

# Exceptional News

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

WINTER 2010

## Announcing the Kentucky Yes I Can! Awards 2010

Applications will be available starting April 26th. Deadline August 16th, 2010

Applications may be downloaded from [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org) or the KYCEC Facebook page starting April 26th, 2010. If you have additional questions, contact Jennifer W. Eckler at [jennifer.eckler@nkces.org](mailto:jennifer.eckler@nkces.org)

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest international professional organization for special educators, works to improve the educational success of individuals with disabilities and gifts and talents.

The *Yes I Can!* Awards honor students with disabilities who excel. These awards celebrate the achievements of children and youth with disabilities; encourage these individuals to seek their highest potential; and increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities. Nominations may be made by teachers, principals, related service providers, friends, and parents. The nominator does not need to be a KYCEC member.

This is the first time in a several years that KYCEC will again be honoring *Yes I Can!* recipients for *Kentucky Yes I Can!* Awards. The committee will select 2 winners in the categories:

Academics	Arts	Athletics
Community Service		Employment
Extracurricular Activities		Independent Living Skills
Self-Advocacy		Technology

### Each Kentucky Yes I Can! Award winner will:

- Be invited to attend a special awards ceremony at the KYCEC 2010 Convention and participate in a field trip in the convention's host city, Louisville.
- Receive a night's accommodation at the hotel in which the awards ceremony will be held.
- Receive a plaque and letter of congratulations from KYCEC.
- Be featured in *KYCEC Today*, CEC's e-newsletter.
- Be featured on KYCEC's web site.
- Be entered in the National CEC *Yes I Can!*

## KY CASE Legislative Seminar – Great Success by: Terry Ray, KYCASE President

KY CASE hosted a Legislative Seminar on January 19-20, 2010 in Frankfort. The purpose of the seminar was to review the legislative process in Kentucky, discuss key educational issues scheduled for General Assembly consideration, prepare Talking Points for discussion with local legislators and conduct legislative visits. Speakers included Senator Ken Winters (Murray, KY), Larry Taylor (KDE), Anita Muckelroy (Legislative Research Commission Assistant Director), Teresa Combs (KY School Boards Association Senior Attorney), and Wayne Young (KY Association of School Administrators Executive Director). The 24 participants included special education directors, cooperative directors and consultants from nine cooperatives.

Participants studied six House and Senate bills impacting special education. The culminating event was meetings with Senate and House representatives from the participant's hometown. "I provided my senator with talking points about the six targeted bills. He was most interested in learning more about

each bill and he asked me to be a resource for future questions concerning education," reported Wayne Sizemore, special education director from Breathitt County. The senator explained that he must read up to 1500 bills per session, thus he relies on informed sources for background information.

KY CASE Facilitator Greta Stanfield, special educator from Mason County, was pleased by the interest and enthusiasm of participants and speakers. "We hope to make the KY CASE Legislative Seminar an annual event. It is so important for educators to take an active role in policy making. A call, e-mail, letter or visit to a legislator can make a difference for children and for schools," explained Stanfield.

Marlene Jones, special education director from Campbell County, stated, "It was truly a wonderful experience. I learned so much and it was great to see it all first hand. I learned one very important lesson; I need to dedicate time to educating my local legislators...given the impact of their decisions on special education."





**Message from the President:** by: Shelly Weatherford

Every so often I come across a quote that really makes me stop and think. Here is one that caught my attention that I would like to share with you. *"There is a brilliant child locked inside every student."* ~ Marva Collins.

Now I have to admit when I first read it, I did not think much about it. A short while later, I thought about it again and became intrigued. Did it really mean "every student"? This led my thoughts to my belief that all students can learn and as I thought about it further, I remembered something I had read about the differences between a good teacher and a great teacher. Good teachers have high expectations for students. Great teachers also have high expectations for their students, but more importantly they have high expectations for themselves. *You can make miracles happen when you truly believe in high expectations for yourself and your students!*

Marva Collins' words came to me again as I listened to Larry Bell speak at the Exceptional Children's Conference this past November. He captivated the audience with his ideas, research, facts, and figures about what makes a great teacher. He claimed that the teachers who put his ideas into action moved 100% of their novice students to the proficient level! And, supported it by giving us contact information for teachers all across the country who teach in classrooms just like yours! If these teachers can go from good to great, you can do it too!

