

President's Message

Vicki Writsel, President



Greetings!
Another school year is coming to an end. This is the time during which we reflect on

our accomplishments and we anticipate the future. As special educators, we have reason to be proud of the accomplishments of our students with disabilities, but even more exciting opportunities lie ahead for us and our students.

Our profession is in the beginning stages of a massive

systems change. With the reauthorization of IDEA as the Improving Education for Children with Disabilities Education Act, there is renewed emphasis on accountability and research based practice. There are also many unanswered questions as well. Should the role of the special educator be that of a content specialist or a consultant to the general education program? What does "response to intervention" as stipulated in the new law mean in actual practice? Should short term objectives and benchmarks go the way of the dinosaur and the do-do bird? The new regulations will answer some of these questions, but

some answers will only become clear as we continually evolve our practice.

The Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children aspires to be a support for all of Kentucky's special educators through the changes that lie ahead. KYCEC pledges to become more visual and vocal in support of Divisions such as CCBBD, DEC and CASE. If we work together, we will continue the strong tradition of excellence in special education programs that has been Kentucky's trademark. Get involved in Kentucky CEC. We need you!

KDE seeks input on IDEA regulations

By John Roberts

As most of you already know, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has been reauthorized and new federal regulations are forthcoming within the next few months. While this process is occurring at the federal level, Kentucky will also be hard at work gathering input from stakeholders all across the Commonwealth in order to write state regulations. These regulations will provide guidance for the schools and for families to ensure that students with disabilities in Kentucky are receiving the education and services they are entitled to under the law.

In order to ensure that everyone who has an invested interest in this process has a voice,

the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) will be following three strands of communication. First, a survey surrounding the key changes in IDEA will be posed on the KDE website. This survey will give everyone an opportunity to voice their opinion and explain their responses about the key issues in the new IDEA. Second, Kentucky's 11 special education cooperatives will be conducting focus groups and town hall meetings between now and July 1st. These focus groups, consisting of various school personnel, parents and students, will be discussing key changes in the law and providing input toward writing regulations. The town hall meetings will be an open forum and extends an open invitation for

anyone to offer input. Finally, organizations, associations and state agencies with an interest in the education of students with disabilities will be asked to provide their suggestions on what they believe should be included in the regulations. All the information gathered will provide valuable input toward the writing of Kentucky's IDEA regulations.

Once draft regulations are written, KDE will be hosting public hearings. Again, this is an opportunity for the public to speak on the content of the regulations. After the public hearing process, the regulations essentially go the State Board of Education for final approval.

2007 International CEC Conference

By Bill Porter

The 2007 International CEC Conference will be held in Louisville. In 2006 it will be held in Salt Lake City. This year it was held in Baltimore. In preparation for the Louisville Convention, I met with the Local Arrangements Committee Chairperson in Baltimore. They had to recruit 270 volunteers. They had various

committees set up. They were: Promotion/Publicity, Registration, Volunteers, Technology/Data Base, Educational Site Visits, Diversity, Student Activities, Special Events and Program Hosts. If you would like to serve on any of these committees please contact me. Next year in Salt Lake City we will have a Kentucky booth where we will be promoting our state and also

we will have a KY Derby Party. Planning and setting up committees will begin during the KYCEC Leadership meeting during June in Bowling Green. You can contact me at the following: PO Box 467 - Franklin, KY 42135. Phone (270) 586-2008.

E-mail bporter@simpsonk12.ky.us.

Spring CASE/CEC a big success

By Marinell Kephart

The partnership for CASE and CEC was again a big success this spring. With over 100 in attendance each day, participants received lots of great information and materials on the newest Special Education Cooperative initiative — the facilitation and implementation of collaboration strategies. Lesa Hibbs and Lana Montgomery of the River Region Special Education Cooperative were our extremely interesting and successfully presenters.

CASE day on Friday was a jam-packed day with information from Lesa and Lana on the facilitation and leadership skills required for the successful implementation of collaboration strategies. Greta Stanfield also gave detailed data from a collaboration program she had led as DoSE of



Lesa Hibbs facilitates Spring CASE/CEC Conference on collaboration.

