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President's Message: Pioneers Leading the Way



Joan McDonald, CEC Pioneers President 2017

“People who are truly strong lift others up. People who are truly powerful bring others together.” ~Michelle Obama

As we move forward in 2017 and a new administration, let us keep in mind the words of Michelle Obama, “People who are truly strong lift others up. People who are truly powerful bring others together.” I see CEC and particularly the Pioneers Division focusing on these words. Since 1975 we have truly lifted up the image, services and accomplishments of students with exceptionalities. We have continued to develop our power and influence as special educators to bring about legislative changes at the national and local levels. We have worked with parents to encourage collaborative services and programs for children and young adults with exceptionalities. We have developed and implemented programs to raise the standards for children and young adults with exceptionalities through: higher expectations for achievement; raised students with exceptionalities ability to advocate for themselves; and clearly have assisted the field of education to develop more inclusive programs and opportunities for

exceptional students in home, school and community. It is more necessary than ever before in our current political and cultural environment to continue to bring others together for the benefit of **all** children. We have come so far but still have a long way to go to preserve and develop quality educational opportunities for the students our organization supports. I ask you to get involved and take action when necessary to continue to work with any agency or group (especially CEC-PD) to ensure a successful future for students with exceptionalities.



**CEC Pioneers
Division**

The voice and vision of special education

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

Goals for 2017
Joan McDonald-CEC PD President

As part of the focus for the Pioneers Division of CEC, the Board approved the following goals:

1. To meet membership needs through outreach, support, and services.
 - a. Continue to communicate with members, lapsed members and State Pioneer Chapters
 - b. Continue to develop and revise membership recruitment plan with membership chair
 - c. Based on membership survey results, develop trainings such as: webinars, conference sessions, ask an expert forum, and other support services to meet members' needs and assist in recruitment efforts
 - d. Continue to communicate through the Newsletter, website, conference sessions, IDC participation, RA participation
2. To nurture the next generation of leaders for the field and within CEC through collaboration.
 - a. CEC/PD Mentoring Program participation and leadership
 - b. Showcase addressing "Interagency Collaboration Triad for Success"
 - c. Work with Nominations Committee on nominating future leaders
 - d. Continue work on the "State of the Profession" project
 - e. Outreach to Student CEC for ideas and collaboration
3. To honor past service and preserve the history of CEC.
 - a. Courtesy resolutions to recognize service
 - b. Continue "Legacy Series" articles
 - c. Archives work for CEC
 - d. Mackie Award

- e. June Jordan Fund for Preserve CEC History

Professional Development



As part of our charge for this year the Pioneers Division is also planning on multiple presentations at the **CEC 2017 Conference in Boston, MA, April 19-22**. Please look forward to the following presentations:

1. PD Showcase - "Parent and Student Engagement through Interagency Collaboration – Triad for Success"
2. Presentation – "A Brief History of Public Alternative Education: Looking Back to Look Ahead"
3. Poster – "The Janus Project: Looking Back to Move the Field Forward"
4. Poster (cosponsored with DISES) "Belonging to School: Examining views from students with special education needs in the Republic of Ireland"

The Pioneers Division Executive Board Meeting will be held at the CEC 2017 Conference in Boston on Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Annual Business Meeting, Awards Presentation and Social will be held following the Board Meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. location TBA. CEC is planning on having an electronic Conference Agenda and Travel Toolkit which can be accessed at: <http://ceconvention.org/>

Another important date to look forward to is the 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.



2017 Membership Survey

The Pioneers Division is asking our members to complete a brief survey. The purpose of this survey is to learn more about you so that we can better serve and engage all of our members. We want to honor your time and talents in the field of exceptional education and offer ways for you to continue to contribute to the field. This survey will enable us to move forward with your input. Please complete the survey by **Sunday, March 5, 2017** (it should only take 10-15 minutes). We are also including a link to the survey in the newsletter. Your time and effort in completing the survey will be greatly appreciated along with your involvement to help "...lift others up...bring others together." (Michelle Obama)

Click on the following link or copy and paste into your browser to participate in the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FBPX2GQ>

Thank you all for the talents and commitment you give to the field of exceptional education and I look forward to serving as the President of the Pioneers Division for 2017.