As a whole the conference was a huge success. With twelve collaborative partners, over 150 breakout sessions, workshops, and over 30 vendors, everyone found something that was "just right" for them! The excitement sparked at this conference continues as several have contacted me since then wanting information on the next fall conference.

Currently we are planning for the fall conference along with other state activities. The membership committee is busy gathering "bits of news" about what you are doing in your schools. They are also keeping up with what is happening on Facebook. And, the Yes I Can committee is developing the first annual "Yes I Can!" awards celebration in the state.

CEC headquarters has been very busy too. They continue to publish the TEC journal, keeping us informed about cutting-edge research, and provide support to state organizations. They also fight for the rights of our special education students on Capitol Hill. In past months, they have been working on legislation that will insure assessment practices are accessible to diverse learners so that all students will benefit from assessments that allow them to effectively demonstrate their knowledge and skill.

I encourage you to believe you are the key to unlocking brilliance within your students! With great teachers and improved assessments, all students can succeed. In closing, I'd like to share something I wrote several years ago, *"Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence."*

**Introducing Pam Matlock, KYCEC Secretary**

KYCEC is proud to announce Pam Durbin Matlock as secretary. Pam and Bill have been married for 33 years and have one daughter. Their daughter BJ Farrell is a LT. in the US Navy and is a graduate of the US Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Pam taught for 27 years in the Paducah school system as a special education teacher/collaborator. Pam is currently on staff at Murray State University (in her 8th year) where she is a Lecturer, Special Education Program and

Education Coordinator on the Paducah campus.

Pam loves to travel and has had the opportunity to give presentations on "Special Education in America" at the Shandong University in Weihai, China in 2008 and attended an Environmental Education program in Australia in 2009. She is currently planning a special education presentation in Germany for the summer of 2010 as well as an introduction to special education class in Ireland this May of 2010.

Pam appreciates the opportunities that CEC and KYCEC offer to our students, parents and professionals. She still



remembers the first CEC grant she was awarded in 1980 to develop a middle school transition program and is happy to be working with the KYCEC program still today. *Please welcome Pam as our secretary.*

**News From KY CCBD** by: Lauren Dowell

**K**Y Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders is happily planning the 2010 Behavior Institute for July 14-15 at the Lexington Convention Center in Lexington, KY. The keynote is Ron Clark, Disney's Teacher of the Year and the founder of the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, GA.

There will be a special session to help teachers, school administrators and others understand the new legislation regarding restraint and seclusion. Previous year's sessions have been applicable for

other agencies, administrators and teachers.

KYCCBD will be accepting POs from districts this year.

More information can be found at: <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/behave/misc/bi01.html>

**Having behavioral difficulties in the classroom?  
Join the behavior discussion at  
<http://ccbding.ning.com/>. Find information and  
answers from professionals in the field.**

**News From KY DEC** by: Megan Purcell

**K**Y DEC is pleased to announce that it was awarded a minigrant from National DEC. The proposal included professional development on DEC Recommended Practices and specific topics for child care and Head Start in collaboration with the KY Child Care Resource and Referral offices. The CCR&R identified topics according to their needs and we conducted half-day workshops on their chosen topics of assessment and challenging behavior / social-emotional development. We conducted four workshops across the state of Kentucky from July-August of 2009 to over 200 total participants. Following that, three of our KY DEC officers (Kristi Lunceford, Sonia Michael and Megan Purcell)

presented our project at the National DEC conference in Albuquerque in October. Our presentation included how we developed and implemented the minigrant, our data results, and any suggestions for such a project for someone to replicate.

