



North Carolina's Connection for Exceptional Children

Volume 7, Issue 2

A Word from our President...



NC CEC President Gina-Marie Little with keynote speaker Luke Voytecki

*G*reetings North Carolina CEC Members!

Our annual conference with the theme of "Parents as Partners" in Pinehurst, NC, was a great success. Once again, we were inspired by outstanding presenters, networking and collaborating with colleagues, celebrating successes, and enjoying the beautiful ambiance of the Pinehurst setting. We look forward to returning next year. Please spread the word now to colleagues and parents to mark their calendars for the same time next year!

The picture above shows me with one of our conference keynote speakers, Luke Voytecki. Luke and his family inspired us through their presentation, "It Takes a Galaxy to Raise a Child". We appreciate the entire Voytecki family for sharing their journey from the heart through interviews, anecdotes, and reflections. The poem, "Unity", which they shared, follows this message.

Thanks also goes out to our Pre Conference speakers, Dr. Mary Ruth Coleman and parent, Crystal De La Cruz, who helped us look across the lifespan of parenting and added to our 'toolboxes' as we strive to support parents and their students in the home setting. As you read through the newsletter, I hope you will enjoy other conference highlights.

I encourage you to find ways to get involved in CEC in your region as well as in the state. We are always looking for prospective officers and have an immediate need for a Vice President and a Student Representative to the Board. Please let me know if you are interested. I look forward to getting to know you better and represent you, our members, as North Carolina's voice to the larger organization of CEC.

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Please let me know your thoughts on topics, issues and concerns in our field that we can address as a group. Watch our website, contact your regional representative, 'like' us on Facebook, and 'tweet' us on Twitter. Together, we can make a difference!

Gina-Marie Little
NC-CEC President

Unity



I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there.

The clay they used was a young child's mind, and they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher. The tools he used were books and music and art.

One was a parent with a guiding hand, and a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled, with touch that was deft and sure.

While the parent labored by his side and polished and smoothed it over.

And when at last their task was done, they stood proud of what they had wrought.

For things they had molded into the child could neither be sold or bought.

And each agreed he would have failed if he had worked alone.

For behind the parent stood the school, and behind the teacher, the home.

Author Unknown



NC CEC 2013 Officers and Events

NC CEC Board Members **2013**

Past President:
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Student Coordinator:
Lynn Knight

NCCEC Student Representative:
Currently Open
(See page5)

Visit <http://nccec.coe.ecu.edu> to see a listing of all the NC CEC regional representatives with contact information.

Mark Your Calendars for the CEC 2013 Convention & Expo in San Antonio.....Come, see Asha Ghandi, NC CEC's 2012 Yes I Can! Recipient, accept her national award!



**CEC 2013 is just weeks away...
HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET?**

Join us for *the* premier professional development for special and gifted educators!

Save \$50 off onsite registration when you sign on by March 11

April 3-6, 2013 ★ San Antonio, TX ★ Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center



**....and save *this* date, too!
April 24-26, 2013**

*Council for Exceptional Children
North Carolina Division on Career
Development & Transition*

2013 NCDCT Transition Conference

Embassy Suites Hotel
204 Centreport Drive
Greensboro, NC 27409
Phone: 336-668-4535

**Rooms available at a Discounted Rate*

We invite all NC divisions of CEC to send your news to Debbie Metcalf (metcalfd@ecu.edu) to be included in future NC CEC newsletters.

2013 NC CEC Conference Awards

2013 NC CEC Felix S. Barker Award Recipient Mary Watson



The 2013 Felix S. Barker Award recipient is Mary Watson, Director, Exceptional Children's Division, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Congratulations, Mary! Thank you for your unfailing commitment to exceptional children and those who serve them throughout our state.

Read more about the Felix S. Barker Award on our website.

NC CEC Mini-Grant Recipient "Pitt County Community Transition Resource Fair"

Congratulations to Paula Dowd, Assistant Coordinator for Instruction, Pitt County Schools' Exceptional Children's Programs, who, in partnership with Pitt Community Collaborative for Persons with Intellectual and Development Disabilities, received a \$500 mini-grant at the NC CEC State Conference for her work on this community transition resource fair.

