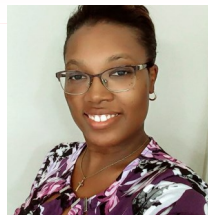


# North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children

## Letter from the President

Dear Members,

I hope you are doing well and staying safe amidst these troubling times. These are uncharted waters in a time when we, as educators, need to lean on each other for guidance, strength, and support. NC CEC continues to plan ways to support educators in the special education field. We encourage you to lean in on your regional representatives. If you have any ideas/suggestions regarding areas of support, please email them to [nc.cec.sped@gmail.com](mailto:nc.cec.sped@gmail.com). Since the Spring, NC CEC has offered several virtual workshops on a wide range of topics. Stay tuned for further professional development offerings. We also invite you to register for the upcoming 2021 NC CEC Conference. Our keynote speaker will be Marilyn Friend. We are hopeful for what's to come and are committed to leading through this crisis.



Dr. Natasha Veale,  
NC CEC President

We hope you will consider joining us in service by applying for one or more of the following NC CEC Board Positions. This year's NC CEC Officers Election will be held in November. [HERE IS THE LINK to the Board Service Application](#)

We will be filling the following positions:

- NC CEC Vice President (4 yr term - elected position: VP, President Elect, President, and Past President)
- NC CEC Student Coordinator (1 yr term - appointed position)
- NC CEC Membership Chair (1 yr term - appointed position)
- NC CEC Member-At-Large (1 yr term - appointed position)
- NC CEC Communications Chair (1 yr term - appointed position)
- NC CEC Regional Representative (1 yr term - appointed position)
- NC CEC Regional Representative Chair/Co-Chair (1 yr term - appointed position)

NC Subdivision Boards of Directors Interest - May choose more than one position \* this information will be shared with subdivision leadership. HERE IS THE [LINK to the Board Service Application](#)

- NC-CASE Board (terms/offices vary)
- NC-CCBD Board (terms/offices vary)
- NC-DADD Vice President (4 yr term - elected position)
- NC-DADD Regional Representative (2 yr term - appointed position)
- NC-DADD Membership Chair (2 yr term - appointed position)



NC CEC Newsletter  
Fall 2020  
Volume 35  
Issue 2

### In This Issue

Letter from the President

Dr. Natasha Veale,  
NC CEC President

Message from our  
Past President

NC CEC Summer  
Mini-Conference

NC SCEC Highlights

Subdivision News

NC CEC Annual Conference Information

Membership Corner

Communications  
Corner

Regional Representatives

**NC CEC 2020-21  
Executive Board  
(link)**

**NORTH  
CAROLINA**

## Letter from the President, con't

- NC-DEC Regional Representative (2 yr term - appointed position)
- NC-DCDT Board (terms/offices vary)
- NC-TED Board (terms/offices vary)

These positions offer a great opportunity to demonstrate your leadership as well as to learn about our organization from an amazing group of dedicated educators.

NC CEC hopes you can find ways to be involved in CEC within your region, as well as in the state, through our state CEC divisions. We are always looking for prospective officers and innovative minds. Together we will fight for the education of children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents!

Together in education,  
Natasha W. Veale, PhD

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*If kids come to us from strong, healthy functioning families, it makes our job easier. If they do not come to us from strong, healthy, functioning families, it makes our job more important.* **Barbara Coloroso**

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## A Message from the Past-President

Dear Members,

I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy in these trying times. NC CEC is committed to providing ongoing professional development opportunities so that you can stay connected to colleagues and friends across the state. We have lots of upcoming opportunities:

We are excited to announce a series of virtual workshops available at no cost to our members. These workshops address topics such as individualized instruction, behavior intervention plans, developing IEPs, effective documentation, high-leverage practices, collaboration and coteaching, supervising paraprofessionals, and family engagement.

### Summer/Fall Session Topics:

- 09/26/20 - High Leverage Instructional Practices in Inclusive Settings Part I
- 8/19/20 - Proactively Engaging Demanding Parents and Families
- 8/18/20 - DADD Community Chat: Supporting Teacher Educators to Maintain High Quality Teacher Preparation During Covid-19
- 8/11/20 - DADD Community Chat: Supporting K-12 Learners with ASD/IDD

- 08/06/20 - SDI for Co-teaching in Middle & High School
- 07/30/20 - Innovative Approaches to Community Resource Mapping
- 07/14/20 - Behavior 101 for Students with Extensive Support Needs

We'll be sending out information about specific workshops in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for those. ***If you have an idea for a professional development session you would like to provide to our members and other educational stakeholders, please email me ([nc.cec.prof.dev@gmail.com](mailto:nc.cec.prof.dev@gmail.com)).*** For continued updates on professional development, please visit our website at <https://community.cec.sped.org/nc/new-item3/new-item>

I look forward to seeing you soon...virtually!  
**Amanda Bock, PhD**  
NC CEC Past-President



# NC CEC Summer Mini-Conference

The NC-CEC Summer Mini-Conference was held on Saturday, August 1, 2020. This year three of the six special interest subdivisions worked cooperatively to present an engaging and meaningful conference.



