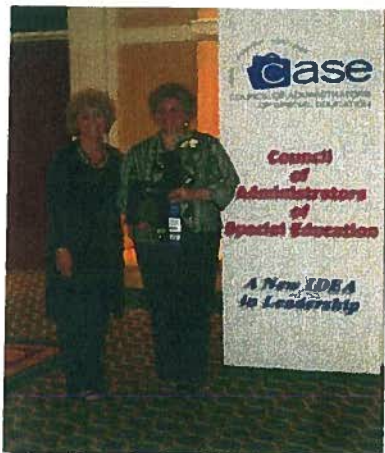


KY Council for Exceptional Children

An Exceptional Administrator

Owensboro Public Schools Special Education Coordinator Kim Johnson was named the national Outstanding Special Education Administrator of the Year by the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE). She received the award at the national CASE conference in National Harbor, MD on April 26th. The award recognizes individuals making significant professional contributions to leadership behavior and field practice in the administration of programs for students with disabilities and/or who are gifted.

Mrs. Johnson, OPS Special Education Coordinator since July 2003, has designed and implemented an array of innovative programs emphasizing research-based instructional programs and practices, interagency collaboration, compliance with regulations, and training of teachers. Facilitating the provision of high quality services to children with disabilities has been the focus of a number of Mrs. Johnson's professional endeavors. Major accomplishments in this area focus on services to students with autism, the establishment of Work Groups for staff, innovative communication methods, summer training of teachers, and community agency collaboration.



Jill Griffiths, KYCASE President
with award winner

Kim Johnson, Outstanding Special Education Administrator of the Year

Mrs. Johnson has served as a local volunteer coordinator for Special Olympics for 20 years, including Owensboro, Daviess County, and surrounding counties. She was selected as Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children, Special Education Administrator of the Year 2009 and was selected for the national award from among applicants around the country nominated by their state CASE organizations.

Special points of interest:

- > Fall Conference Registration Form
- > Emergency Procedures
- > Mini-Grant Winners
- > New Teacher Spotlight
- > Student Chapter Updates
- > "Yes I Can"

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Message From the President, Leslie Brauer



Oh, the renewal that comes with spring! This spring, the Annual CEC Convention was held in National Harbor, MD. There were opportunities to be informed and engaged in the current discussions in our field through town hall meetings, sessions, workshops, and networking. Across our nation, CEC persistently examines the legislation, trends, and issues affecting our profession. A common theme echoed through conversations with friends and other professionals from Florida to British Columbia – educating children with exceptionalities remains a demanding job. There will always be mandates, demanding case loads, diverse role expectations, transitions, assessment, and, of course, the paperwork.

Even with these demands, special educators remain passionate and committed to helping students succeed. Because of you – Kentucky CEC members - I was able to proudly share with others Kentucky examples of our commitment to always placing students' interests first by providing the highest standards of educational quality. I am Kentucky proud.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Kentucky CEC President. I am grateful for the dedication of the Kentucky CEC Board in meeting our council goals. Thank you Kentucky CEC members for what you do every day. You are the heroes in the lives of our children. Your influence today lasts a lifetime.

Division for Early Childhood—Megan Purcell

The KYDEC has been busy! We have had representation at events such as the national DEC convention in Kansas City, Children's Advocacy Day at the KY State Capital, KY Head Start Association conference, and the national CEC annual convention in Maryland. KYDEC is also working to recognize those who work hard for the benefit of children and families through a new DEC award and scholarships for students to attend local conferences.

The KYDEC is accepting nominations for our 1st annual DEC award to be presented at the Exceptional Children Conference in November, 2011. The award application has been disseminated via the KYDEC listserv and nominations have begun. Dissemination will also occur through the various early childhood conferences such as Head Start, Early Childhood Summer Institute and Infant / Toddler Institute. Or, for additional information, you may contact Megan.Purcell@eku.edu.

As well, KYDEC is accepting applications for registration scholarships for Kentucky undergraduate and graduate students in early childhood for the 2011 state early childhood and exceptional children conferences. The application is being disseminated monthly in the KYDEC list serv and is available by request (again, contact Megan.Purcell@eku.edu). The conferences approved for this scholarship have been and are the spring Kentucky Head Start Association conference, the Early Childhood Summer Institute, the Infant / Toddler Institute, the Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education fall conference, and the Kentucky Exceptional Children Conference.

