

Florida Council for Exceptional Children



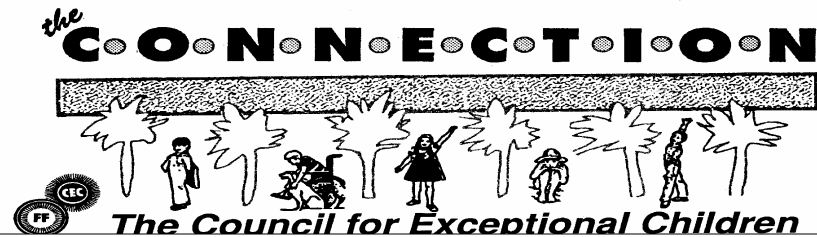
November 2006
Volume 1, Issue 2

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A Message from the President

It is my pleasure to serve as your FCEC president for the 2006-2007 year. It is so rewarding to know that our state organization is part of the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities. It is important that we all take an active role in ESE in Florida and encourage our colleagues to become involved in FCEC's efforts to make a difference in the lives of our students!

For those of you who were not able to attend the Florida CEC convention held in Panama City on October 12-14 this year, the conference was a huge success. June Keen Logue--our FCEC President Elect, the CEC Bay Chapter #243 Local Arrangements Committee, and the UWF-SCEC Chapter #770 Session Monitors along with all the smiling volunteers and conference participants, made this year's conference a most enjoyable and memorable experience. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work! Special thanks to our great sponsors who made all of our receptions and special events spectacular:

AGS/Globe, Talent Assessment, Inc., SRA/ McGraw-Hill, Great Leaps/Diarmuid, Inc., CEC Division of Career Development & Transition, and the Marriott Bay Point Resort. We had two dynamic keynote speakers during our general opening session: Ms. Bambi Lockman and Dr. Joseph Torgeson. Appreciation is extended to both speakers for enhancing our knowledge with their presentations. I also want to express a special thanks to all of the Student CEC members who attended and presented at the conference—you are our future teachers! Thanks for strengthening our state organization!
Many special people were recognized during our awards reception at the FCEC Conference this year. Please join me in congratulating the recipient of the Marjorie Crick Teacher of the Year Award, Dr. Sinibaldi, the recipient of the Jack R. Lamb Rookie Teacher of the Year Award, Ms. Mildred Boveda, and the recipient of the Landis M. Stetler Award, Ms. Matty Rodriguez-Walling. All of these remarkable

individuals are to be commended for their tremendous contribution to the field of Exceptional Student Education and the Florida Council for Exceptional Children organization!

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the CEC Annual Convention and Expo. It will be in Louisville, Kentucky this next year, April 18 - 21, 2007. Attendance at the convention will give you the opportunity to meet educators from all over the world and discuss topics of interest. There is a variety of topics/sessions to choose from with numerous opportunities to learn innovative ways of working with individuals with exceptionalities.

It's not too early to start making plans to present at and register for the 2007 FL-CEC Conference to be held in Fort Lauderdale at the Bahia Mar Hotel on October 11 - 14, 2007. You will be able to access the Call for Papers and the Registrations Forms soon on our website.

Don't forget to submit articles for our newsletter and share your chapter's events and projects. We encourage you to share your successes and innovative ideas with others across the state.

Again, I look forward to serving as President of such a worthwhile organization! If you need to contact me for any reason, please do not hesitate to email me at dezell@mail.ucf.edu.

Dan Ezell

Board Contact

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Chapters and Subdivisions News...

Subdivision News

The purpose of our newsletter is to provide specialized information to all of Florida Council for Exceptional Children members. We invite you to share the wonderful activities and news regarding your Subdivisions.

Florida Division of Developmental Disabilities:

The Florida Subdivision of Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) will be sponsoring a **Drive-In Conference at the University of Central Florida (UCF)** in Orlando. The event will take place **on Saturday, February 17, 2007 at the UCF Teaching Academy**. Check this newsletter for the call for presenters and the registration form. We invite all to attend! Contact Gayle Zavala at comadre11@aol.com for further information.

The Florida DDD announced our Florida DDD teacher of the year 2006 at the FCEC Conference in Panama City, Florida. This year's winner is **Janice Dolan**, who

teaches students, who are Trainable Mentally Handicapped at Titusville High School in Titusville, Florida. Janice was also selected in 2005 as Brevard County Teacher of the Year. **Congratulations Janice!**

In addition, four deserving teachers were awarded mini grants.

