
PIONEERS PRESS



Council for
Exceptional
Children

**CEC Pioneers
Division**

The voice and vision of special education



CEC Pioneers Division



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Message from the President

Susan Fowler, President

The Executive Board of the Pioneer Division met at the annual CEC Convention for four hours to review ongoing work and accomplishments and revisit goals for 2018. We discussed several key issues, foremost at the time, was the restructuring proposed by the CEC Workgroup on Governance.

Governance Restructuring: The CEC Executive team and Members of the workgroup met with the Board to discuss our concerns, which we had raised in a detailed letter and through communication in the leadership and past presidents forums on the CEC website. The full letter is at (insert link). According to the Governance Workgroup, their recommendations were based on a year-long study of evidence-based sources from Board Source and the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) First, we affirmed our agreement that the process of examining the governance was timely as the last review was 19 years ago. We also supported the concept of establishing a Leadership Development Committee (LDC) to help prepare future leaders for CEC. Our main points of concern included:

1. Maintaining membership engagement and voice by retaining election of the CEC Board members and President.
2. Clearly defining the role and membership of the Leadership Development Committee (to be appointed by May) and their relationship with the Board of Directors, in particular the overlapping roles of appointment. (As proposed, the Board appoints the members of the LDC and the LDC recommend candidates for the Board and President-Elect).
3. Identifying metrics and strategies to ensure that the future Boards, which will not have designated members, continue to include

- representation that is diverse by race, gender, professional roles and geography.
4. Clarifying the selection of up to three "Thought Leaders" who do not hold membership but will serve on the CEC Board with voting privileges.
5. Providing track changes to the CEC by-laws which outline the new governance models so that revisions can be clearly seen.
6. Expanding awareness and extending time for membership input into the governance changes.

CEC listened to several concerns expressed by our Board (and by many of the other divisions and units). They extended the comment period beyond the convention (#6) and then voted on March 7 at a teleconference board meeting on the governance model. The new by-laws can be found at <https://www.cec.sped.org/~media/Files/Leadership/Bylaws/Bylaws%20Approved%20372018.pdf>. The Board voted to retain membership elections for board members (#1) who will be vetted by the Leadership Development Committee. The Board will elect the president-elect from within the Board, however, and not by a membership vote. They established the Leadership Development Committee, placed a call for nominations and will appoint members by May 1. They have promised to provide metrics at the annual Representative Assembly meeting on the diversity of the board and the work of the LDC (#3). Mary Ruth Coleman, former President of the Division (2016) submitted a list of CEC members who have diverse experiences and held leadership roles and several members of the Pioneer Division also have submitted application for the LDC. We will continue to track the governance changes on behalf of our members and will continue to provide opportunities for comment to the Board of Directors as CEC moves into a governance model that represents models being used by other organizations today. Please see the article by Pam Gillet, current Chair of the

Resolutions Committee and former President of CEC and Pioneer Division, which identifies a range of concerns she has identified. We would appreciate your feedback on issues to pursue with CEC. You can also find the CEC by-laws by going to the home page and clicking on Unit and Division Leadership Resources and then clicking on CEC Bylaws.

Goals for 2018

A. Continue to provide leadership and advice to CEC and increase visibility within CEC as legacy leaders.

- Conduct with CEC in Fall 2018 “The State of the Profession Survey”, developed by a joint workgroup of the Pioneer Division and CEC and as a 20 year follow-up to the Bright Futures Report on “The Conditions and Quality of Teaching”
- Continue our natural alignments with TED and CASE divisions, but consider commonalities with some of the smaller divisions,
- Work with CASE in mentoring special education directors, especially those with limited special education expertise

B. Grow Pioneer membership through our representation of Leadership and Legacy

- Continue to be responsive to changes in CEC and to initiate recommendations to support the development and growth of CEC \
- Continue to emphasize membership through leadership experience with CEC—Pioneer membership is open to those who have been presidents of units, divisions, subdivisions or CEC Board without regard to years of membership
- Send Pioneer information (and ribbons) to potential members either prior to conference or as their leadership terms are ending.

