
PIONEERS PRESS



**CEC Pioneers
Division**

CEC Pioneers Division Goals

1. To promote and support public policy, advocacy and legislation favorable to children and youth with exceptionalities.
2. To promote Pioneers membership as a recognition of achievement and leadership within CEC, its divisions, federations and units and in the special education field.
3. To work with CEC to promote and increase mentoring of pre-service and early career special educators.
4. To work with CEC to compile a history of CEC in preparation for its 100th anniversary in 2022.
5. To increase membership and promote greater diversity in the membership through a variety of recruitment strategies especially through personal invitations to prospective members from current Pioneers members.
6. To promote diversity in leadership and in our policies, programs and platforms.
7. To communicate with our members through social media posts and emails as needed and through sending at least 2 newsletters a year and sending updates of information as needed.
8. To recognize outstanding leadership and accomplishments through awards and resolutions.
9. To increase funding sources to enable the division to accomplish its goals.
10. To review the Constitution and By-Laws to ensure they are reflective of current practices in the field of special education and of the current needs of the Division, supportive of services to the membership of the Division and designed to make decisions in an efficient and transparent process.

A Message from President Emily Collins

I extend a warm greeting to all Pioneers. Wow! It seems like such a long time ago since we were together in Portland for the CEC Convention. Our whole world has been turned upside down since then with COVID, face masks, sheltering in place, social distancing, and schools not in session and providing virtual instruction only. Please follow CDC guidelines and stay safe!

Not only are we coping with altering our lifestyles because of the COVID pandemic, but we are also witnessing many continuing protests asking for the end of racial discrimination and inequality over the last several weeks. CEC has issued a statement on Racism and Equity. The Pioneers division and most other divisions contributed ideas for this statement, and The Pioneers division and other divisions expressed strong support for this CEC statement. Some divisions representing specific exceptionalities and specific areas of focus have issued their own statements on racism and inequality. The Pioneers division believes the legacy of CEC has been one of anti-discrimination and equal rights since its founding. Do see the complete statement on Racism and Equity on the CEC website.

On June 10 CEC also posted a statement on Key Considerations for Special Educators and Their Students for Reopening Schools. Divisions, including Pioneers contributed ideas for these considerations. Do see also this complete statement on the CEC website. We should all be proud CEC is seeking input from divisions on these statements. This underscores the value of divisions.

Pioneers are also playing an instrumental role in helping CEC prepare for its 100th anniversary in 2022 at its convention in Orlando. In addition to working many hours on the CEC archives, our wonderful and dedicated historian Diane Johnson is heading up a group to work on the history of CEC. Working with her are Parthenia Cogdell and Susan Fowler. Thanks to Diane, Parthenia and

Susan for their many hours of hard work on the CEC archives and now the CEC history.

Early Bird registration for the 2021 CEC Convention is now open until July 31 on the CEC website. Registration for the conference hotels in Baltimore is also open. A map of the hotel locations and Convention Center are also posted to assist you on hotel selection. CEC is proactively planning for the usual in person convention, but is also making plans for virtual presentations should this become necessary. They have contracted with a content management group to assist them in this endeavor.

Congratulations to all you Pioneers members! Be proud of the fact you have the unique distinction of having to meet one of the following areas of achievement to be a Pioneers member: You must have either been a member of CEC for 15 or more years or have held a CEC office or committee or work group chair or a CEC division officer or a state/provincial officer. Encourage others who meet one of these criteria to become a Pioneer and let others know of their achievement and distinction!

Constitution and Bylaws Change

In November the members of the Pioneers Division (PD) approved the following changes to the Constitution and By Laws: Section 1. Qualifications - Any person who has been a member of CEC for a period of at least fifteen (15) years, OR has served in a leadership position within CEC (officer, committee/work group chair) or as an officer of a CEC Division or state/provincial unit shall qualify for membership. This change has opened up membership opportunities to many members of CEC. Since the Pioneers Division focuses on Leadership and Legacy, it is important that this Division recruit individuals who are or have been leaders in the field of Special Education and committed to the Council for Exceptional Children.

A Message from Dave Edyburn President-Elect



CEC received 1,367 proposals for the CEC Convention in Baltimore, MD **March 3-6, 2021**. Plans are moving ahead to for an in-person convention. Registration and housing are now opening. Early bird registration expires on July 31, 2020. The convention headquarters hotel is the Hilton Baltimore. A map is provided of the area hotels on the web site.

A full lineup of workshops (n=23) have been selected for Wed, March 3 and Sat, March 6.

A new call for proposals will open on June 15 and close on July 15 with an email blast to all members. Three specific formats are invited:

- Teacher Slam (replaces the Teacher2Teacher format) - Designed for teachers to present on a single topic; 8 slides in 8 minutes
- Data Blitz - Designed for anyone interested in presenting on research/data/evidence, 1 topic in 5 minutes
- Divisional/Topic Area Collaboration - Designed for 2-4 units to present together on a single topic/issue of importance. Preference for 2 units for a single hour. Possible two hour sessions for 3-4 units working together. No limit on the number of collaborations that could be conducted.