Diann Gunderson,  
NC-CEC Member-At-Large

The purpose of the event was to develop and provide high quality professional development designed to help educators, students, administrators, parents and other stakeholders in education during the Covid-19 crisis. NC CEC volunteers collaborated with educators, administrators and support staff from 11 institutions of higher education (East Carolina University, Greensboro College, Meredith College, North Carolina State University, University of Kansas, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina – Charlotte, University of North Carolina – Greensboro, University of North Carolina - Pembroke, Western Carolina University, Winston Salem State University) five school systems (Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools, Halifax County Schools, Public Schools of Robeson County, Wake County Public School System, Wayne County Public Schools) and two public charter schools (Envision Science Academy and New Independence Academy).

Two hundred twenty-one participants from eight states and over 70 cities in North Carolina attended the conference. The conference goals were to: (1) Provide a means for networking, professional development, and information-sharing to advance the education of students with disabilities and gifted children and youth. (2) Support parents, teachers, students and other professionals dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities to reach their life goals. (3) Further the knowledge base of the field and maximize the potential of continued advancement of positive educational and life outcomes for those with disabilities. Comments from participants during discussion, in chat boxes as well as in session feedback forms indicate much of the presented information was directly related to current needs and immediately applicable to attendee settings. I have copied/pasted a few comments from attendees which reflect the success of the event.

*“The presenters were on target--Their content was practical and could be applied--The spirit of advocacy suggested was genuinely community based.”*

*“The sessions provided valuable tools for my students to access and learn online. I plan on introducing parents to it in our remote learning lessons.”*

*“The entire conference ran very smoothly through Zoom. I was impressed by the way the presenters kept the sessions as formal as possible in this unusual setting. I was greatly encouraged by the emphasis on providing tools and materials to educators during this unique time.”*

We look forward to learning with you all virtually in future CEC events!  
Diann Gunderson  
NC CEC Member-at-Large  
Mini-Conference Co-Chair

## NC CEC 2020 Executive Board

### President

Dr. Natasha Veale, Ph.D.  
nc.cec.sped@gmail.com

### Past President

Dr. Amanda Bock, Ph.D.  
nc.cec.past.pres@gmail.com

### President Elect & Conference Chair

Dr. Brad Mills  
nconference@gmail.com

### Conference Co-Chair

Dr. Mabel Rivera, Ph.D.  
ncceconferenceco-chair@gmail.com

### Vice President

Xaviera Johnson, MA, MAT, MSA  
nc.cec.vice.president@gmail.com

### Treasurer(s)

Kelly Alves, EdD  
nccectreasurer@gmail.com

### CAN Coordinator

Dr. Lynn Zubov, WSSU  
nc.cec.CAN@gmail.com

### Secretary

Dr. Glennnda McKeithan, KU  
nc.cec.secretary@gmail.com

### Membership Co-Chairs

Dr. Emily Summey,  
Dr. Alicia Brophy-Dick, Ph.D.  
nc.cec.membership@gmail.com

### Member At Large

Diann Gunderson, EWA  
cec.gunderson@gmail.com

### Student Coordinator

Dr. Gretchen  
Robinson, UNCP  
nc.cec.student.coordinator@gmail.com

### Student President

VACANT  
nc.cec.student@gmail.com

## NC SCEC Highlights

### Call for Student CEC (Graduate & Undergraduate) Poster Presentations!

Prepare to present at our 2021 NC CEC Virtual Annual Conference. Student Poster Presentations provide an opportunity for Undergraduate and Master-degree level students to share their completed or in-progress research project or share about teaching strategies, practices, or programs in a poster format. Presenters are sponsored by a faculty advisor. If you are interested in presenting, please complete and submit the [Proposal Form](#) to Dr. Gretchen Robinson by **October 31, 2020**. The Conference Committee will review proposals and will notify the presenters and faculty sponsors by **November 15, 2020**. All student presenters must register for the conference.



*Dr. Gretchen Robinson,  
NC-CEC Student Coordinator*

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### Student CEC Volunteers

Volunteer for the 2021 NC CEC Virtual Annual Conference as a co-host. In order to volunteer as a co-host, you must complete the [Student Volunteer Form](#) to Dr. Gretchen Robinson by **November 15, 2020**. A Volunteer Orientation will be held before the conference so students can get the discount code needed for free registration. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Gretchen Robinson at [gretchen.robinson@uncp.edu](mailto:gretchen.robinson@uncp.edu), [nc.cec.student.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:nc.cec.student.coordinator@gmail.com), or by phone (910) 521-6452.