KY DEC also sponsored 7 presentations at the KY Exceptional Children Conference in Louisville in November. Topics included social / emotional development, partnering with families, literacy, the Project Based Approach, strategies for sensory processing, leadership and transition.

National DEC is updating the DEC Strategic Plan and Kentucky officers have reviewed that plan and offered feedback.

**KYCEC Membership Update** by: Arden Goodman, *Membership Chair*

**T**he Facebook page for KYCEC continues to grow with 147 current members from all over the state including students, teachers, administrators, parents and others who care about children with special needs in Kentucky. Check it out for current events and updates and see the pictures from the Fall Conference. When logged in to Facebook, search "KYCEC" under groups or link to <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=93673615142>.

KYCEC Facebook members were just reminded about the mini grants that are available through KYCEC and were sent a link to quickly access an application. If you are already a member,

suggest KYCEC on Facebook to people on your "friends" list who want to know more about special education in KY. Join us on Facebook!

The Fall Conference held some wonderful rewards for both members and non-members who attended our General Membership Meeting after the keynote address. Current KYCEC member Jill Griffiths won a registration to the CEC International Conference in Nashville in April! The International Conference is a great way to stay informed about the latest and greatest things happening in Special Education.

Three previous non-members were

introduced to all of the benefits of CEC by winning a one year membership: Lori Emerson, Susan Martin, and Susan Wickline! Their rewards will continue all year long with the benefits that CEC membership provides. Congratulations to the winners this year!

The Fall Conference also provided a special opportunity to those wanting to join CEC for the first time – reduced membership rates just for conference attendees! Several people took advantage of the option to join and experience CEC while getting a discount price right before the holidays! We hope that CEC will continue to provide this benefit in the future.

**ANNUAL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**  
**November 22-24, 2009 • Louisville**

*Editor's Note: The 44th annual conference was a huge success. If you were there, we hope you will enjoy the highlights on this page. If you were not there, you will see what you missed so join us this November at the Galt House. You will be glad you did. We would also like to again thank our partners in the conference with a special acknowledgment of our partnership with the Kentucky Department of Education.*

**2009 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

over 150 sessions and workshops

1400 in attendance

— **MANY SPECIAL EVENTS** —

awards luncheon

over 30 exhibitors

KYSCEC dance and auction

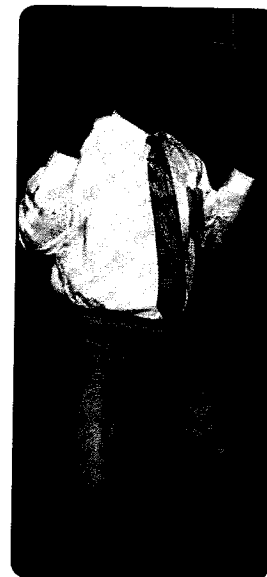
student art exhibits

professional meetings

prize drawings and more



**Keynote Panel Bill Porter and Shelly Weatherford, Mary Claire O'Neal, Ginny Miller, Larry Bell**



**Keynote Speaker Larry Bell Pumps It Up!**

**EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE**

**November 21-23, 2010 ♦ Galt House East ♦ Louisville**

**Theme: Journey to the Top—Slow and Steady Wins the Race**

**KYSCEC HOSTS Wii TOURNAMENT and OTHER CONFERENCE EVENTS**

by: Dr. Bruce Battles, *KYSCEC Advisor*

The KYSCEC hosted a Wii tournament at the state CEC conference. The grand prize for CEC members was a new Wii gaming system. The grand prize for non-members was a free one year membership in CEC. All participants had their scores recorded and a "wii bowl off" was hosted right before the silent auction.



**Wii Contest Winner Julie Talbott and KYSCEC Advisor Dr. Bruce Battles**

Ms. Julie Talbott was the winner of the Wii system (way to go Murray State!). The free one year membership to CEC was won by Jeff Sutton from Owens County Schools.

KYSCEC would like to thank the Pioneers organization for their support in this activity.