Lastly, KYDEC is accepting nominations for executive board positions of Secretary and President Elect. Nominations will be accepted through July 10 when the nominations list will be disseminated via the KYDEC list serv. Voting will then occur in the general member meeting at the Infant / Toddler Institute in August.

Upcoming Early Childhood Conferences for 2011:

KY Early Childhood Summer Institute: June 20-21, 2011 Galt House Louisville, KY

Infant-Toddler Institute: August 9-11, 2011 Lexington Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Lexington, KY

KAECE/Head Start Association Conference: September 29-October 1, 2011 Perkins Building on ECU Campus Richmond, KY

National Division for Early Childhood Annual Convention: November 17-19, 2011 National Harbor, MD

To join our KYDEC list serv, please see our website at <http://ky.dec-sped.org/>

Yes I Can! Award Nominations

The *Yes I Can!* Awards were established to honor children and youth with disabilities who have excelled. Thousands of children and youth have been recognized since the program's inception in 1982. Each year, National CEC selects approximately 27 winners for their outstanding achievements in one of nine categories:

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

This year Kentucky CEC is excited to announce that we will be again recognizing 9 state winners at the local level at The Exceptional Children's Conference in Louisville. Please take the opportunity to nominate and recognize our incredible students on their extraordinary talents.

All nominations must be postmarked no later than

June 3rd, 2011.

If there are any questions, please contact Jennifer Eckler at Jennifer.eckler@nkces.org or Matt Moore at mmoore@jessamine.kyschools.us.

"911 What is your Emergency?" - Beckie Brown, Scott County

Two years ago, teachers in Scott County began encouraging parents to contact their local 911 director to provide what might be crucial information in case of an emergency. Parents have responded well and have found this information to be beneficial.

Parents throughout Kentucky can also contact their local 911 director. The information will be given to the local EMT's, firefighters, and police as they are responding to an emergency. The information provided would be listed on the "property alert". Therefore, when a call comes into 911, the dispatcher will provide the information that has been given to them. Also, parents may include an emergency contact person who will be called as well. This will enable a "familiar face" to be able to assist as soon as possible.

Having this important information available is just one more way to ensure that individuals with significant needs are given the communication tools and care necessary in what could potentially be a stressful and overwhelming situation for them.

An example:

Description:

Cole Stephens

10 year old boy, non-verbal, autism, may become aggressive or combative if scared

Ways to help Cole:

Use pictures for choices

Write questions on paper with answer choices, offer a snack

CEC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

First-Year Teacher

**SARAH SOLED, Woodland Middle School,
Kenton County Schools**



I'm a special education teacher, and it's my first year teaching. It's great, and I love what I do, but it's also hard. You probably know what I mean. I truly enjoy my job, but as a new face to the profession, I felt it was important early on to surround myself with a support system of professionals who truly cared and were passionate to work with individuals with disabilities as well as extremely knowledgeable and experienced in their area of expertise. I'm fortunate that I've been able to surround myself with a support system of professional who truly care and are passionate to work with individuals with disabilities. They are knowledgeable and experienced. And luckily for me, they work in the middle school where I am a teacher of an EBD unit of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. My support network also includes 10 other first-year teachers in my cadre in the

Alternative Certification Program for Special Education at Northern Kentucky University. We share our challenges, give each other ideas on how to deal with difficult behavior issues or learning obstacles, and resources to use in the classroom, but I was still looking for more support! When one of my professors saw how much I wanted to connect with other professionals with expertise in the field of exceptional children, she suggested I look into The Council for Exceptional children. What a great resource! CEC has allowed me to cast my net of support even wider, providing professional development opportunities and resources I need to continue pushing my education and effectiveness as a new professional in the wide world of exceptional children. One of the most useful things that CEC has provided that I utilize on a *daily* basis is the publications and journals I re-

ceive, especially from the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders. Though all the students I work with fall within the range of emotional or behavioral disorders, each and every child I work with is unique, contributing their strengths and weaknesses to the classroom, and coming to school daily with his or her own personal baggage from home. Because of this, I am thankful on a daily basis that CEC keeps me on the frontier of exceptional children research which allows me to pull ideas, positive behavior plans, and best practice methods from these studies and allows me to learn more about different forms of exceptionalities. Through CEC, I am able to continue cultivating my support system so that I can be the best first-year teacher that I can be for my students.