### We Welcome New Student CEC Chapters!

To get started, your college or university chapter will need at least 10 members ...but membership is free until the end of the month. If you are interested in starting a chapter, please contact me. See the link below to the CEC Student Membership webpage which gives you much more information. <https://www.cec.>

See current NC Student CEC Chapters listed here: <http://community.cec.sped.org/nc/new-item2/new-item>

Dr. Gretchen Robinson,



UNC-Greensboro is reorganizing its CEC Student Chapter! Dr. Julie Irene Bost and Dr. Debbie Holzberg are serving as faculty advisors and hosted a kick-off event on October 15. Students learned about CEC from Judy Harrison (CEC Director of Membership, Marketing, and Communications) and Kevin Jacobs (CEC Membership Manager). Students also heard from career-long members about the value of membership and won door prizes which included CEC memberships and gift cards to local businesses. We are looking forward to having an active student CEC Chapter at UNCG!

Dr. Julie Irene Bost  
Clinical Assistant Professor & Program Coordinator  
UNC-Greensboro

## NC CASE News!!



Julie Varnham  
NC CASE  
Co-President

The NCCASE Executive Board, Board of Directors and Overall membership met on Friday, October 9th. Below are the decisions and information shared at this meeting.

NCCASE Officers for this year are as follows:



Christy Grant  
NC CASE  
Co-President

- **Julie Varnham** (New Hanover County Schools) Co-President
- **Christy Grant** (Nash County Schools) Co-President
- **Kristin Bell** (Durham Public Schools) Immediate Past President
- **Sam Dempsey** (Retired) Legislative Committee Co-Chair
- **Jill McKenna** (Wake County Schools) Legislative Committee Co-Chair
- **Glenda Starr** (McDowell County Schools) Secretary
- **Teresa Owens** (High Point University) Treasurer
- **Stacie Levi** (Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools) Membership Chair
- **Sandy Albert** (Mooresville Graded Schools) Professional Development Co-chair
- **Mike Marcela** (Watauga County Schools) Professional Development Co-chair

NCCASE added the following EC Administrators to our Board of Directors:

- **Kelly Doppke** from Jackson County Schools and Virginia Gaynor from Pitt County Schools.
- **Dr. Nellie Aspel**, former NCCASE Board of Director member and EC Director from Cleveland County Schools, has been selected as the recipient of the 2020 CASE Outstanding Administrator of Special Education Award. This national award recognizes individuals with 10 years or more of special education leadership experience who have made significant professional contributions to leadership and field practice in the administration of programs for students with disabilities and/or who are gifted. Dr. Aspel will be recognized at the National CASE Board Of Directors/Member meeting on Nov 4th and then again during the National CASE conference on Friday, Nov 6th.

NCCASE awarded its first **Melinda Jacobs** Innovation in Teaching Grant to special education teacher **Greg Desern** for his "iPads for Independence" project to be implemented in Alamance Burlington Schools. The grant of \$1,000 will be used to purchase two iPads Minis and durable cases to protect them for use in Mr. Desern's special education classroom businesses. The iPads will utilize an app called Task Analysis developed by the Clemson Life

### Communication Chair

Srinivas Pannela  
nc.cec.communication.chair@gmail.com

### Regional Representatives

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Region 1 \* Northeast

Ms. Meryl Besterman  
Dr. Angela Novak

#### Region 2 \* Southeast

Ms. Paula Williams  
Ms. Michelle Clark

#### Region 3 \* North Central

Ms. Mehrunissa Owens  
Mr. Dustin Squib

#### Region 4 \* Sandhills

Mr. Tommy Johnson  
(co-chair)

#### Region 5 \* Piedmont-Triad

Dr. Julie Bost  
Ms. Melissa Tapp

#### Region 6 \* Southwest

Ms. Janice Bennett  
Ms. Sharon Jackson  
(co-chair)

#### Region 7 \* Northwest

Ms. Bobbie Grammar  
Dr. Mike Marcella

#### Region 8 \* Western

Dr. Charmion Rush  
Dr. Deborah Griswold



## NC CASE News, con't

*program. With the use of the iPads and app, students will work to increase their independence with job skills such as making change, restocking items, and cleaning areas. This project will expand the existing school-based enterprise in an innovative way that will provide students with continued opportunities to work independently in new and more involved ways.*

The NCCASE Board has created a new Public Relations/Communications Committee to help improve our Social Media presence and our communications with all organizations and EC administrators throughout the state. **Kristin Bell** is the Chairperson of this new committee. Any NCCASE member interested in helping on this new committee should contact Kristin ([Kristin\\_Bell@dpsnc.net](mailto:Kristin_Bell@dpsnc.net))

NCCASE currently has 126 members. We discussed several options on how we can continue to increase our membership. If you are interested in becoming a member of NCCASE, please contact **Stacie Levi** ([stacie.levi@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:stacie.levi@cms.k12.nc.us)).