- **Pamela Deloach** -\$200.00 for S.E.L.F. Student Enabling for Leisure and Fun activities that will afford her students with the opportunity to participate in leisure time activities independently.
- **Danielle Campbell** -\$200.00 for her class to participate in recycling in the school and community
- **Janis Sammon** -\$200.00 for B-I-N-G-O games to teach and reinforce the importance of common everyday items, people and businesses in the community to her Trainable Mentally Handicapped students at Cocoa High School.
- **Sherie Campbell** - \$200 for Community Based Instruction Trips for her 6th-8th grade students who are Trainable Mentally Handicapped.

Chapter News

Gatorland Chapter1024



The Gatorland Chapter in Alachua County held a social event on October 26 to recruit new members, discuss plans for the annual Art Auction, and to hear about agencies interested in promoting the needs of disabled students and the CEC activities.

Mr. Ken Campbell of Great Leaps stated that the company would like to be more active with CEC, his and the company's focus is on children. He would improve ways to serve children best and influence policy to provide direction and meet the needs of children.

Mr. John Boekenoogen, UF Transition Center and state president for DCDT, informed the group of the 2007 DCDT (October 18-20, 2007) to be held in Orlando. Mr. Boekenoogen stressed the importance of transition issues being addressed on Individual Educational Plans.

Mrs. Cathy Costello was recently elected state President of the CEC Pioneer Division. Mrs. Costello explained the duties performed in this position and how a member is selected for this division.

Jan Benet, Chapter President, presented this year's theme for the annual Art Auction- "Silver, Gold, and Pieces of Eight: Our Children Are Our Treasures"- Jan encouraged and enlisted assistance and donations for the upcoming auction which will be held on February 3, 2007, at the Gainesville Woman's Club.

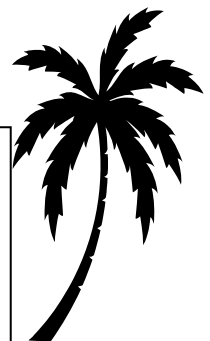
Those attending received door prizes and a \$10.00 gift to the Learning Resource Center with the Alachua County Public Schools.

**Miami Chapter 121 Celebrates
welcomes you to
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
FCEC Conference 2007
October 11-14, 2007**

Keynote Speakers:

**Dr. Tom E.C. Smith
&
Dr. Janette Klingner**

**Bahia Mar Beach Resort &
Yachting Club
801 Seabreeze Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL
www.bahiamarhotel.com**



Children and Youth Advocacy Network

Gayle Solis Zavala, Florida CAN Coordinator

Let me begin by thanking all those chapters/subdivisions that have contacted me with the information regarding their currently assigned CAN rep. I urge all other chapters/subdivisions to send me their information. It is through this network that I am able to send all CEC members in the state of Florida the latest Policy Updates from Washington D.C. and Tallahassee, Florida that impact special education. The national CEC site has an excellent Legislative Action Center link that allows members to email their legislators and their local media. If your chapter would like for me to email a power point presentation to you of how to use the Legislative Action link on the CEC website, please contact me at comadre11@aol.com.

As the CAN coordinator for FCEC, I attended the CEES (Coalition for the Education of Exceptional Students) Platform development meeting in October at the FCEC Conference in Panama City. The platform issues that were submitted at the leadership meeting last June 2006 in Lakeland were presented. These issues included:

PERSONNEL

1. *Pay for Performance or Merit Pay for Florida Educators tied to FCAT results is highly unfair.*
2. *Critical Shortage Teaching Areas– Funding needs to increase.*

FUNDING

Current funding for ESE students has not been adequate enough to meet growth and inflation. Among other problems, our teacher – student ratio is too great, facilities and materials are inadequate, and our students are not receiving the services promised to them under the IDEA act.

ACCESS

The caseload for Speech Language Pathologists (SLP) in schools has increasingly grown. It is not unusual for an SLP to be assigned to serve students with severe Speech Impairment and Language issues, students in need of specialized augmentative communication needs, conduct diagnostics, and provide consultation speech and language services. SLP's assigned to large caseloads that include cases such as these are over burdened and often are not able to meet the needs of the students.