KYCEC Mini-Grants

Kentucky CEC has budgeted \$650.00 for each mini-grant award. There will be a total of four (4) Chapter/Subdivision mini-grants available. The following priority areas have been designated: (1) teacher training; (2) membership; and (3) development and implementation of model programs. The priority area for student chapters is membership. The application must address an identified need, a rationale, a description of the proposed project and a budget.

A copy of the form for submitting a proposal is available online at: <http://www.kycec.us> . Proposals will be accepted from July 1, 2011 through March 2012. Written notice of approval or disapproval will be sent to the contact person upon review of the proposal. Please note that proposals will be considered on a first come, first awarded basis.

Grant awards will be competitive. Therefore, close adherence to the format, written communication skills and the specifics of the proposal's content will all be factors considered by the review committee. Note that grants are subject to district policy.

Award recipients must agree to fulfill the following:

1. Submit an article for the spring newsletter which summarizes and values the mini-grant activity.
2. Report the activities funded by the mini-grant award before May 30, 2012.

All proposals are to be mailed to:

Barbara Washington
3201 Alexander Hall
Murray State University
Murray, KY 42071

Email: barbara.washington@coe.murraystate.edu



46th Annual Exceptional Children's Conference

THE GALT HOUSE, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2011

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION ON NOV. 21

GREAT DOOR PRIZES AFTER THE KEYNOTE! PLUS – OVER 150 BREAKOUT SESSIONS, WORKSHOPS AND INSTITUTES

Topics will cover a variety of the major issues of the time. Over 50 exhibitors have expressed interest. A \$105.00 conference registration fee will cover your attendance and access to exhibits.

Special hotel rates are available at the Galt House until October 23. Rates in the SUITE Tower are \$164 single/double; \$174 Triple; \$184 quad. Rates in the RIVUE Tower are \$134 single/double; \$144 triple; \$154 quad. Overnight self-parking is complimentary, and those not staying overnight will be charged \$6 per day. For hotel reservations with a PO contact the Galt House at 800-843-4258 and mention "KYCEC". You may also reserve your room online with a credit card only at : <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/KYCEC11>

Six hours of training will be offered on Sunday, November 20 as an opportunity for emergency/probationary teachers who need to get all their hours in one day, or for any others who choose to participate.

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

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS USED FOR MAILING YOUR CONFERENCE CONFIRMATION AND RECEIPT, SO PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY. ONE FORM PER PARTICIPANT.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____ E-mail: _____

School District/Agency: _____

Conference Registration until November 1		\$105.00
Student Registration and Retired Educators (currently not working) until November 1		\$ 50.00
On Site registration, or ANY registration received AFTER November 1	add	\$15.00
One day registration until November 1 Circle day Sun. Mon. Tues.		\$ 70.00
Tuesday Awards Luncheon (KDE Report)		\$ 20.00
	Total	\$

I am a current CEC Member CEC# _____

Advisor's signature required for student registration _____ Check or PO # _____

Please list any special accommodations or needs _____

MAKE CHECK OR P.O. PAYABLE TO KYCEC (or Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children). 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: Fall Conference, Attn. Carrie Bearden, 657 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy, Suite 229, Louisville, KY 40222; Fax: 502-339-9755

Making a Little Money & a Lot of Memories

Reflection from Jane Russell, SCEC, President, MSU – Paducah Chapter

Polar Plunge!!!



Being involved in the Polar Plunge, and consequently the Special Olympics of Western Kentucky this semester, was a truly memorable experience. As members of the Student Council of Exceptional Children (SCEC), our group knew we wanted to raise money for the Special Olympics to be held in April, but how? When the secretary of the SCEC proposed the idea of jumping into Kentucky Lake in the middle of February, I immediately laughed and refused. All I could imagine was hitting the freezing water, my body going into shock, then sinking into the muddy pits. But the more I thought about this crazy idea, the more I saw the benefits of taking the Polar Plunge for a great cause.