Joan McDonald

Past President Report

Mary Ruth Coleman-Past President

Report on CEC Pioneers Division Accomplishments 2016

Last year was both busy and productive for the Pioneers. The theme of the Pioneer Division efforts in 2016 was leadership through increased coordination and collaboration with other programs and divisions; bringing greater

visibility to the Pioneers and deepening our relationships across CEC. The work was guided by the Pioneer Boards Goals (see below). The following accomplishments reflect the efforts of the Pioneer Division Board, Committees, and Workgroups on the goals for 2016:

1. **To meet membership needs through outreach, support, and services.**
 - a. Communications were sent to new members and lapsed members
 - b. Revised membership criteria within the Bylaws to emphasize leadership
 - c. Newsletters shared information and email messages offered timely updates
 - d. Participated in IDC with leadership roles on the Maltreatment Workgroup
 - e. Participated in the RA with leadership on the State of the Profession presentations
 - f. Served on the Knowledge and Skills Committee for CEC
 - g. Developed a Member survey that will be sent out in 2017
2. **To nurture the next generation of leaders for the field and within CEC.**
 - a. Continued our leadership of the CEC/PD Mentoring Program
 - b. Hosted a joint Showcase with Students "Focused on the Future"
 - c. Worked with Nominations Committee on nominating future leaders
 - d. Provided a leadership strand/session for CEC Leadership Summit Summer Institute
 - e. Initiated the State of the Profession Workgroup and secured CEC Board approval

3. To honor past service and preserve the history of CEC.

- a. Drafted Courtesy resolutions to recognize service
- b. Continued the work with CEC Archives
- c. Honored a current CEC leader with the Mackie Award
- d. Continued the June Jordan Fund for Preserve CEC History

The 2016 Pioneer Board refocused our efforts on Leadership. To this end we passed and the membership approved a bylaws change emphasizing leadership as well as longevity. We continue to partner with CEC on the Mentoring Program, and have initiated the State of the Profession Workgroup. We are also in the process of developing a membership survey both identify leadership areas of strength and look at member needs. A team of Pioneers attended the Leadership Summit in 2016. Bill Bogdan and Mary Ruth Coleman presented a session on the “State of the Profession” work; and Jamie Hopkins presented on the Mentoring Program. (Joan McDonald, Susan Fowler, Paul Zinni, and Dennis Cavitt also attended).

One of the most exciting activities of 2016 was the decision to move forward with an update of the original “Bright Futures” study, which was completed in 1998 under the direction of then CEC president Linda Marsal. The Pioneers submitted a proposal to CEC Board of Directors for the formation of a workgroup to secure funding for the development of a study/report on the state of special education. CEC Board of Directors did not approve our original proposal and we sent a letter to the CEC President and Board expressing our concerns.

The Pioneers Board decided to move forward with a “State of the Professions” workgroup, allocating \$5,000 toward this and assigning Bill Bogdan to Chair the work. Bill Bogdan led the effort to develop a workgroup charge, purpose, and membership structure. A

second proposal was submitted to the CEC Board and on November 6, 2016 and the CEC Board agreed to partner with the Pioneers! The CEC Board allocated \$2,500 and appointing CEC Executive Director, Alex Graham and Special Projects, Coordinator Judy Harris to the workgroup. Susan Fowler, CEC/PD President Elect will be conducting the study when full funding is secured. The work is moving forward under the co-chairmanship of Bill Bogdan and Mary Ruth Coleman.

It was a privilege to serve as the President for the Pioneers in 2016 and I look forward to supporting President Joan McDonald in 2017!