ACCOUNTABILITY

1. *Multiple retention at the elementary level has a negative impact on social interaction and instruction.*
2. *The over abundance of required paperwork required by teachers.*
3. *Related Service Providers (i.e. Occupational and Physical Therapists) are often pulled away from direct service to attend IEP meetings, child study meetings that delay the service to students who already have IEP's for their service.*

SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The ESE classroom has in many cases become a dangerous environment when it includes students with aggressive behaviors. These behaviors can be dangerous to the combative student and to those around him/her.

The final 2007 platform for CEES will be available in the near future. I will make that available as soon as it is published and sent to me. CEES encourages chapters to consider funding one or more of their members to participate in the training and visits to legislators in Tallahassee in the Spring of 2007. I will provide further information on dates later in the year.

Last but not least, I urge all members to vote in the upcoming November elections. Urge all legislators, whether incumbents or newly elected to be accountable for issues such as full funding for IDEA and supporting bills and programs that address the needs of our special education students and our profession

Awards Winner by Lynn Negata

2006 Jack Lamb Rookie Teacher of the Year is... Ms. Mildred Boveda, Miami Chapter 121

Mrs. Boveda has one year of teaching in Miami and is at Myrtle Grove Elementary in a VE classroom working with 3rd - 5th graders. She believes in the "inclusion" model and is on her school's ESAC team. Mildred is her chapter 121's Secretary and she's recruited 22 new members to their chapter!



2006 Marjorie Crick Teacher of the Year is... Dr. Sinibaldi, Chapter 176

Dr. Sinibaldi has 27 years in ESE and is an adaptive P.E. teacher at Walsingham Elementary School. He is a consultant to other P.E. teachers, has invented numerous apparatus to assist physically challenged students to be able to participate in P.E. activities, and is authored in various journals and magazines. Bob has been awarded over \$500,000 in grants to bring his "inventions" to his students in chapter 176.



2006 Prestigious Landis M. Stetler winner is... Ms. Matty Rodriguez-Walling, Miami, Chapter 121

Matty Rodriguez-Walling from chapter 121. Ms. Rodriguez-Walling was awarded the CEC Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year, co-chaired the CEC Presidential Commission on the Conditions of Special Education Teaching and Learning, was on the Advisory Board for the National Board Certification in ESE, and has worked on the Florida Education Standards Commission!



2006 Unit Presidents' Award

Congratulations to the following Unit President's who received an award for their exemplary leadership skills during the 2005-06 school year. Each president was awarded a plaque at the Annual Awards Ceremony. Thank you to the leaders and the members of these chapters for all that you accomplished last year.

Denise Gudwin	Chapter 121	Miami
June Keen	Chapter 243	Panama City
Pam Kerlin	Chapter 75	Jacksonville
Lauren Lovell	Chapter 270	Ft. Myers
Paula Schuler-Evans	Chapter 296	Sarasota
Marcia Wiesel- Leary	Chapter 1024	Gainesville

Call for Candidates...

The Florida Board Nominations Committee would like to announce that we have begun a search for candidates for the following positions on the state board for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

VICE PRESIDENT: Would serve as Vice President for the period of June 1, 2007 to July 31, 2008. Would then serve as President Elect, President, and Past President.

SECRETARY: Would serve for a two year term beginning June 1, 2007.

Please contact: Kathy Moeder-Christensen, Past President
280 19th Avenue South
Jacksonville Beach, Florida 32250
(904) 242-0711
Moederk@aol.com

If you would like to consider being a candidate, please submit your name by January 25th, 2007. The voting will take place by US mail only. The ballot will appear in the April Newsletter.

To all of our creative and artistic members

We are currently in need of a design for official Florida Council for Exceptional Children stationary. Get your members together to come up with a design and submit it by April 1st to our newsletter editors.

Chapter with the Winning Entry will be announced at the Leadership Institute, June 8th and 9th, 2007, in Ocala, Florida.

Prize is a surprise!



Teaching is a
Master Piece

FL – DDD DRIVE – IN CONFERENCE

*Saturday, February 17, 2007 – On-site Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
University of Central Florida, Orlando/ Teaching Academy Building*
Sponsored by: FL-DDD Subdivision and Hosted by SCEC #1050*

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ CEC ID# _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS, AS YOUR CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT VIA E-MAIL.