C. Assess relationship of mentoring initiative

- Initiate efforts to focus on novice teachers, which will build on current conversations with CEC and CASE in determining mentoring needs. Place an article in CASE newsletter to assist with recruiting beginning teachers.

D. Continue additional professional services based on PD expertise

- Consensus was strong that legacy is important. Assisting with the 2022 CEC 100th anniversary is a priority, including our work with the archives which the Pioneer Division has spearheaded. These include minutes from the first CEC meeting and a plethora of original artifacts and documents. June Jordan initiated work on the archives and Diane Johnson has continued this work. We will identify additional members to expand the Archives committee.

State of the Profession Survey

Bill Bogdan and Mary Ruth Coleman

reported that the design team had met for the last time and that the survey is ready to be sent October 2018 . In a follow-up call with CEC in April, we have been given the green light to send it to members and a group of nonmembers (whom CEC has identified) in October 2018. We will have early results and analysis of the survey in time for the CEC Convention in 2019 at Indianapolis! This has been a 2 year initiative and we are thankful for the leadership of Bill and Mary Ruth and the many members of the Pioneer Division and other leadership groups for their feedback on the survey.

Follow-up

The Board has scheduled quarterly phone calls for May 23, Aug. 15 and Nov. 14 at 2PM Eastern Time.

Please see additional reports by Board members for other initiatives and information. We are most happy to introduce new leaders to the Executive Board, **Nick Polcini** who will assume the role of CAN coordinator and **Clinton Smith** who will assume the chairship of Communications. At the same time, we bid fond best wishes to **Paul Zinni**, former CAN Coordinator who is now a member of the CEC Board and **Dennis Cavitt**, former chair of the Communications committee and now a member of the CEC Board.

CHANGES TO THE GOVERNANCE OF CEC
Pam Gillet, Chair Pioneer Division
Resolutions Committee

In President Fowler's message, she reviewed what has been happening within CEC concerning the restructuring of the governance of The Council and the incorporation of those changes into the revised CEC Bylaws approved by the CEC Board of Directors in March, 2018.

When an announcement appeared in *Special Education Today* that amendments to the CEC Bylaws were being proposed, the Pioneer Division's Board reviewed the proposed amendments, studied the impact to members and units/divisions, and then took a leadership role with other divisions presenting to CEC concerns regarding the proposed revisions.

Divisions, units, and individual members sent comments to the CEC president. The CEC Restructuring Work Group reviewed over 100 pieces of input. In response to the input received, the Board of Directors **did reinstate the CEC member's right to vote for the members of the Board of Directors which was proposed to be removed.** However, there were other very serious concerns and additional issues identified regarding some of the other recommended revisions which have now have been approved as amendments to the Bylaws.

As these areas of concern remain, the Pioneer Division will continue to monitor the impact of the changes of the CEC governance structure on members' rights and benefits as well as remaining ready to participate in any further dialogue regarding the effect of these changes to the organization and its members.

President Fowler requested that a summary of the changes be prepared with accompanying information as to why there may be some remaining concerns about these amendments.

The major concern of the Pioneer Division board is the removal of member rights.

- Members **retain** the right to vote for the members of the Board of Directors but **do not retain** the right to vote for the CEC president elect. The president elect is appointed by the BOD.
- A **Leadership Development Committee** will replace the current nomination committee. The members will be appointed by the BOD and hold 3 year terms. The LDC members will recruit and prepare CEC members interested in leadership and will slate future BOD candidates for election. While this is a commendable step, the **relationship between the BOD and LDC** has the potential to become circular as each appoints the other.
- Members-at-large who wish to volunteer to participate in the governance of CEC will need to participate in leadership development training and be slated by the LDC. They can no longer self-nominate.
- Thought leaders, **non- members of CEC**, are **added to the BOD (1-3) and may be added to the LDC(1-3) with full voting rights.**
- **The removal of rights and responsibilities from the Representative Assembly**, who are elected by divisions and units and who will no longer participate in nominations or policy decisions.
- **The lack of checks and balances** to the individual CEC member for accountability by the BOD: BOD member votes on will no longer be public record.
- **The removal of designated positions to assure representation in the governance of CEC by underrepresented groups** will require that the LDC ensure that the slate of BOD candidates include diverse representation and that they provide metrics on their outreach to members who are underrepresented.
- **The powers of the executive director and president are expanded to include being non-voting members of**