The silent auction was held before the student dance on Monday during the Fall CEC Conference. The auction raised a total of \$214. Thank you for those who donated and participated in this activity. The proceeds were divided between Murray State and WKU chapters.

Currently KYSCEC is in talks with the Sam Schmidt

organization to assist in their "Day at the Races" Indy Car Light Series program for spinal cord injured and their families. The race in KY will be in August this year and it is hoped that our organization can be of help in this worthy project.



**Student KYSCEC Members  
 KYSCEC: Future Leaders of KYSCEC**



**44th ANNUAL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE**  
**Highlights of Awards and Honors**

*Editor's Note: Among the many wonderful presentations and events at the conference, there were several opportunities for recognizing and honoring teachers, administrators, students and others for outstanding work and achievements. We wanted to share with you again some of those who deserve our applause.*



**LU YOUNG, Superintendent**  
**Carl Perkins Award Winner**

**KYCEC Award Winners 2009**

**Kimberly Johnson, Owensboro Public**  
 OUTSTANDING SPECIAL EDUCATION  
 ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

**Lu Young, Superintendent,**  
**Jessamine County**  
 CARL PERKINS CONTRIBUTOR  
 TO SPECIAL EDUCATION AWARD

**Peggy Williams, KYCEC Treasurer**  
 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**Janice Ferguson,**  
 WKU OUTSTANDING STUDENT ADVISOR



**Kim Johnson Receiving**  
**Outstanding Administrator**  
**Award**



**Peggy Williams, Treasurer**  
**with KYCEC President**  
**Shelly Weatherford**

**25 YEARS**  
**Of Special Education Service**

It is with sincere appreciation and gratitude that we honor these professionals for 25 years of dedication serving students with disabilities in Kentucky. Congratulations on achieving this milestone and making a difference in the lives of children. *(Some recipients are not pictured.)*



**Past Presidents**  
**Mary White and Dr. Arlene Hall**



**Minigrant Winner Miranda Barnett**  
**and Barbara Washington, Chair**



**KYCEC "Dreams" Art Contest Winners**

Congratulations to all of these winners and all students who received certificates for participating in the contest.

Also, a special thanks to each student's teacher.

**First place winners received \$50, 2nd place \$30, and 3rd place \$20.**

- | Elementary (1-5)     | Middle (6-8)         | High (9-12)           |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st - April Spencer  | 1st - Isaiah Carter  | 1st - Teresasue Abell |
| 2nd - Autum Chapman  | 2nd - Dahlton McCray | 2nd - Dexter Banks    |
| 3rd - Erica Martinez | 3rd - Austin Miller  | 3rd - Mesha Carter    |

**Other Award Winners**



**Chris Thacker**  
**Wins the KDE Award**



**DOES CEC HAVE YOUR CORRECT E-MAIL?**  
 CEC needs your current e-mail address in order for you to receive electronic newsletters. KYCEC is also exploring this format. Three ways to provide or correct your address:  
 ► [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org) ► call 888-232-7733  
 ► [e-mail service@cec.sped.org](mailto:e-mail.service@cec.sped.org)

### (1) Mary May Wyman Outstanding KYCEC Member of the Year Award

**BACKGROUND:** The purpose of this award is to allow KYCEC to honor a member who has shown consistently unselfish service in promoting the education and welfare of exceptional children in Kentucky.

**CANDIDATE:** The nominee must be a KYCEC member in good standing with a minimum tenure of continued membership for the three (3) previous years.

- Should have contributed to the education and welfare of exceptional children in a number of areas—legislation, recreation, curriculum, etc.
- Should have devoted much time and effort to the local chapter, subdivision(s), and KYCEC

- Should have provided leadership in the community, with local school(s), and with parents.

**Information needed to complete nomination:**

1. All information requested on the nomination form.
2. Description of the outstanding professional contributions of the nominee.
3. Vita of nominee.
4. Letters of recommendation.
5. Verification of membership (obtainable from CEC headquarters).

### (2) Carl Perkins Contributor to Special Education Award

**BACKGROUND:** This award is given to individuals for their distinguished leadership and service in the interest of exceptional children.