Mason County. KDE staff from the Division of Exceptional Children's Services was on hand in the afternoon to give updates on the new IDEA and KDE programs. All in attendance were thrilled to hear that our own Dr. Sharon Davis of Jefferson County was chosen as

CASE Outstanding Administrator. Hopefully, lots of Kentucky folks will be on hand to congratulate her at national CEC in Baltimore in April. Officer elections were held, and Carrie Bearden (OVEC) was selected as the incoming Vice-president of KY CASE.

On Saturday, KY CEC held its general membership meeting, distributed awards, and elected officers. It was announced after lunch that we will welcome Cindy Dawson of Bowling Green Public Schools as incoming Vice-president. The majority of the day was spent on the issue of implementing collaboration strategies in the classroom. Again, Lesa Hibbs of River Region Special Education Cooperative was an outstanding facilitator and presenter.

KYCEC award winners and new officers

By Jane A. Gross, Past President

It is my pleasure to announce the award winners from the conference on March 12, 2005. Awards were presented to the following: Outstanding Teacher of the Year - **Connie Miller**. Outstanding Special Education Administrator of the Year - **Susan Berger Williams**. Carl Perkins Contributor to Education Award - **John and Rhonda Leach**

Thank you to all of you for your commitment and dedication to

special education. You have most definitely improved the lives and education of our students with special needs.

I am very happy to announce the winners of the KYCEC Executive Board election. We welcome **Cindy Dawson** as our Vice President. Our incumbent **Recording Secretary, Leslie Brauer**, ran unopposed and was re-elected for her position. The new year begins July 1, 2005.

It is the hope of the Executive

Board that every member of KYCEC will visit our website and watch closely in their newsletters for the posting of the nomination forms for the awards and offices open for election for next year. These postings will appear after the Exceptional Children's Conference next fall. Please, start thinking now about persons who deserve the awards and offices, and be sure to submit nominations for them.

Regional teachers receive \$1,000 awards

By Mary White

Two Bowling Green teachers were recognized at the spring conference in Louisville and each one received a check for \$1,000.

To be eligible for this award, teachers must have demonstrated innovation, imagination, creativity and the ability to inspire.

Cindy Dawson is a special education teacher at Potter Gray Elementary. She works to "help every child reach his or her potential, by addressing his or her individual needs." She believes in using research based technologies and that "good teaching begins with effective classroom management."

Connie Miller is an FMD teacher at Moss Middle School. When helping her students succeed in the regular classroom, Connie must adapt assignments as well as provide teacher directed lessons. Connie has demonstrated



Left to right: Vicki Writzel, President KyCEC, Mary White, Minigrant/Award Chairperson and Cindy Dawson, newly elected Vice President and \$1,000 teacher award winner.

innovation and creativity through her video self-monitoring program which is sent home with her students over the summer in order to facilitate returning to school in the fall.

Connie was also chosen to represent KYCEC as Teacher of the Year. She will be eligible to compete for the National CEC

Teacher of the Year in 2006.

Congratulations to these award winners!

Teachers wanting to request an application for this ongoing award program, please check out the KYCEC website or e-mail Mary White, Minigrant/Award Chairperson, WhiteLinfarm@aol.com.

Sharon Davis awarded Outstanding Administrator of the Year

Sharon Davis was awarded Outstanding Administrator of the Year on April 6 at the Annual CASE meeting in Baltimore, MD. KyCASE nominated Sharon for this national award with support from the Kentucky Department of Education, Statewide Network of Special Education Cooperatives, and her Jefferson County staff. Dr. Davis has served on the Executive Board of KyCASE since 1997 and is currently Past-President. The award was granted to her not only

for her service to CEC but for innovations and contributions to special education in the state, impact on administrator preparation, quality of services to exceptional children, and community involvement.

Sharon has been in special education since 1978 and currently oversees the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) special education department who serve 98,000 students, 13,000 who are exceptional learners. JCPS is the

28th largest school district in the United States. Dr. Davis' personal philosophy is that "special educators today cannot be isolated nor think isolation" and she believes that administrators need to have a broad based knowledge of education and a vision to see the big picture and work toward special education being an integral part of the whole system. Congratulations to Dr. Davis.