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

**Honors and Awards Committee
Gloria Taradash
Romaine P. Mackie Leadership
Award
Call for Nominations**

The Pioneers Division is pleased to present a call for nominations to select the recipient of the Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award. This 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 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. She is honored by selecting and presenting this award to an individual who best represents leadership in the field of special education. This award is presented in the form of a selected commemorative item at the annual Business Meeting held at the CEC convention.

The criteria for selecting the recipient of this award is as follows:

Award Criteria

- Length of service in the field
- Documentation of continuous leadership during the time span of the nominee's career
- Leadership position within the various units of CEC (state/provincial, chapter, subdivision, division)
- Leadership positions at the national level in CEC
- Acknowledgement by others of the nominee's leadership (letters of support – minimum two - maximum four, other awards/honors bestowed)
- Significance of leadership contributions made
- Leadership in the development of programs and services for exceptional children and youth
- Leadership in the delivery of programs and services for exceptional children and youth
- Leadership in the development of diagnostic/assessment tools and procedures for children and youth
- Leadership in advocacy efforts on behalf of exceptional children and youth
- Publications in the area of special education (journal articles, monographs, curriculum guides, books)
- Leadership activities in the area of consultation, teacher education and personnel development activities
- Leadership activities in the area of consultation, teacher education and personnel development activities

Applications must be postmarked by March 6, 2017

Please submit complete applications to Dr. Gloria Taradash, 26 Cedar Hill Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122.

Or
Electronically:

Dr. Gloria Taradash,
Honors and Awards Committee Chair
gtaradash@gmail.com

Advocacy Update (CAN Committee)

Paul Zini



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

Keeping in Touch

For our Winter Newsletter I would like to highlight our new Membership Committee Chair, Pat Dowey.

My name is Pat Dowey and I live in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. My CEC membership began as a course requirement for an undergraduate professor who required his students to do two things: learn to spell curriculum correctly and join CEC! It has been an important part of my professional learning ever since.

As chair of the Pioneer Membership Committee, my goal is to increase the recognition of the special educators who have demonstrated leadership in the course of their careers. Our legacy to the next generation of

special educators requires us to recognize the accomplishments of the past and work to keep them active in the field in the future. The benefits of retaining the rich experience and technical skills of CEC Pioneers in our professional organization and chapters will be realized by the next generation of special educators and their students.

A general review of my background would include being an alumni of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Boston University. For most of my career, I have been a special education administrator in local public schools, retiring in July 2016. My classroom teaching experience has been with primary and middle school-aged children with developmental and behavioral disabilities. Additionally, I have taught undergraduate and graduate courses in special education for many years. Currently, I am a field supervisor for student teachers in the graduate program at Franklin Pierce University.

For ten years, I served on the Executive Board for the New Hampshire Association for Special Education Administrators, including elected positions as president, president-elect, past president, and secretary. Other professional interests have included appointment as a surrogate parent for over 25 children who did not have a parent available to exercise oversight for their disabled child's educational programs. Additionally, I served by appointment of two Governors of NH to legislative and state advisory committees.

On a personal note, my husband and I have been married 42 years and are enjoying the adventures of a growing family. We like to travel and recently returned from an extended visit to New Zealand.



“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

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

~Albert Einstein

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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

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Workgroup on State of the Profession

Co-Chairs Bill Bogdan
Mary Ruth Coleman



2016 Romaine P. Mackie Annual Award for Leadership

Purpose: The Romaine P. Mackie Award is to honor an outstanding professional who has demonstrated leadership in CEC and other organizations for an extensive period of time in various areas within the field: service delivery, teacher education and professional development; research; policy; assessment; publications. The individual should be nominated by someone who is familiar with the nature and 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 vitae 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 vitae 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 **March 6, 2017**.

Submit your nomination packet electronically to:

Dr. Gloria Taradash,
Honors and Awards Committee Chair
gtaradash@gmail.com