**CANDIDATE:** The nominee need not be working in the field of special education nor be a member of KYCEC. The nominee should have significantly contributed to

the education and welfare of exceptional children in Kentucky. Information needed to complete the nomination:

1. All information requested on the nomination form.
2. Description of distinguished leadership and service in the interest of exceptional children.

### (3) Outstanding Special Education Administrator of the Year Award

**BACKGROUND:** This award is to be given to a school administrator whose primary responsibility is special education. The award is for distinguished leadership and support for special education and/or gifted and talented programs in Kentucky.

**CANDIDATE:** The nominee must be a special education administrator in Kentucky and a CEC member. The nominee must have provided outstanding leadership and developed innovative programming for exceptional individuals.

**Information needed to complete nomination:**

1. All information on the nomination form must be completed.
2. A description of the outstanding leadership and the innovative programming which was developed for exceptional individuals.
3. Vita.
4. Letters of recommendation.
5. Verification of membership.

**Nomination form for awards 1, 2 and 3:**

Name of Award \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (work) \_\_\_\_\_

(home) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Division, Chapter, Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Person Submitting Nomination \_\_\_\_\_

CEC Officer Position (if held) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # (work) \_\_\_\_\_

(home) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Person Submitting Nomination \_\_\_\_\_

## AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

### (4) Outstanding KY Student CEC Member of the Year Award

**BACKGROUND:** This award is to be given to a student CEC member. It is the highest tribute KYCEC pays a student member. The student may be a member of a KY student chapter or a regular chapter.

**CANDIDATE:** The nominee must be a student member of CEC in Kentucky. The nominee should have demonstrated outstanding service and leadership to KYCEC, the chapter, and exceptional children in Kentucky. The nominee must be in special education training.

**Information needed to complete nomination:**

1. Verification of membership (obtainable from CEC headquarters).
2. All information requested on the nomination form.
3. Letters of recommendation.
4. Description of involvement with student CEC, experiences with exceptional children, academic/community honors, awards, and leadership responsibilities.

**Nomination Form:**

Nomination of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

CEC ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Joined CEC: \_\_\_\_\_

Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate or Graduate Student:  
(please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter name \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's name \_\_\_\_\_

College Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of person completing this form

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### KYCEC Seeking Candidates for Executive Board

The Nominations Committee of KYCEC is seeking qualified candidates for Vice President and Membership Chair. The election for these officers will be held during the spring. To be nominated for office, a candidate must be a member of KYCEC in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to the election.

The office of Vice President is a four year commitment. After serving one year as Vice President, the candidate succeeds to President Elect, then to President and finally to Past President. The Vice President performs the duties of the President in the absence of the President and President Elect and serves as editor of the KYCEC newsletter. The President Elect chairs the Planning Committee for the annual KYCEC

Conference. The Past President is in charge of awards and nominations.

The Membership Chair, who serves a three-year term, organizes the membership committee composed of 4 members-at-large. The chair is responsible for promoting and sustaining membership, communicating with the chapters and divisions, keeping membership records, etc. This is a great opportunity to get to know people and be creative.

Serving as an officer of KYCEC is a wonderful opportunity for professional growth. If you are interested in being considered for one of these positions or if you would like to nominate a qualified colleague for a position, please complete the nomination form below.

#### NOMINATION FORM KENTUCKY FEDERATION OF THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN OFFICER NOMINATION BALLOT 2009

Office Nominated for: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_

*To be valid all information MUST be provided: Please include a recent copy of the nominee's vita.  
Nominator and Nominee must be current members of CEC. The ballot must be signed by the Nominator and Nominee.*

**Return form by March 20, 2009 to:**

**Jennifer Green**  
321 Old Porter Pike  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #1042  
Lexington, KY

**KYCEC EXECUTIVE BOARD — 2009-2010**

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**KYCEC NEWS AT**  
[www.kycec.us](http://www.kycec.us)

To visit KYCEC at Facebook  
See Membership Update – page 3.