Chapter 1011 gets new officers

The Chapter 1011 at The University of the Cumberlands — Cumberland College has elected the following people as officers for 2005-2006:

Melissa "Missy" Sterwerf - President; April Bowman - Vice President; Kristen Lee - Secretary; and Dr. Betty Herron - Treasurer and Faculty Advisor.

Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children Regional Classroom Teacher Awards 2005-2006

Five \$1,000 awards will be presented, this could be you!!!!!!

Kentucky CEC is initiating a regional award program to recognize outstanding special education teachers.

1. Applicants for these \$1000 awards must be: CEC members currently and for at least the previous 5 years.
2. Applicants should have demonstrated exemplary performance over a period of time, involving such qualities as innovation, imagination, creativity and the ability to inspire.
3. Applicants should be recognized by members of the profession.
4. A brief description of the applicant's model classroom practices should be submitted with the application and will be reviewed by the KYCEC Minigrant/Award Committee.
5. Awards will be competitive and be presented once a year at the KYCEC Spring Conference. Applications must be received by February 1, 2006.

There will be five (5) winners. These five winners will be finalists for the KYCEC Teacher of the Year Award. Please complete the application below.

Regions have been divided north and south of I-64 and east and west of I-75, leaving Jefferson County as a separate region.

Name of Special Education Teacher _____

Address _____

CEC ID# _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

School Represented _____

Signature of Special Education Director _____

Address _____

Please attach a brief description of model classroom practices used in your classroom.

Mail applications to:

Mary White, 4567 Briar Hill Road, Lexington, KY 40516; e-mail: WhiteLinfarm@aol.com;

Phone: 859-299-9660

**2006 CEC Annual Convention and Expo
April 5-8, 2006
Salt Lake City, Utah**

**2007 CEC Annual Convention and Expo
April, 2007
Louisville, Kentucky**

KyCASE activities

KyCASE's Executive Board is working hard this year on continued strategic planning which begun in February 2005, facilitated by Dr. Carrie Bearden, which will align Kentucky activities with the National CASE agenda/goals as well as better define activities specific to Kentucky that will carry forward over the next three-year period. This is continuation to a strategic plan developed January 2002. National CASE Goals include 1) Professional Development and Outreach; 2) Communication; and 3) Legislation and Advocacy. The next meeting will be held May 17 in Bardstown.

Successful activities conducted so far this year include

our partnership for the Fall Conference held in November and our Spring Institute with KY CEC focusing on Collaboration. Plans are already well underway for our Summer Conference to be held July 18 and 19 at the Embassy Suites in Lexington where Art Cernosia, Esq., an attorney and an education consultant from Williston, Vermont, will keynote. Registration is \$100 for members and \$175 for non-members to be mailed to Greta Stanfield, KYCASE President-Elect, Mason County School District, P.O. Box 130, Maysville, Kentucky 41056; telephone 606-564-5563.

Judy Adams, President, and Bonnie Kitchens, Vice-President,

recently attended the National CASE Board meeting in Baltimore, MD where Sharon Davis, KyCASE Past-President was awarded the National CASE Administrator of the Year. KyCASE also presented National CASE with a check for \$1000 as an investment in National for "growth" activities.

Upcoming activities will focus on developing Kentucky regulations for implementation of IDEIA, proposing solutions for highly qualified teachers in special education, continuation of the design of alternate pathways to a diploma, and design of a Leadership Institute for aspiring, new and seasoned special education administrators.

KY DEC News

KY DEC is alive and well, and looking for a few god men and women to get actively involved. As members of KY CEC, you are aware of the benefits of membership, but perhaps the following information can be helpful as you consider expanding your membership to include KY DEC or share with others.

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children is an international membership organization that works with or on behalf of children with special needs, birth through age eight, and their families. Founded in 1973, DEC is dedicated to advocating policies and practices that support families and promote the optimal development of children. Children with special needs include those who have disabilities, developmental delays, are gifted/talented, or are at risk of future developmental problems. DEC offers a variety of products and

services related to early childhood education and intervention such as *the Journal of Early Intervention, Young Exceptional Children, Young Exceptional Children Monograph Series, DEC Recommended Practices*, and supports professional standards, regional trainings and annual conference to be held in 2005 in Portland, Oregon.