the LDC which is the body that recruits, trains, vets, and recommends candidates for the members of the BOD, committee chairs, and committee members.

- Other changes are noted in the longer article but not highlighted in this overview.

Change is necessary for an organization to keep moving forward under changing circumstances in its membership constituency and the field. When considering change, the stakeholders (members and the leadership of units and divisions) must be involved throughout the various stages of revision. The culture of the organization is an important part of how the change is conceived, developed, announced, and implemented. Volunteerism must continue to be a vital part of a membership organization.

In a diverse, collaborative, and inclusive organization, singular viewpoints are detrimental to a more vibrant and effective organization. Transparency, trust, openness, diversity, and membership inclusiveness creates a better CEC for all....Pioneer members, other multiple year members, new members, and students. As a member of CEC, it is important to stay informed of CEC governance; it is important to all members.



Mentoring Program

During the 2017-18 school year, the CEC/CEC-Pioneers Division Mentoring Program served 40 mentees, half of which were early year teachers. A recent evaluation of the program by participating mentors and mentees yielded comments like this from a mentor:

"A truly remarkable experience with a first-year teacher fresh out of college. This young educator did have a building or District mentor and a fairly large cohort of special educators to support and yet this young teacher was eager to ask for ideas and direction to grow in their profession and classroom. Always with interesting insights and ready to learn more. As they shared with me "you don't know what you don't yet!" This will be an amazing educator to watch."

We want to thank all of our mentors who supported mentees during the past year. Your time and commitment to helping young educators is greatly appreciated! The mentoring program will continue for the 2018-19 school year. It will continue to remain open to university students as well as first through third year teachers. Application information is on the CEC website under the membership tab.



Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award

Dr. Nancy D. Safer was awarded the 2018 Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award in a ceremony at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention in Tampa, Florida. The Mackie award, presented annually, was established to honor a person who has demonstrated leadership in CEC and the field in programs for exceptional children and youth.

Dr. Safer has been a member of CEC for over 30 years where her greatest commitment was service as Executive Director of CEC. Her skills and talents include special education teacher, consultant, principal investigator, researcher and author. While director of the Division of Educational Services at the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, she was responsible for the Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program and the Preschool Formula Grants Program. Dr. Safer is widely published in areas related to early childhood, special education and inclusion.

One of Dr. Safer’s special interests is serving as a court appointed *guardian ad litem*. In that capacity she volunteers her time and expertise on behalf of individuals with disabilities at no cost to the child or family. Dr. Safer is a true leader in our field and in the community.

CONGRATULATIONS DR. SAFER!



CEC Pioneers President Susan Fowler (left) Summer Newsletter and Dr. Nancy Safer (right)



Treasurer’s Report

The Pioneers Division of the Council for Exceptional Children has accounts at Members 1st Federal Credit Union. The following are the balances as of March 31, 2018:

Checking Account	\$579.31
Savings Account	\$7,317.51
Certificates of Deposit	\$26,335.38

We also maintain around a \$2,000 balance that is held at CEC Headquarters.

Our major source of income is membership fees. Two years ago, the Board of the Pioneers Division decided to invest \$5,000 in a project to describe the State of the Profession. Work has been ongoing with a survey and analysis of that survey.

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

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Elections for Term and the 2019 Beyond



2019 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 4, please]

2019 Romaine P. Mackie Annual Award for Leadership Nomination Form

Nominee's Name: _____ CEC Membership #: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Nominee's Email address : _____

Nominator's Name: _____ Nominating Unit: _____

Nominator's Email address: _____

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 **Friday, November 2, 2018**.