NC CEC Honors *Two* Teachers of Excellence!

Meet Lara Brickhouse and Katie Brothers



Lara Brickhouse (on left, shown with NC CEC Treasurer Anna Strickland) is the lead teacher for Adapted Physical Education in Pitt County Schools. She and her team currently serve more than 350 students in approximately 23 schools. Lara collaborates with general and special education professionals to meet the needs of students with disabilities. She advocates for their needs in general education physical education classes and partners with East Carolina University to coordinate volunteers from various disciplines to serve in these programs.



Katie Brothers teaches Special Education in both the Adapted and General Curriculum at Township Three Elementary Schools in Shelby, North Carolina. In addition to her outstanding teaching and assessment abilities, she was chosen for her enthusiasm, dedication, high standards, empathy, and leadership abilities. Katie provides interactive lessons that reach *all* students—including those with unique behavioral and mental health challenges. In addition, Katie is leading the way with technology in her school modeling and teaching techniques with SmartBoards, iPods, and iPads. She enjoys researching apps that provide needed student support.

Read more about these award recipients at <http://nccec.coe.ecu.edu>

The Yes I Can! Award

The Yes I Can! International Awards Program was established in 1981 to celebrate the achievements of children and youth with disabilities; to encourage children and youth with disabilities to seek their highest potential; and to increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of people with disabilities. Since 1981, the Council for Exceptional Children has honored more than 30,000 children and youth. The Yes I Can Foundation for Exceptional Children is an arm of CEC. NC-CEC is honored to present the 2013

North Carolina Yes I Can! Award to Julius Floyd North Shelby School!

Julius attends North Shelby School, a separate school for students with moderate/severe autism. He is in a classroom of 6th-9th graders and he is the youngest in the classroom. Julius has struggled with reading, attention, working independently, and with social situations. But over the past two years, Julius has made amazing progress due to his persistence and desire to succeed. He has shown improvement in reading skills and helps other students in the classroom. He loves being at school and puts 100% effort into his work. He comes into the class in the morning and begins working and does not stop until school is over and it's time to go home. Way to go, Julius! He does not need prompting anymore to begin, finish or put up his work.



Julius is seen here with his teacher, Amber Anderson, and his mother at the 2013 NC CEC conference.

***Julius, you inspire us all and we know that you have great things to accomplish
in your life to come!***

To read more about Julius Floyd, go to the NC CEC Awards page at:
<http://nccec.coe.ecu.edu>



NC-CEC Student Chapter Spotlight



What is your student NC CEC chapter doing?

Submit your news to Debbie Metcalf, Newsletter Editor, at: metcalfd@ecu.edu

NC CEC student members delivered over 200 books to students and teachers at Pinehurst Elementary School during the state conference. The year adapted books were also included that were designed by the university students. Through this effort, we are able to give back to our state and build unity among SCEC members across the state.

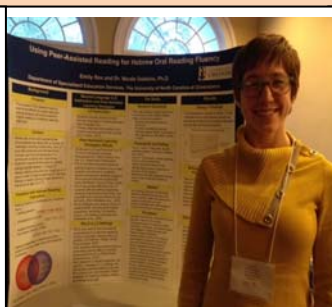
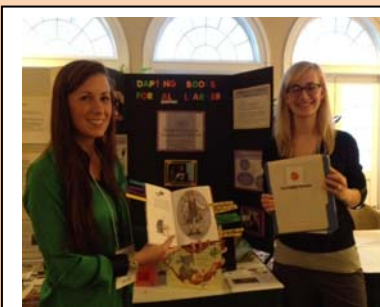
Photo on left (Left to Right): Kristen Kaminiski, Ms. Douglas (Assistant Principal), Sara Graves

Photo above (Left to Right): Dr. Knight, Ms. Douglas, Sara Graves, Mary Ann Baldwin

A BIG THANK YOU to Sara Graves for serving as NC CEC student representative for the past 2 years! Sara will graduate from ECU in May with a degree in Special Education/Adapted Curriculum. We have all benefitted from your positive, energetic leadership skills!