The KYDEC officers for 2004-2005 include: Megan Purcell, Secretary; Teri Nowak, Treasurer; Cathy Keramidas, Membership Chair; Elizabeth McClaren, CAN Coordinator; Jackie Sampers, Vice President; and Brenda Mullins, President. We want to join you in meeting the needs of KY by developing a support system to include:

- ✓ Establishment of Regional Clusters with Care Group Leaders to nurture members;

- ✓ Support of DEC Strands at conferences to address special needs;

- ✓ Provide a Web site and List Serve dedicated to the membership and support at large; and

- ✓ Increase student involvement as an early support in personnel development

We are so excited about the upcoming year. With the uncertainty of the times and the daily stress of the work load, we fell strongly that KYDEC can provide that nurturing force so needed for all of us. We invite you to join us in this goal to spread the benefits of KY DEC by becoming an active member in the days ahead. If you have an interest in serving colleagues and families in your region through either of the above efforts, please email bmullins@uky.edu and we will work together to create exciting times for KY DEC. Our next meeting will be during the Early Childhood Conference in Louisville, Tuesday, June 21st - we hope to see you there.

Member Spotlight: Lindann Ward

By Shelly Weatherford, KYCEC Membership Chair

Lindann Ward is one of the wittiest people I have ever known and a great friend to many. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, shopping, socializing with friends, and anything to do with Mel Gibson or Rod Stewart. She also collects mice figurines and drives a sporty little hot rod.



Lindann has been in the field of education since 1973 and a member of CEC for over 36 years! She currently holds four degrees. Her first was a B.A. in special education and elementary education, with a minor in speech therapy. Next, she completed certification in preschool and administration, and then decided to pursue a M.Ed. in special education. She then went on to earn a degree as an educational diagnostician and obtained her

Ed.S. Lastly, Lindann received a Masters in Counseling. She has taught preschool through college level students of all ages and disabilities. Lindann worked as a school counselor for awhile, but has worked as a diagnostician/behavior consultant for most of her career. She plans to retire around 90 or 95!

Lindann first joined CEC in 1969 while a student in New Jersey. She states that she has always enjoyed the information and opportunities for professional growth that CEC has provided throughout the years. She demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities when she served as the KYCCBD President from 1995 to 1996 and again as KYCEC President in 2001-2002.

Bringing National CEC Teacher of the Year to Kentucky with Jane Humphrey of Heath Middle School in McCracken County is one of Lindann's most rewarding experiences. Other

memorable experiences have been being interviewed on NPR and presenting trainings on Nonviolent Crisis Intervention. She also mentioned that she will never forget a student of hers who contacted her after eight years to say that she was the reason why he never followed through on a suicide plan. Instead, he stayed in school and later obtained a good job. He is now happily married.

Lindann's vision for the future of special education would be to see a continuum of services that would enable access to life/job skills rather than emphasizing meeting school curriculum and credits. She would also like to see improved access to technology for students. Her advice for someone new to the field...stay involved with CEC and other professional organizations, read journals, network with other professionals, and learn stress management!

KYSCEC News

KY SCEC has been extremely active this semester. Several members of our chapter attended the National Conference for the Council for Exceptional Children in Baltimore, Maryland in April. While attending the conference our members learned a variety of things that will be useful to our members. Some of the sessions that members attended included learning intervention strategies for problem behaviors. While others attended sessions on tantrums, rages and meltdowns and the most effective strategies to handle these situations. And others attended sessions on cultural diversity and biases in the classroom. While we all attended different sessions, everyone was eager to share the information they learned from the sessions they attended. In addition to this, our members saw demonstrations on the most current products offered in assistive technology. Lastly, our

members visited the various graduate schools and several school districts to find out their options after graduation.

While in Baltimore, our student members attended a forum for the Student Council for Exceptional Children. It was there that our members collectively decided we wanted to host a strand at our state conference next year for students in preparation for hosting the national conference in Louisville, Kentucky in 2007. The strand would have many sessions that would relate to issues that would be beneficial to our pre-service teachers. KY SCEC is making great strides to create well developed, highly qualified educators as shown through our continuing to grow and prosper in our professional development.