More information will be forthcoming as the program takes shape over the summer.

2020 Romaine P. Mackie Award Winner



Dr. Dave Edyburn, a recognized innovator and thought leader in the area of technology, received the 2020 Romaine P. Mackie Award at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention in Portland, Oregon. The award is presented annually to

an outstanding professional who has demonstrated leadership in CEC and other organizations through practices including research, policy development, publications, professional development, teacher education and leadership preparation. The award honors Dr. Mackie (1898-2001), a forerunner in the establishment of the field of special education and a pioneer who developed standards for the preparation of personnel working with students with disabilities.

A CEC member since 1984, Dr. Edyburn has held CEC leadership positions in Technology subdivisions. Nationally, he edited the journals *Teaching Exceptional Children*, *Journal of Special Education Technology* and *Teacher Education*. Developing publications and grants that focus on nontraditional ways to approach challenges in the field of special education is one of his strengths.

Dr. Edyburn is called a “go to” person in teaching about the field of special education, guiding thinking outside the box and instilling the drive to challenge oneself personally and professionally. His colleagues and students attest that watching and listening to him provides the inspiration to focus on innovations across the field of practice. He is recognized as a great role model and mentor for faculty around the globe.

6/2/2020

Message About Racism and Inequity



Message About Racism and Inequity

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) stands with its members and community against racism, oppression, and the atrocities of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others. As a result, protests are happening in response to that injustice, and we voice our collective pain, quest, and demands for social justice and equity across all communities and schools.

Our CEC [core values](#) clearly outline our “commitment to diversity, care, and respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals.” And today, we reaffirm our commitment to social justice, inclusion, and equity as we strive to be there for our students and special education professionals— many of whom are from diverse communities. We know how difficult this time is, and we are with you. We know first-hand how such traumatic and horrifying experiences can impact teaching and learning environments. In addition to our personal experiences, we see it through the eyes of our children and youth daily.

CEC will continue to uphold the values of inclusion and equity and support all of our members, volunteers, staff, and the students with exceptionalities we serve. In line with our [strategic plan](#), we will be appointing a work group made up of members and outside experts to design and provide professional learning experiences that will impact equitable outcomes and better support children and youth with exceptionalities, as well as special education professionals. This is a charge to ensure that we continue to progress as a special education field. We hear our community and we are with you carrying the torch of equity, inclusion, and social justice.

We are ALL in this together.

Jennifer Lesh, President
Council for Exceptional Children

Tisa Aceves, Board Member
Tachelle Banks, Board Member
Mary Lynn Boscardin, Past President
Yvonne Bui, Treasurer
Dennis Cavitt, President Elect
Rosalind Hall, Board Member
William Hunter, Board Member
Laural Jackson, Board Member
Danielle Kovach, Board Member
Diana Morales, Board Member
Cindy Perras, Board Member
Chad Rummel, Executive Director
Charmion Rush, Board Member
Kareem Thompson, Board Member
Ben Tillotson, Board Member
Mitchell Yell, Board Member
Paul Zinni, Board Member



Baltimore, Maryland
March 3-6, 2021

3100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22201-5332

<https://cec.sped.org/News/Message-About-Racism-and-Inequity>

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You May Discover a CEC-PD Treasure Look and See!

As we are spending more time at home, purging and organizing files seems to have moved up on the list of usual activities. As you participate in this newly valued activity, remember that for some the items that you discover may reflect CEC-PD activities and be perfect for the CEC-PD History Files. If you have photos, programs of special events, mementos of a CEC-PD Dinner or Awards Presentation at the annual convention send them to the CEC-PD History files. If you have such items, please email Diane Johnson, CEC-PD Historian at dianej99@gmail.com with information on the items that you have discovered. We can then make arrangements to get these items into our files before they are lost forever.



Treasurer's Report Lorraine McPherson

Cash on Hand 5/13/20	\$ 2,421.72
Savings Account	\$23,020.20
Certificate	\$10,038.43

Activities:

- Filed 990-N with the IRS on 2/19/2020
- Paid outstanding reimbursement for awards
- Pioneers now have a debit card for use.



From the CAN Coordinator

Lisa Dieker (Lisa.dieker@ucf.edu) is the new Child Advocacy Network (CAN) Coordinator for the Pioneer Division. She would like to make sure she can advocate for a group who she knows are already experts in advocacy in areas of interests and to tap into those who are interested in being part of any efforts. She has created a short 7 question survey with 2 purposes:

- Identify areas you want Lisa to focus on in this role.
- To see if Lisa can use your family tree information and summarize the legacies of our division to leverage our advocacy activities and to create a Pioneer family tree.

Please respond if you are willing and thank you! https://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_78xzxNXEff50DcN

As for now stay healthy and please reach out if you see a specific area I should have on our radar as a division. Thank you!