NCCASE is currently working to convene a focus group to help us plan for a number of monthly virtual Professional Development activities during the upcoming year. This focus group will also work on developing ways to improve our annual conference. Any NCCASE member interested in helping on this this new focus group should contact **Mike Marcela** ([marcelam@wataugaschools.org](mailto:marcelam@wataugaschools.org)) or **Sandy Albert** ([salbert@mgsd.k12.nc.us](mailto:salbert@mgsd.k12.nc.us)).

### **The NCCASE Legislative Priorities for this year include:**

- Supporting recommended changes to the EC Funding Formula and appropriations process to focus allotment decisions based on service needs for students instead of a straight per student allotment;
- Continuing to work with the Division of Health Benefits to approve and increase the number of Medicaid Billable services for school districts;
- Working to improve recruitment and retention of Highly Qualified EC staff, including School Psychologists, in the state;
- Continuing to support and work for improvement in available financial resources to encourage school safety and mental health services throughout the state.

**A Medicaid Billing Victory!** After five years of hard work, NCCASE is proud to announce that the Division of Health Benefits has approved the billing of special transportation services by school districts. More details on how districts can begin billing for this service will be forthcoming. Next on the Medicaid Billing agenda is the approval for personal care assistants for students with disabilities.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The 2021 NC CASE Conference will be held on October 3-6, 2021 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree at Wrightsville Beach, NC. More information to come!

Be sure to visit NCCASE Online at <https://www.nccase.org/>

If you have any questions about the information in this update, NCCASE or information on how to become a NCCASE member, please feel free to contact **Mike Marcela** at 828-264-7190 or via email at [marcelam@wataugaschools.org](mailto:marcelam@wataugaschools.org).

We look forward to hearing from you,  
Julie Varnham & Christy Grant, NC CASE Co-Presidents

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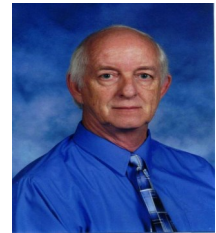
*The secret in education lies in respecting the student.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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## NC DADD News!

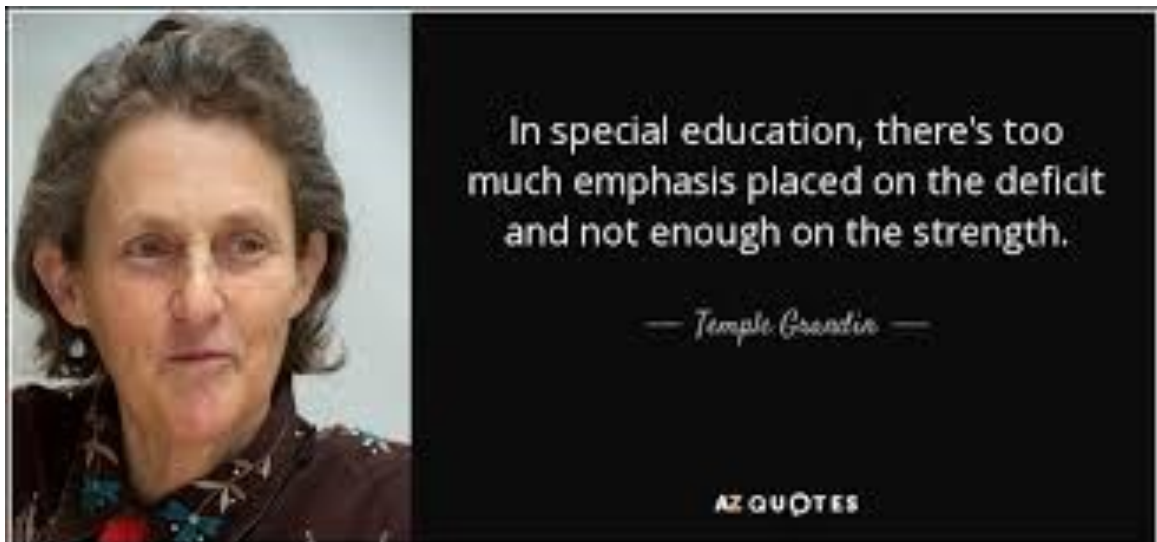
In an effort to support students and educators in our state and other areas, the North Carolina Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities recently collaborated with other NC CEC subdivisions to provide support to teachers, administrators and parents at the NC CEC Summer Mini-Conference. We were able to offer several professional development sessions on behavior management, actively engaging students in online settings and understanding how to address the needs of learners with ASD across the spectrum in multiple settings. We are excited about the new faces and the level of enthusiasm of service projects on the board. If you are interested in serving on the board, or if your school/organization would like to learn about professional development services.... or you would like more information, please contact the NC DADD President. In addition, please “like” our Facebook page (NC CEC Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities - DADD) to stay current with NC DADD activities and for resources related to autism and other developmental disabilities.



