

NC CEC NEWSLETTER

North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children

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Letter from the President

Hello Fellow CEC Members,

Many exciting things are happening this year, many of which began last year. Our 28th Annual Conference, “Celebrating Teachers!” was a success. We had two great keynote speakers this year. Bill Hussey, our state Director of the Exceptional Children Division gave his Keynote presentation on Thursday, January 29th. It was both energizing and inspirational. Some of his most poignant quotes included, “Teachers leave a legacy of relationship,” and “Every child deserves a champion.” He also shared Rita Pierson’s TED Talk. If you have not yet seen it, you may want to check it out at <http://bit.ly/1li9Gnn>. He also shared this video: <http://bit.ly/1nKAZRr>. I’d recommend that you keep this one close and watch when you are feeling drained.

Mr. Hussey’s talk ended with this message:

We can do this.

We are educators.

We were born to make a difference.

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On Friday morning, Sherry Thomas, the Assistant Director of the Exceptional Children Division, provided an update on “The State of the State” of special education in North Carolina. Her talk provided valuable updates on the happenings in this state and a preview of those to come. We were very fortunate to have these leaders speak with us.

The subdivision strands supported by NC-CCBD, NC-DADD, and NC-TED were very well received, with quite a few attendees commenting favorably. Both NC-CCBD and NC-DADD provided two-preconference workshops each, and were well attended. In fact, we had a many register on the day of the pre-conference. Laura Winter presented “Positive Behavior Intervention and Support in the Classroom” and Julie Bost, Jodi Hayes and Sara Childress presented “The ABCs of FBAs & BIPs”. Alicia Saunders, Bree Jimenez, and Angela Lee presented a two-part workshop on “NC Extended Content Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics”.



In addition to the 50 conference presentations and 8 poster presentations, we presented several awards (See the Conference Infographic for more details). Lorriane (Lori) Hall, an Exceptional Children’s Teacher of Alamance Burlington Schools was awarded the 2015 NC CEC Excellence In Teaching Award. Lori is described as a dedicated teacher leader, who has served as EC Department chair, sitting on her school’s leadership team. She has also supported the development of her fellow teachers by providing Math Foundations training, mentoring numerous teachers in her school and district, sharing best practices in areas of academics, behavior, and leadership. Lori exemplifies a



holistic approach to education by seeing the “whole child” and collaborating with school counselors, social workers, and outside agencies to make sure students are getting what they need on all levels. She is a strong advocate for students with special needs and encouraging and supporting them to participate in extracurricular activities. She also supports parents and families about post-secondary options by keeping the “big picture” in mind. She has organized an annual parent night each spring to help students and their parent/guardians gain a better understanding of what will be expected in high school and beyond.

Lori has high expectations for herself and the students she serves. We congratulated Lori for her work and dedication to the field of special education.

Jeremy Lopuch, a School Psychologist in Cabarrus County Schools and Doctoral Student at UNC Charlotte, was awarded the NC-CEC Mini Grant, to support classroom teachers’ use of Curriculum Based Measures to both monitor achievement and guide instruction for all students, including those with and at risk for disabilities. We look forward to seeing his impact on the students and teachers in his district.

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This year we were able to award 2 Student Scholarships. Ayla Allen of East Carolina University and Brannigan Barker of Western Carolina University we both awarded \$500 scholarship in their pursuit of a degree in special education. Congratulations to both of them.

Now that the conference is behind us, we are already at work planning for a strong and active year. We are excited to welcome our new Vice President, Dr. Alicia Brophy of UNCW and happy that Dr. Charlie Wood will continue on as Secretary. In our first board meeting of the year and have already begun to set goals for this year. We will continue the work begun last year, with strengthening our relationships with other CEC divisions and other like-minded organizations, including NC-CCBD, NC-DADD, NC-TED, NC DCDT and NC-CASE. We are also in the process of increasing the number of regional representatives to better serve our membership. Regional representatives are CEC members who work with the other representatives in their region to engage the membership of your region, attend at least 2 board meetings (either in person or teleconference), participate in 2 committees, attend the annual conference. If you are interested in becoming a NC CEC representative for your region, and willing to serve for one year, please email me.

This year, we will also be working to provide more opportunities to engage you, our members. In the meantime, please do “like” us on Facebook (North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children) and Twitter (@NCCEC), and check our website for more information yet to come. It is going to be a busy and exciting year. As always, if you have idea on how make NC CEC even better, please do not hesitate to email me at jessicawery@gmail.com. We are all here to make this the best organization we can to support you - our membership that is dedicated to supporting our students with exceptional educational needs.

Exceptionally yours,

Jessica Wery, Ph.D.