CEC Pioneers Division

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: Lorraine McPherson, 4850 W Kay T Drive, Tucson, AZ 85745

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!

The Pioneers Division of CEC is pleased to present a call for nominations for the Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award for 2021. Honor your colleagues who have made significant contributions to the field. Acknowledge their dedication and success in the field by a nomination for this prestigious 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 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 _____ Nominator's 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, January 15, 2021**.

Submit your nomination packet electronically to:

gtaradash@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

Dr. Gloria Taradash
Honors and Awards Committee Chair
26 Cedar Hill Place NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122

2020-2021 Officers, Committee Chairs, and Appointed Positions List

President: Emily Collins (2020)

emilycollinsga@hotmail.com

171 Westshore Drive
Americus, GA 31719
229-886-9359 (c)
229-924-2391 (h)

President Elect: Dave Edyburn (2020)

edyburn@uwm.edu

1708 Setter Street
Normal, IL 61761
407/840-5511

Immediate Past President:

Georgia Kerns (2020)

Georgia.kerns@unh.edu

2 Radford Drive
Lee, NH 03861
603-247-2757

Secretary: Kim Moffett (2019-2022)

kmoffett@leeuniversity.edu

5199 Wolf Creek Rd
Spring City, TN 37381
423-240-6437

Treasurer: Lorrane McPherson (2019-2022)

lrranemcpherson@gmail.com

4850 W Kay T Drive
Tucson, AZ 85745
520-870-8274

Awards & Honors Committee:

Gloria Taradash (2017-2020)

gtaradash@gmail.com

26 Cedar Hill Place NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122
505-239-3993

Constitution and Bylaws:

Joan McDonald (2019-2022)

Kwapick@cox.net

6631 E. Sandra Terrace
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
480-951-9747 (h)
602-770-7075 (c)

Finance Committee:

Lorrane McPherson (2019-2022)

lrranemcpherson@gmail.com

4850 W Kay T Drive
Tucson, AZ 85745
520-870-8274

Membership Committee:

Mickie Wong-Lo (2019-2022)

mickie.wong-lo@biola.edu

13800 Biola Ave
La Mirada, California 90639
562-944-0351 ex. 5673 (w)
281-728-2779 (c)

Nominations & Elections Committee:

Georgia Kerns (2020)

Georgia.kerns@unh.edu

2 Radford Drive
Lee, NH 03861
603-247-2757

Professional Development Committee:

Susan Fowler (2019-2022)

safowler@illinois.edu

288 Education Building
1310 S. 6th Street
Champaign, IL 61820
217-369-8529 (c)
217-244-6178 (w)

Resolutions Committee:

Pamela Gillet (2019-2022)

pamelagillet@aol.com

413 Courtlea Oaks Blvd
Winter Garden, FL 34787
407-654-6708 (h)

Political Advocacy Committee (CAN):**Lisa Dieker (2019-2022)**Lisa.dieker@ucf.edu

4000 Central FL Blvd
Orlando, FL 32816
407-761-8174

Communications Committee:**Clinton Smith (2018-2020)**csmit279@utm.educlintonsmith@utm.edu

239D Gooch Hall
UT Martin
Martin, TN 38237
731-223-0080

Coordinator of the CEC/CEC-PD**Mentoring Program:****Jamie Hopkins**jamiehopkins777@gmail.com

217 Miami Lakes Dr.
Milford, OH 45150
513-560-0506

Historian: Diane Johnson (2019-2022)dianej99@gmail.com

3010 Avon Circle
Tallahassee FL 32312
850-385-5234

Representative to Knowledge**& Skills Committee:****Parthenia Cogdell**parcogdell@comcast.net

117 Harrington Circle
Willingboro, NJ 08046
609-706-0988

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Clinton Smith, Ed.D., BCBA-D, LBA
Communications Committee Chair
240B Gooch Hall
Martin, TN 38237

731-223-0080 (cell) 731-881-7202 (office)
pioneers@cecpioneers.org

Representative Assembly Members 2020**Representatives to IDC 2020:****Emily Collins (2019-2020)**emilycollinsga@hotmail.com

171 Westshore Drive
Americus, GA 31719
229-886-9359 (c)
229-924-2391 (h)

Dave Edyburn (2020-2021)edyburn@uwm.edu

1708 Setter Street
Normal, IL 61761
407/840-5511

Workgroup on State of the Profession:**Bill Bogdan**wbogdan1@gmail.com

21 Locust Hill Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45245
828-989-0796 (C)

Mary Ruth Colemanmaryruth.coleman@unc.edu

Frank Porter Graham Child Dev. Institute
University of NC at Chapel Hill
CB# 8185
Sheryl-Mar Bldg
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
919-962-7375

Susan Fowlersafowler@illinois.edu

288 Education Building
1310 S. 6th Street
Champaign, IL 61820
217-369-8529 (c)
217-244-6178 (w)



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