*Thomas Vernon Johnson  
NC DADD President*

For questions and more information about the details of these positions, please contact:

V.Thomas Johnson  
NC DADD President  
(nc.dadd.president@gmail.com)



## TED News!



NC TED emphasizes the preparation and continuing professional development of effective professionals in special education and related service fields. The NC TED subdivision of NC CEC is committed to mutual respect and inclusion of all individuals without bias based on differences of any kind and is committed to efforts that build dignity, fairness, and equity in teacher education preparation programs for faculty and teacher candidates in our state.

We were proud to be part of the NC CEC Summer Mini-Conference. Our board members collaborated to present on a variety of topics such as:

- Technology to reach students with

moderate disabilities

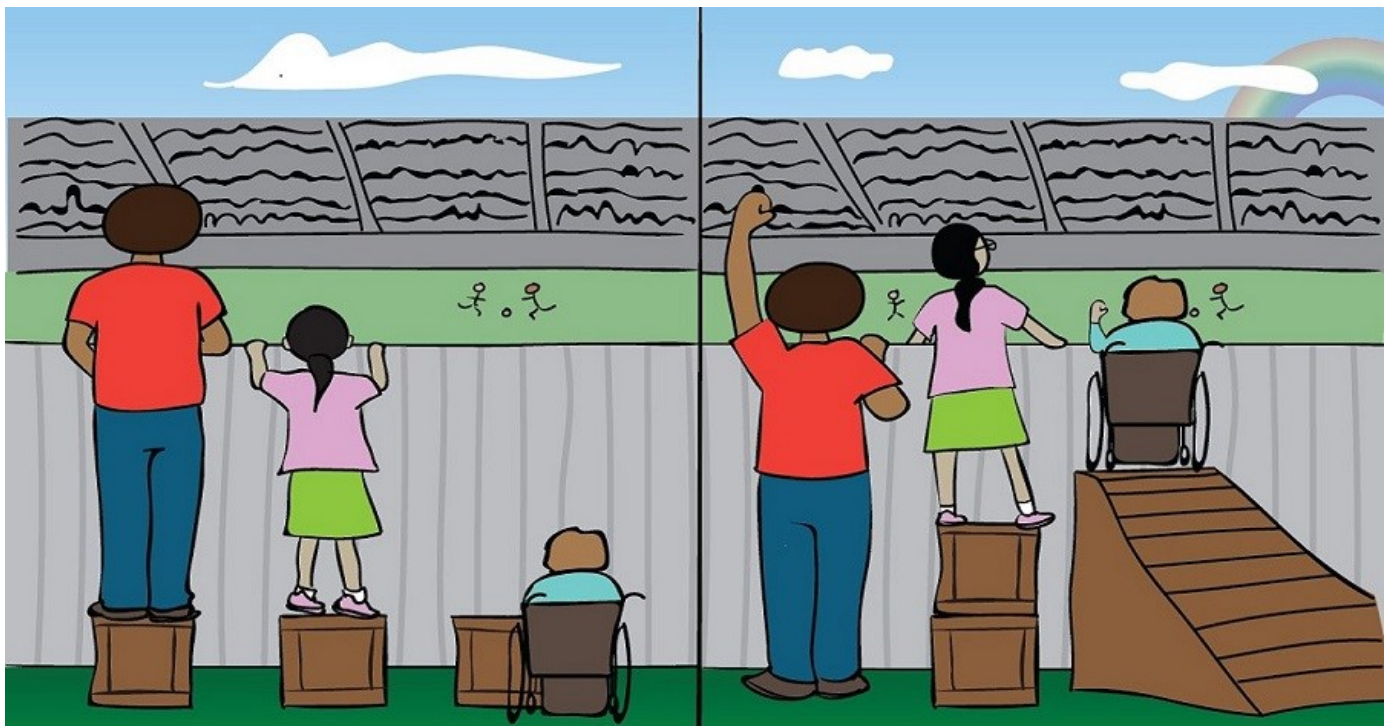
- Nuts & bolts of Co-teaching
- Structuring the standards for secondary students

Currently, NC TED is seeking applications for President Elect and Graduate Student Representatives. If you are a CEC member, and you are interested in serving on our board, or if you have specific questions and support needs, please contact our president for more information.