Are you interested in being a student leader? NC CEC is looking for an enthusiastic, dedicated student to serve as the Student Representative to the Board beginning this year. This position helps coordinate and advocate for the student members. Contact NC CEC President Gina-Marie Little, Dr. Lynn Knight (lynnknight@email.wcu.edu) or Sara Graves (gravess09@students.ecu.edu) for more information.

Thank you to the NC CEC student members for volunteering as room hosts, presenting poster sessions/sharing their research, and running the silent auction. Approximately \$900 was raised for student scholarships!



CEC Announces Public Policy Agenda for the 113th Congress 2013-2015

CEC has released its agenda of policy initiatives for the 113th Congress. This agenda was created in collaboration with CEC's Children and Youth Action Network and approved by the CEC Board of Directors. The agenda details priority issues for CEC's advocacy in the next two years and CEC's continued dedication to legislative issues which are vital for children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents, their families, and the professionals who work with them.

CEC's advocacy priorities emerge from one essential conviction: every child deserves access to a challenging, motivating, and rigorous education. A high quality education requires superior leadership, full financial support, effective instruction, skilled staff, appropriate programs, suitable facilities, and family and community involvement. At a time when numerous policy challenges and opportunities are confronting special and gifted education, CEC stands ready to collaborate with policymakers to craft solutions that will positively impact children and youth with exceptionalities and the professionals who work on their behalf.

CEC is committed to ensuring that the voice of special and gifted education is heard in public policy forums in which decisions are made or influenced. Read CEC's Public Policy Agenda for the 113th Congress at www.cec.sped.org (Policy Insider)

New Teacher Evaluation Systems



CEC has recently released its new *Position on Special Education Teacher Evaluation*. Many CEC members have been involved in this process and helped CEC draft this Position but others may wonder why are we discussing this now? Here is how we got to this point in 5 key bullets:

- Recent research demonstrated that teachers are the most important school based factor.
- At the same time, research also demonstrated that many teacher evaluations were not meaningful.
- Policymakers noticed these results and created federal incentives to revamp teacher evaluation systems.
- Including special education teachers in these systems has been difficult and is a work in progress – especially in terms of “objective measures of student performance” is concerned.
- In response to these concerns and the needs of the field, CEC worked with members and outside experts to create a position for special education teacher evaluation.

You can read CEC's *Position on Special Education Teacher Evaluation* at www.cec.sped.org. Tell us what you think! What is happening in your school or district? Share good ideas and suggestions for improvement by commenting on CEC's blog and/or NC CEC's Facebook or Twitter pages.

Multiple Ways to Teach Measurement

Debbie Metcalf, East Carolina University

When teaching functional skills that include measurement, begin with lots of hands-on experiences. When teaching measurement conversions, use activities that engage multiple senses, including visual, tactile, and verbal (i.e., self-talk). Give students an opportunity to assemble *Measurement Man* - see him below - and later use him as a prompt when practicing real-life conversion problems.



Multiple Ways to Increase Measurement Skills

Representation

- Anchor introduction with video clip, book, or real-life story
- Use direct instruction to demonstrate use of cups, spoons, ruler, yardstick
- Use examples and non-examples

Engagement

- Practice measuring with nonstandard instruments, such as a footprint, hand, string, toothpick, or paper clip so that learning outcomes are authentic.
- Use water or sand to fill containers or measuring cups of various sizes to allow for active participation and exploration.
- Work with a partner!

Expression

- Complete visual organizer, such as tree map or Measurement Man
- Demonstrate the use of measuring cups and spoons in a cooking project
- Use a ruler to measure the length of classroom objects

Gargiulo, R. M., & Metcalf, D. (2013). Developing an understanding of mathematics in all learners (pp. 412-414). *Teaching in Today's Inclusive Classroom: A Universal Design for Learning Approach*. Belmont, CA: Cengage.

For more ideas, see: Teaching Measurement teaching tips @ www.kindergarten-lessons.com/teaching-measurement.html