Professional Position: _____

Location of Employment: _____ County: _____

Chapter/Division Name & Number: _____

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

A registration fee of **\$15.00 (CEC/DDD Members)** and **\$20.00 (CEC Members)**, and **\$25 (Non-Members)** should be made payable to: **Council for Exceptional Children – DDD**. **Deadline for pre-registration is December 15, 2006.**

Directions to UCF Teaching Academy Building can be found at: www.academy.ucf.edu/map.htm

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

There are a number of Hotels surrounding the University of Central Florida. Reservation may be made with the hotel of your choice, by calling them directly:

Comfort Suites UCF	407-737-7303
Days Inn	407-282-2777
Hampton Inn & Suites	407-282-0029
Holiday Inn Select	407-275-9000
Homewood Suites UCF	407-282-0067
La Quinta Inn & Suites	407-737-6075
Radisson University Hotel	407-658-9008

Please mail the completed pre-registration form and your check (payable to Council for Exceptional Children – DDD) to:

Debora Wichmanowski
7335 Chinaberry Ct.
Port Richey, FL 34668

I need a receipt for the registration fee _____

I do NOT need a receipt for the registration fee _____

DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION IS *DECEMBER 15, 2006*

*If you have questions you can contact Debora Wichmanowski at: dwichman@pasco.k12.fl.us or
Gayle Zavala at: comadre11@aol.com*

**FL – DDD DRIVE – IN CONFERENCE
CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS**

*February 17, 2007 – University of Central Florida, Orlando
Teaching Academy Building*

Sponsored by FL-DDD and Hosted by SCEC #1050

Title of the Presentation: _____

Type of Presentation: (Check one)

Workshop _____ Panel _____ Demonstration _____

Has the program been presented at other professional meetings?

Yes _____ No _____

If so: When: _____ Where: _____

Submitted by:

Name: _____ Title: _____

School District/Agency/Institution: _____

Address: _____

Business Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail*: _____

Please note that all sessions are planned for one hour

Please mail two copies of: this completed call for presentation form, a cover sheet including: a session title, a 25-50 word session description, your name, title, school/ institution, address and phone number of all presenters, and a 100 – 300 word abstract. Additionally, any requests for equipment to:

**Gayle Solis Zavala – FL-DDD President
12219 Sannenwood Lane
Wellington, Florida 33414**

**Please list your email contact, as your confirmation will be sent via e-mail.
If you have questions email Gayle Solis Zavala at : comadre11@aol.com*

POSTMARK DEADLINE: DECEMBER 8, 2006

Student Corner

Hello student CEC members! My name is Karen Wagner and I am the state student representative. First, I would like to give a resounding "Bravo!" to all the active student chapters for the energy, enthusiasm and creativity you are displaying state-wide. I had the honor of speaking with some of the student members at the recent state CEC conference and I am in awe of some of the projects in which they are involved. Due to your efforts many students with disabilities living fuller lives. Keep up the good work!

Currently, the state representation of students is not as strong as it could be. We need diversity, enthusiasm and talent in some key areas. Skills such as web design and photo editing would be great for an online newsletter. Organizational and leadership skills can be strengthened and honed, both by involvement in student activities, and by volunteering to assist committee members on the state board. CEC is a terrific organization, involvement and networking now can help you immeasurably as you enter and advance in your career. Anyone interested in becoming involved in student CEC on the state level is encouraged to contact me at krwagner@mail.ucf.edu. Until next time! – Karen Wagner

**Leadership Institute
Ocala, Florida
June 8-9, 2007**

Each unit must send a representative to our annual Leadership Institute. This institute is held to assist leaders in fulfilling your role as board members in your local chapter or subdivision.

Plan now to have your board members attend!

This is also the meeting you receive your rebate check for your chapter.

More information and registration form will be in the next newsletter.

Florida Council for
Exceptional Children
10251 SW 88 Street
Miami, Florida 33176

*We're on the Web at
www.ffcec.org*

The Council for Exceptional Children's Mission

The worldwide mission of The Council for Exceptional Children is to improve educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities.

CEC, a non-profit association, accomplishes its mission which is carried out in support of special education professionals and others working on behalf of individuals with exceptionalities, by advocating for appropriate governmental policies, by setting professional standards, by providing continuing professional development, by advocating for newly and historically underserved individuals with exceptionalities, and by helping professionals achieve the conditions and resources necessary for effective professional practice.

Adopted by the CEC Delegate Assembly, April 1995 newsletter.

FCEC
10251 SW 88 STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33176



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.ffcec.org
