise, in-school suspension, and positive behavior supports for at-risk students. He has nine articles published in peer-reviewed journals and a book chapter on the special education teacher as a servant leader in the book, *Perspectives of Teacher Leaders*.

He served two terms as president of the Tennessee Council for Exceptional Children, served as chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for Kappa Delta Pi International (KDP), and was the Higher Education representative on the Tennessee Education Association (TEA) Board of Directors and a member of the TEA Executive Committee. He currently serves as vice-chair of the NEA Caucus for Educators of Exceptional Children and is a member of the KDP International Executive Council.

He has been a certified Special Olympics coach since 1993 for athletics (track and field) as well as basketball. He currently serves as director for Special Olympics Tennessee Upper West Region and as a board member for Special Olympics of Greater Memphis. He

attended the USA Special Olympics National Games representing Tennessee as an athletics coach in 2006 and in 2010 as head basketball coach where Team Tennessee basketball, coached by Clinton, won the gold medal in the highest division at the National Games. In 2014, he coached Team Tennessee Athletics at the USA Special Olympics National Games in New Jersey.

We are very fortunate to have Dr. Smith in the Pioneers Division.



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

— Lailah Gifty Akita, *Think Great: Be Great!*

Professional Development

Leadership and Special Education Legislative Summit:

Leadership Institute (July 7-9, 2017) and the Special Education Legislative Summit (July 9-12, 2017). We will be hearing more about this as the year progresses.

Hot Topic Workshops:



<https://www.cec.sped.org/Professional-Development/Hot-Topic-Workshops>

Click on the link above to find out the locations of these workshops!

CEC 2018

Remember!

The CEC Convention is in February! Time to make your plans to attend!



It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.

~Albert Einstein

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

Dennis Cavitt, Ed. D., Chair , Communications Committee,
ACU Box 29008 Abilene ,TX 79699
325-674-2479
dennis.cavitt@acu.edu



The principle goal of education is to create men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done.

~Jean Piaget~

2016 CEC – PD Officers, Committee Chairs, Appointed Positions Contact List

President 2017

Joan McDonald
6631 Sandra Terrace
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
H- 480-951-9747
C- 602-770-7075
kwapick@cox.net

President Elect 2017

Susan Fowler
288 Education Building
1310 S. 6th Street
Champaign, IL 61820
W- 217-244-6178
C -217-369-8529
safowler@illinois.edu

Immediate Past President 2017

Mary Ruth Coleman
173 Captains Walk
Blounts Creek, NC 27814
H – 252-946-9329
C – 919-923-3819
maryruth.coleman@unc.edu

Secretary 2016-2019

Pam Matlock
890 Steamboat Road
Gilbertsville, KY 42044
H - 270-809-5471
C- 270-366-2022
pmatlock@murraystate.edu

Treasurer, 2015-2017

Carol Eisenbise
229 Jefferson Ave.
Nazareth, PA 18064
484-714-8527
carol_eisenbise@msn.com

Honors Committee 2017-2020

Gloria Taradash
26 Cedar Hill Place
Albuquerque, NM 87122
H-505-856-2737
C-505-239-3993
gtaradash@gmail.com

Constitution & Bylaws Committee 2017-2019

Linda Marsal
4005 Brookstone Drive
Winterville, NC 28590
H-252-353-8919
C-202-746-8919
lindamarsal@gmail.com

Finance Committee, 2014-2017

Carol Eisenbise
229 Jefferson Ave.
Nazareth, PA 18064
484-714-8527
carol_eisenbise@msn.com

Membership Committee, 2017-2020

Patricia Dowey
134 Richards Ave.
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801
C – 603-553-3465
pdowey@gmail.com

Nominations & Elections Committee 2017

Mary Ruth Coleman
Univ of NC at Chapel Hill
173 Captains Walk
Blounts Creek, NC 27814
H – 252-946-9329
C – 919-923-3819
maryruth.coleman@unc.edu

Professional Development Committee 2017

Susan Fowler
288 Education Building
1310 S. 6th Street
Champaign, IL 61820
W- 217-244-6178
C -217-369-8529
safowler@illinois.edu

Resolutions Committee 2016-2019

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

Political Advocacy Committee (CAN) 2017-2020

Paul Zinni, Chair
180 Hathaway Street
Wareham, MA 02571
H-508-822-6256
C-508-326-8204
paulzinni@gmail.com

Communications Committee 2016-2019

Dennis Cavitt
2317 Windsor Road
Abilene, TX 79605
C-325-280-3072
W-325-674-2479
dennis.cavitt@acu.edu

Coordinator of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program 2017

Jamie Hopkins
217 Miami Lakes Dr.
Milford, OH 45150
513-560-0506
jamiehopkins777@gmail.com

Historian-Archivist 2017-2020

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

Representative to Knowledge & Skills Committee

Parthenia Cogdell
117 Harrington Circle
Willingboro, NJ 08046-1827
609-877-4646
608-706-0988
parcogdell@comcast.net

Representative Assembly Members 2017

Joan McDonald
6631 Sandra Terrace
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
H- 480-951-9747
C- 602-770-7075
kwapick@cox.net

Mary Ruth Coleman
Univ of NC at Chapel Hill
173 Captains Walk
Blounts Creek, NC 27814
H – 252-946-9329
C – 919-923-3819
maryruth.coleman@unc.edu

Representatives to IDC 2017 President

Joan McDonald
6631 Sandra Terrace
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
H- 480-951-9747
C- 602-770-7075
kwapick@cox.net

President Elect

Susan Fowler
288 Education Building
1310 S. 6th Street
Champaign, IL 61820
W- 217-244-6178
C -217-369-8529
safowler@illinois.edu

Workgroup on State of the Profession

Co-Chairs Bill Bogdan
Mary Ruth Coleman



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, 229 Jefferson Ave. Nazareth, PA 18064

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!

Remember to Vote!!!!

**Candidate for Pioneers President Elect 2018
Georgia Kerns**



Georgia Kerns, Associate Professor of Education at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), has been a member of CEC for more than 25 years. During that time she has served as Chair of the Small Special Education Program Caucus of the Teacher Education Division (TED) and was awarded the Nasim Dil Service Award. Dr. Kerns has served as a member of the Knowledge and Skills subcommittee of CEC for TED; as well as a reviewer for program portfolios for IHEs preparing special educators. She has served as Vice-President, President-Elect, President, and Past-President of TED. Dr. Kerns has also co-chaired 2 TED annual conferences in Portland, ME and St. Louis, MO. She also co-chaired the Volunteer Committee for the CEC Convention when it was held in Nashville. She continues to be an active member of TED and CEC, most recently she served as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee for TED. Dr. Kerns has been a faculty member at UNH for 30 years and will be serving next year as the Director of Educator Preparation in the UNH Department of Education.

Voting is now OPEN! To Vote, Please send an email to Mary Ruth Coleman with your vote at: <mailto:maryruth.coleman@unc.edu>

Voting will be open until July 3, 2017.