President, NC CEC

Assistant Professor, Elon University

NC CEC's
28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
In Review

PreConference

- 7 Expert Presenters
- 4 Engaging Presentations
- 31 Attendees

Have ideas for Pre-Conference Sessions for 2016 Conference, please email Glenda McKeithan at gkmckeit@ncsu.edu

General Conference

- 2 Keynote Speakers
- 8 Posters
- 50 Presentations
- 20 Vendors & Sponsors

60 Presenters, 111 Attendees, 10 Board Members, 32 Student Volunteers

Awards & Honors

- TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE** - Lorriane Hall, Alamance-Burlington Schools
- NC CEC MINI GRANT** - Jeremy Lopuch, Cabarrus County Schools, UNC Charlotte
- NC-CEC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS** - Ayla Allen, ECU; Brannigan Barker, WCU

Stay Connected

Web: northcarolinacec.org

Facebook: North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children

Twitter: @NCCEC

SCEC SPOTLIGHT:

**STUDENT AWARD
WINNERS EDITION**

This year two undergraduate students were awarded scholarships from the NCCEC.

Ayla Allen is a sophomore pursuing a degree in Special Education, Adapted Curriculum at East Carolina University (ECU). Allen served as Social Chair of the Student CEC at ECU and helped to organize fundraising and social events. Through SCEC, she has volunteered in area schools with students with disabilities and has been an active member of several community organizations. Allen also supports current and future educators by speaking to and recruiting high school students for careers in education and as Vice President for the Student NC Association of Educators.

Brannigan Barker is senior pursuing a degree in Inclusive Education at Western Carolina University (WCU). Barker served as the CAN Representative and Secretary of the Student CEC at WCU and has advocated for funding and services for individuals with disabilities through letter writing campaigns to state legislators. Through SCEC, she has participated in several fund-raisers and volunteered at the 2014 state conference. Barker has worked with individuals with disabilities providing support and respite care through Community Alternative Programs and working as a camp counselor at a residential summer camp.

- Dr. Weiss, Student Coordinator Board Member



Ayla Allen (center) with NCCEC past - president Dr. Rose Matuszny (left) and president Dr. Jessica Wery (right) at the state NCCEC Conference on Thursday, January 29, 2015.



Brannigan Barker, pictured here, was unable to attend the conference due to receiving the Chancellor’s List Award at WCU for her outstanding academic achievement.

TEACHER TIPS!



Conversation Station

Activity Objective

The goal of *The Conversation Station* is to promote oral language and vocabulary development by setting up a center where students can engage in rich, meaningful conversations with an adult or peer.

English Language Learners/ESL:

- Provide lots of encouragement and elaboration
- Make sure to talk about subjects students have great interest in
- Begin by using familiar vocabulary and introduce new words using props as a support

LD/Reading & Writing Difficulties:

- For students with language difficulties, focus on modeling appropriate use of language and expanding on the students speech instead of correcting him or her
- Use this time to build vocabulary for students who have difficulty in this area

Cultural Appropriateness & Diversity:

- Props should not be gender biased or depict cultural stereotypes
- Have props that will be relevant to all students, and ask them to give you ideas for things to add (for example, if a student tells you their favorite food is curry, add a picture of curry to the station for next time)

Differentiated Instruction:

- Ensure vocabulary words are appropriately challenging for each student
- Ask students questions at their own level



Resource and image retrieved from:

<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/balancedliteracydiet/Recipe/00160/>

Tips For Avoiding Teacher Burnout

Do as much as you can while you're still at work. Don't take it ALL home!

Collaborate with other teachers. Divide planning, discuss themes and share resources!

Have a set of 3-5 emergency activities. When you need to take care of something right away, having activities already prepared gives you a few minutes to reorganize your day.

Don't forget to have fun, laugh every day and do not dwell on negativity!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

&

Save the Dates



Waves of Opportunity, Oceans of Success
2015 NCDCDT Transition Conference

When: April 22-24, 2015
Where: Embassy Suites Hotel
204 Centreport Drive
Greensboro, NC 27409
**Register at www.NCDCDT.org*

North Carolina Division on Career Development and Transition

TASH REGIONAL CONFERENCE / MAY 15-16, 2015

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION as a Results-Driven IMPERATIVE
PREPARING STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT DISABILITIES FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS
GREENSBORO, NC

TEACHER EDUCATION DIVISION
COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

NC TED Meeting has been rescheduled!
Save the Date: **May 8th, 2015**
Location: Carolina Center for Educational

<http://tash.org/2015-regional-tash-conference-north-carolina/>

Join us, *Tuesday, March 17th at 7:00pm* for our first Twitter forum using the hashtag **#NCCECFORUM1** and follow us at **@NCCEC** - We will be discussing Universal Design for Learning!