KY SCEC is also in the planning stages for the Leadership Conference in June. There will be

representatives from several of the colleges. During the conference we are planning to follow a leadership training outline presented at the National Convention. It was also suggested that each school create a poster displaying an event that they did. From this we will have a fair, so that other schools can get ideas for their chapter. During this time we will also be having a presentation of the Parliamentary Procedures. It is our hopes that once we learn it we can apply it to our meetings.

The other major focus of the Leadership Conference is to start planning for the fall state conference. We plan to generate a list of ideas on what we would like our strand to present. We will also create a plan on how to get speakers and other needed resources. Our big goal is come up with a plan on how to get more college students to attend the fall conference.

**PLEASE DUPLICATE AND SHARE WITH OTHERS!!
ANNOUNCING...**

Gaining on the Gap with an Unbridled Spirit!

CONFERENCE ON PROGRAMS FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
GALT HOUSE EAST, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
NOVEMBER 20-22, 2005

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION BY MELINDA BAIRD ON NOV. 21
PLUS OVER 200 BREAKOUT SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS AND INSTITUTES

- Topics will cover a variety of the major issues of the time. Over 50 exhibitors have expressed interest. An \$80.00 conference registration fee will cover your attendance, two breakfast functions, and access to exhibits.
- A special hotel rate of \$84 per night in the East and \$74 per night in the Tower has been established. For hotel reservations contact the Galt House Hotel - phone 800/THE-GALT or 502/589-5200.
- Six hours of training will be offered on Sunday, Nov. 20 as an option for emergency/probationary teachers who need to get all their hours in one day, or for any others who choose to participate.
- Only workshops (3 hours) and institutes (6 hours) will be offered on Sunday.

This conference is being hosted by Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children in collaboration with Kentucky Department of Education, Council for Administrators of Special Education, Council for Children with Behavior Disorders, Division of Early Childhood, Special Education Cooperatives, Parent Resource Centers, Regional Training Centers, Kentucky School for the Blind, Learning Disabilities Association, VSA arts of Kentucky, Kentucky School Boards Association, and others. There is a registration form below for your convenience. Another more detailed announcement will be sent in late August or early September.

REGISTRATION FORMS WITHOUT PAYMENT OR P.O. ENCLOSED WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

EARLY REGISTRATION FORM

41st Annual Conference on Programs for Exceptional Children
Galt House East, Louisville, Kentucky
November 20-22, 2005

Please complete one form for each participant. Pre-registration forms and payment must be received by November 1, 2005.
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS USED FOR MAILING YOUR CONFERENCE CONFIRMATION AND RECEIPT, SO PLEASE FILL IN ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION.

Name

HOME Mailing Address

City State Zip

Phone: Home Work

School District/Agency

Conference Registration: (Any part or all of Conference) until Nov. 1 \$80.00 CHECK # _____
 Student Registration and Retired Educators (currently not working) until Nov. 1 \$30.00 P.O. # _____
 Advisor's Signature required for student's registration _____

FOR CONFERENCE PLANNING, PLEASE CHECK THE DAYS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND.
 SUNDAY ONLY _____ MONDAY & TUESDAY ONLY _____ ALL THREE DAYS _____
 Please list any special accommodations or needs: _____

MAKE CHECK OR P.O. PAYABLE TO KYCEC - Conference Coordination (or KYCEC-CC)
BE SURE YOUR CHECK OR P.O. ACCOMPANIES YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.
DO NOT SEND REGISTRATION FORM WITHOUT PAYMENT.

MAIL or FAX THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO: KYCEC - Conference Coordination (or KYCEC-CC)
 C/O Marinell Kephart, PO BOX 76091, Highland Heights, KY 41076-0091 FAX 859/431-3760 Email: KYCECCC@fuse.net

A \$20.00 PROCESSING FEE WILL BE CHARGED FOR EACH CANCELLATION - NO CANCELLATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER NOV. 1

ON-SITE REGISTRATION FOR ALL ATTENDEES WILL INCREASE TO \$95.00

Pamela Coe
Caveland Educational Support Center
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