Dr. Tammy Barron,  
NC TED President (tlbarron@wcu.edu)



*Dr. Tammy Barron,  
NC-CEC TED President*

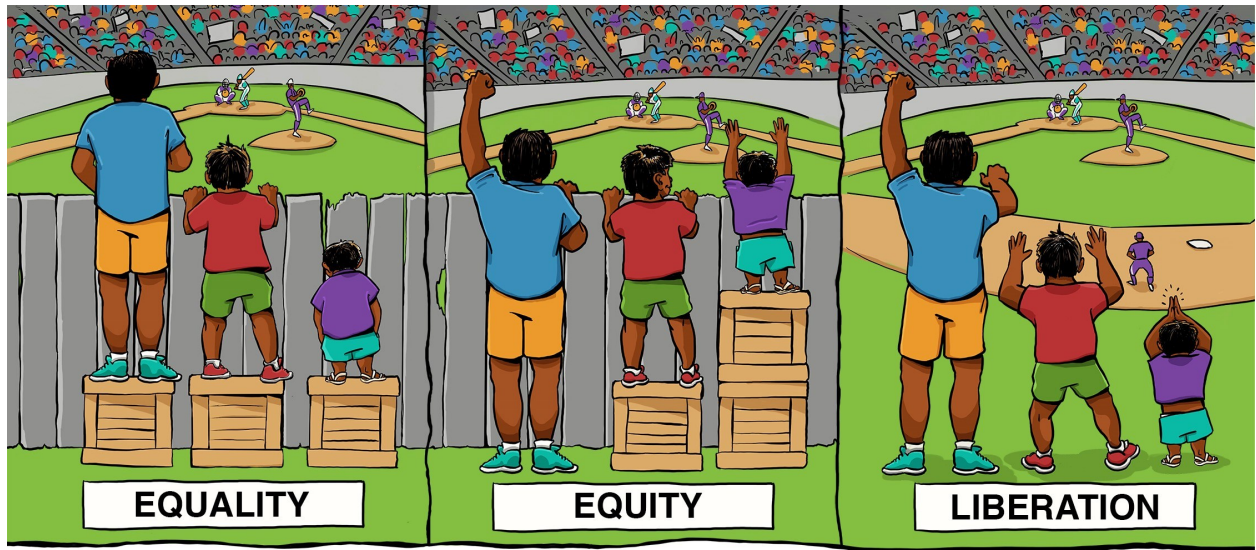


*"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn."*

*Ignacio Estrada*



## How about this instead?



the4thbox.com

STORY-BASED  
STRATEGY

Interaction Institute  
for Social Change

Original Illustration  
by Angus Maguire

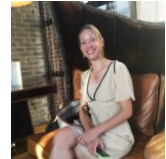
## NC DEC News!



Dr. Mabel Rivera  
NC DEC  
Co-President



Dr. Jessica Amsbary  
NC DEC  
Co-President



We are proud to have worked closely with other NC CEC subdivisions at the NC CEC Summer Mini-Conference! Many of our board members presented evidenced based information to teachers, administrators, parents and advocates in our state. The highlighted research topics of focus for this event were:

- STEM Resources for Young Children with Disabilities and their Families
- Equity & Inclusion in Early Childhood
- Authentic Child Assessment
- Family Implemented TEACCH for Toddlers (FIT)
- Early Literacy Skills for Young Children with Disabilities & their Families.

The North Carolina Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is an organization designed to support individuals who work with or on behalf of children with special needs, birth through age 8, and their families in our state. We continue to build our own webpage, but information about our board of directors can be found on the NC CEC webpage (<https://community.cec.sped.org/nc/events/new-item6>). If you are a CEC member, and you are interested in serving on our board, or if you have specific questions and support needs, please contact one of co-presidents for more information.

Drs. Rivera & Amsbary,  
NC DADD Co-Presidents  
([nc.dadd.president@gmail.com](mailto:nc.dadd.president@gmail.com))

## DCDT News!

This year, NC CEC board members served on the DCDT conference committee to assist with the DCDT 2020 Virtual Conference which was held on 10/23-10/24/20 \* 486 attendees (61% K-12 or state level practitioners, 10% higher education, 10% teacher education students and other key stakeholders) learned more about the latest research and best practices related to effective transition. DCDT significantly reduced the conference rates in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Post conference participant feedback data noted 96% of participants reported the sessions were engaging and 98% indicated the sessions were directly relevant and applicable to their current positions. Participants were able to choose from 89 sessions; all sessions were recorded and are available to participants for the next 6 months. I really liked the virtual platform, it was well organized and there were no technology glitches!!

- “I enjoyed the ability to interact before and during the presentations in a way that was comfortable and controlled. I am also super excited that I have access to all the presentations so I can actually attend

the entire conference and experience the presentation rather than just get handouts from sessions I was unable to attend.”

- “This conference also came at a great time for me personally and professionally and allowed me to feed my transition soul without concern about COVID or running my program. As much as I enjoy the opportunity of traveling to different places to attend DCDT, I think this platform was excellent. Thank you!! Great job!!”