Submit your nomination packet to:

Gloria Taradash
26 Cedar Hill Place NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122
Cell: (505) 239-3993
gtaradash@gmail.com

There are changes in the timeline for nomination and election of officers to the Pioneer Division Board. The position elected each year is that of President Elect. Other elected positions on the Board will follow the same timeline based on where that position fall in the term cycle. The changes were approved during the May 23, 2018 Pioneer Division Board Meeting Conference Call. The change in timeline was recommended based on the revised CEC Conference now being held in the winter of each year. The election schedule will start at the January/February CEC Conference with beginning the recruitment process for candidates. A slate of candidates will be developed in the spring and the slate would be announced in August. Elections will be held in September with election result sent to the PD members upon completion of the election process. The newly elected officer(s) will fill their respective position(s) for the following calendar year. The PD Board believes that this revised timeline will better align with the annual CEC Conference and the calendar year for the Pioneer Division's board responsibilities. We want to thank our members for their support by their membership in the Pioneer Division and also let you know that if you have any questions or interest in becoming more involved in the work of the Pioneer Division please contact Joan Mc Donald, Immediate Past President, CEC PD at my email address posted on the PD website.



Joan McDonald
Immediate Past President

New Communications Chair

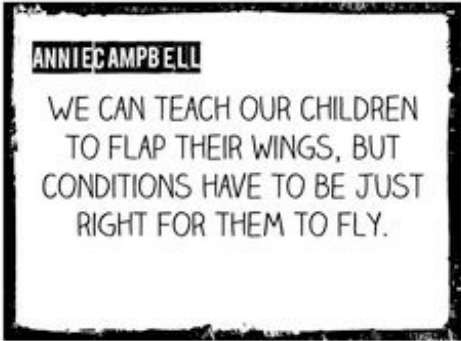


Dr. Clinton Smith, Associate Professor of Special Education, at The University of Tennessee at Martin became the new CEC PD Communications Chair in May.

Clinton has served at UT Martin since May 2012 after serving 13 years as a special education teacher in Shelby County Schools in Tennessee and Helena-West Helena Schools in Arkansas.

He has been a member of CEC since 2006, served Tennessee CEC as President (2012, & 2015) as well as Vice-President and President-Elect. He has been a member of the PD since 2015. He is also a member of CCBD and is the Southeast regional representative.

Clinton also serves as Area Director for Upper West Tennessee Special Olympics representing four counties and over 250 athletes. He also coaches basketball at Martin Middle School and is a member of the Martin Kiwanis Club.



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!

**2018-2019 CEC PD Officers, Committee
Chairs, Appointed Positions List**

President 2017

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

President Elect 2017

Georgia Kerns
2 Radford Drive
Lee, NH 03861
H-603-659-3424
C-603-247-2757

Immediate Past President

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

Secretary 2016-2019

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

Treasurer, 2015-2019

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
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gtaradash@gmail.com

Constitution & Bylaws Committee 2017-2019

Linda Marsal
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Winterville, NC 28590
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C-202-746-8919
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Finance Committee, 2014-2019

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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 2018

Joan McDonald
6631 Sandra Terrace
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kwapick@cox.net

Professional Development Committee 2018

Susan Fowler
288 Education Building
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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**

Nick Polcini
B. Reed Henderson High School
400 Montgomery Ave
West Chester, PA 19380
610-324-0927
NPolcini@wcasd.k12.pa.us

Communications Committee 2016-2019

Clinton Smith
240B Gooch Hall
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731-2223-0080 (cell)
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csmit279@utm.edu
clint1967@gmail.com

**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
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Representative Assembly Members 2018

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**Representatives to IDC 2017
President**

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President Elect

Georgia Kerns
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Workgroup on State of the Profession

Co-Chairs
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Mary Ruth Coleman, Co-Chair
Frank Porter Graham Child Development
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