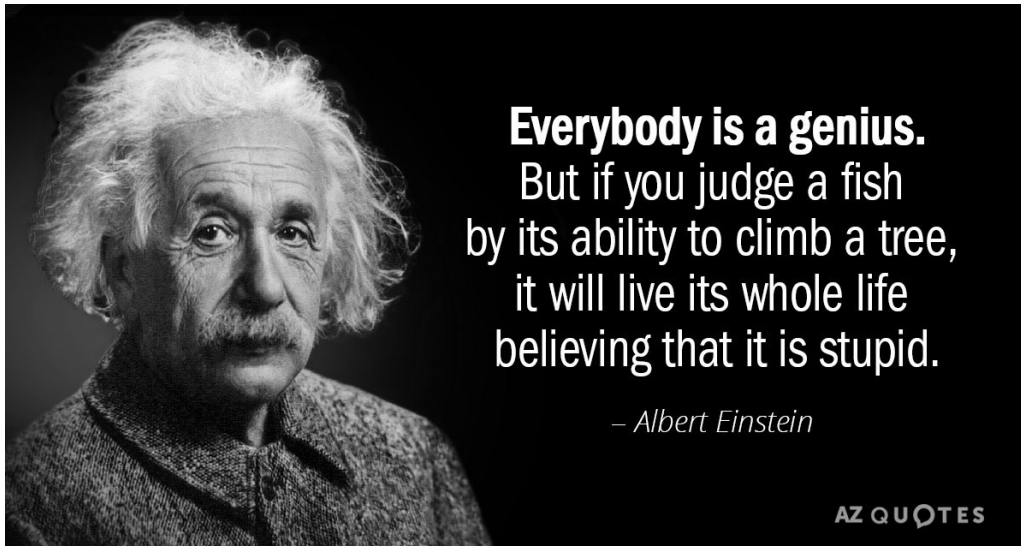
- “Passionate, forward thinking presenters contributes to the quality of this conference.”



Dr. Stacie Dojonovic,  
DCDT Associate Executive Director (  
[www.dcdt.org](http://www.dcdt.org))

To learn more about [NC DCDT check out our website](#), or please contact our president.

**Angela Brown,**  
NC DCDT President  
([abrown@caldwellschools.com](mailto:abrown@caldwellschools.com))



## NC CEC Membership Corner

*Dr. Alicia Brophy-Dick & Dr. Emily Summey,  
NC-CEC Membership Co-Chairs*

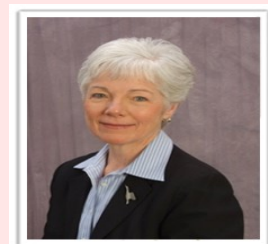
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One question crops up frequently in our interactions with fellow special educators and future educators pursuing a degree in our field, whether at local or state conferences, or while engaged in professional development. Why should I join the Council for Exceptional Children? Well, without further ado...

### **Top 10 Reasons for joining the CEC**

1. CEC Publications Stay on the cutting edge with the high-impact, up-to-the-minute information you receive from CEC's member publications:
  - Teaching Exceptional Children- actionable and useful articles to teach and administer programs for children with disabilities and/or who are gifted (6 issues per year).
  - Exceptional Children- original research on the education and development of children with exceptionalities in practical terms that you can bring into your classroom (4 issues per year).
  - CEC Today- member newsletter keeps you up-to-date on professional and legal developments (4 issues per year, online).
2. Books, Media and Training CEC's articles, books, videos, and CD ROMS cover the entire agenda of social, legal and educational issues of children with exceptionalities. Our resource catalog is crammed with resources and materials specifically for special educators.
3. Career Development CEC's continuing education programs, including the CEC Annual Convention and Expo, provide groundbreaking information, state-of-the-art resources, and new ways of reaching students. CEC also provides you with essential training programs, materials, planning, and continuing education opportunities.
4. Advocacy and Support CEC members are an integral part of CEC's advocacy efforts for the rights of children and youth with exceptionalities, as well as the special needs of the educators who serve them. CEC is a major voice in Congress, the courts, and the U.S. Department of Education. CEC has launched a comprehensive program to make the educational community and the public aware of teacher shortages and special education teaching conditions. No other organization is more active - or more effective.
5. Discounts on Educational Resources CEC members enjoy savings of up to 30% on all CEC publications and professional development events including the CEC Annual Convention & Expo.
6. Career Connections Register your resume, view special education job postings, and access a list of recruiters - all on Career Connections, the only job bank on the Internet devoted

## NC CEC 2021 Conference Information

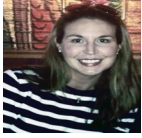


Marilyn Friend  
Keynote Speaker

34th Annual Conference  
Held virtually  
February 27-28, 2021

Conference registration is now [open](#)! We are currently accepting proposal submissions [here](#) until 10/31/2020. Our updated conference dates are 2/26 from 4-7pm and 2/27 from 8-4pm. Dr. Marilyn Friend will be the keynote speaker on 2/26.

We are so excited for the 2021 NC CEC Conference, and we look forward to seeing you there!  
Dr. Brad Mills  
NC CEC President-Elect/2021 Conference Co-chair



## NC CEC Membership Corner, con't



exclusively to special education professionals.

7. Insurance and other economic benefits  
New! Comprehensive Health Insurance. Potentially save thousands on health insurance. Plan options include Health Savings Accounts, Family PPO Plans and Group Employee Health Plans.
  - Life, long term care, disability, and Auto Insurance through CEC
  - Professional Liability and Other Insurance
  - Council for Exceptional Children MasterCard Credit Card
  - CD's and Money Market Accounts
  - Rental Car Discounts
  - Retirement Planning Professional Liability and Other Insurance
  - New! Identity Theft Protection
8. Professional Divisions Join one or more of the 17 CEC special interest divisions, allowing you to tailor your participation to your particular area(s) of expertise. Each division publishes journals and newsletters, sponsors conferences and other professional development activities, facilitates political action on issues that directly affect your practice and interests, and provides unique networking opportunities to bring you closer with experts and your professional peers.
9. Peer Networking and Leadership Opportunities CEC's 17 special-interest divisions, 59 state/provincial units and hundreds of local chapters make you part of the most extensive network of professional special educators in existence today. CEC provides a wide range of opportunities for members to serve in leadership positions at the local, state/provincial, and international level.
10. Up-to-the-Minute Access via the Web At the CEC Web site you'll get the latest updates, on news in special education, partici-

pate in CEC's listserve, join or renew CEC membership, register for professional development events, and order books and other quality resources online.

It was wonderful to be able to see so many of you in person at the Summer and Fall Mini-Conferences. We even recruited some of you for leadership positions within our state chapter! We are always on the lookout for highly engaged and hardworking individuals who would like to be a part of our team and volunteer! If interested, please send an email to [nc.cec.membership@gmail.com](mailto:nc.cec.membership@gmail.com). We enjoy celebrating accomplishments and good news from our members, so please let us know so we can share on our website!



Please share any/all good news and/or celebrations related to Special Education or NC CEC Members with us.





## NC CEC Communications Corner

*Srinivas Panella, MA, MEd  
NC CEC Communications Chair,  
2020 NC CEC Grant Winner, &  
2019 NC Teacher of Excellence*

NCCEC would like to thank all the vendors, presenters, participants, stakeholders for attending the nccec mini virtual conference, and conducting virtual professional development sessions throughout the year. The NCCEC also wants to thank all the board members for their support, for organizing and coordinating the program. It was a very productive, informative, and great learning atmosphere throughout all the seasons. please continue to watch the NCCEC Facebook, Twitter page for more updates and upcoming events. Please continue to join NCCEC and make an impact on special needs lives.

**#Updates Posters/pics - NCCEC Facebook page and Twitter**



### **NC CEC Leader/Teacher Wins 2021 Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award!!**

NC CEC Board member, **Mr. Srinivas Panella**, was recently notified he will be awarded the International Council for Exceptional Children 2021 Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award. The Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award was established in 1984 to honor a Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) member who provides direct services to children and youth with exceptionalities and exemplifies the best in special education teaching. The Teacher of the Year award is named after Clarissa Hug, a former CEC member who served as a homebound teacher for 50 years in the Chicago Public Schools system. Hug retired from her role as a homebound teacher in 1970 but continued to work tirelessly for children and youth with exceptionalities until her late 80s. In 1985, the CEC Delegate Assembly motioned to name the award after Hug to honor her many years serving as an exemplary CEC member and to continue to recognize special educators who provide direct service to children and youth with exceptionalities. Mr. Panella was awarded the 2019 NC CEC Teacher of Excellence Award, and he has been an active member of the NC CEC Board of Directors as well as the NC DADD board of directors for several years.

### 2021-22 NC CEC Regional Representatives Needed

NC CEC Regional Representatives work actively to support NC CEC members and other stakeholders in special education within their region. This includes maintaining accurate records of K-12 institution contacts in their region and sharing information about NC CEC events and/or working with the NC CEC board of directors to sponsor a mini-conference in your region. If you would like to support NCCEC as a Regional Representative, please submit your application: [HERE IS THE LINK](#) to the Board Service Application

Description/Responsibilities include:  
"The Regional Representative(s) shall support and serve the board and members of their region throughout the year according to the needs of their region.."

- These positions require current CEC membership and active participation in at least two board meetings throughout the year.
- NC CEC Regional representatives work actively to support NC CEC members and other stakeholders in special education within their region. This includes maintaining accurate records of K-12 institution contacts in their region and sharing information about NC CEC events such as our annual conference, distributing information about NC CEC awards, nominations and/or applications for board elections and/or working with the NC CEC board of directors to sponsor a mini-conference in your region.
- Respond to CEC requests for assistance from members of the executive board. Representatives should submit a yearly review of activities to the chair(s) of the Regional Representatives Committee at each NC CEC board meeting.
- This is a one year, appointed term. Candidates interested in serving as the Regional

*Tommy Johnson, MEd  
2020 Teacher of Excellence &  
NC-CEC Regional Representatives Co-Chair*