I recruited a team from our Student Council of Exceptional Children (SCEC) group from the Murray State Paducah Campus to raise money. We raised \$270, in fact, and met at the lake for the event's registration on that very cold and cloudy day. We were entertained with music and costumed jumpers from many other organizations. After what seemed

like hours of waiting in line with a few hundred other brave souls passionate about helping people with special needs, it was finally my team's turn to take the plunge.

One, two, three, and jump! My body hit the cold water and I immediately scrambled to find the ladder to scurry back up to the deck. That was it; the bone chilling experience was over in a matter of seconds! (Believe it or not, I was no longer cold. After being in the icy water, the February air seemed almost comfortable.) In my opinion, the anticipation was much worse than the actual plunge. I would definitely take the Polar Plunge again for such a good cause!

On April 19, we were able to see the results of our efforts at the area's Special Olympics held at Murray. Our team members from the SCEC and close friends participated. We arrived early on Saturday morning to Racer football field expecting to shield ourselves with sunscreen, but instead we were bundled up in hats, scarves, and gloves. Our SCEC

group was assigned to hand out water, which wasn't in high demand with most of the Olympians asking for hot coffee or cocoa instead. So, we became cheerleaders instead of thirst quenchers. The whole experience was so very heartwarming. To see the excitement and joy in the faces of the participants gave me a great feeling. Each participant received a medal and tons of praise. I am so proud to have gotten a chance to be a part of the Special Olympics and the fundraising for it.

Being a member of the Student Council of Exceptional Children and participating in such wonderful activities is so personally gratifying. Without volunteers and supporters, these activities couldn't take place. It is definitely a win-win for both the participants and the volunteers. SCEC is a fabulous organization that supports our efforts of supporting those with special needs and provides us with opportunities to create lifetime memories for ourselves and others. I am happy to be a KYSCEC member.

A Day of Service, By Debbie Samples

Graves County High School recently hosted its "Second Annual Day of Service". Approximately 1,400 high school students (grades 9-12) participated in various community service activities throughout the county and surrounding area. Students were involved in activities ranging from clearing storm debris, filling sandbags to counteract flooding, pulling weeds & mulching, to painting.

Miranda Barnett, FMD special education teacher and KYCEC member looks forward to this day because it allows her students to "shine". It is also a culminating activity for her special education students and their peer mentors. Fifteen students with special needs accompanied by 23 peer mentors from the general education classes participated in the school wide community service day. The "Service Day" for the special education students starts with Olympic

type events such as water balloon toss, three-legged race, sack races, egg/spoon race, and tug of war. The students enjoyed a picnic lunch together. The entire group of students then traveled to an Assisted Living Facility where they washed windows, planted flowers, and picked up trash.

According to Ms. Barnett, "It is fantastic to see all of the students as one. My homeroom class is so wonderful working with the FMD students." The peer tutors from Ms. Barnett's homeroom also look forward to this day. Ms. Barnett says, "It is a time that they can work together as a team." Senior & Peer Mentor Grant Samples looks forward to helping with the Olympic events & community service activities. According to Samples "It is a great feeling to see the special needs kids working together with everyone else at school, getting to do something im-

portant for the community."

The peer mentor program has had a tremendous impact on all students involved. Ms. Barnett believes that this is one of the best and most effective ways for the students to learn. There is a required paper at the beginning and end of the year for the peer tutors. At the end of each year every peer mentor writes a final paper about their overall experience and the papers are **phenomenal**. They are quoted saying that they have learned much more from the students with disabilities than they could ever teach them. They also say that they realize they have genuine, true friendships with the special education students because they love the peer mentors exactly how they are, no matter what.

Student-Researchers: A KYCEC Mini-Grant

Success Story

By: Laura Crabtree & Hayley Brown

On November 22, 2011, 20 of the undergraduate students from Western Kentucky University's Exceptional Education program presented at the Annual Exceptional Children's Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The experience was amazing!

The junior cohort prepared and shared posters about behavioral interventions for students with disabilities in the schools. We read research journals, read our textbooks, looked at online resources, worked with students at Kelly Autism Program and consulted with our professors to develop a poster detailing specific behavior interventions. There were examples of token systems, level systems, pre-correction and even a poster on how to use time out! The senior cohort presented on research based reading interventions. The posters presented gave teachers a wide variety of ideas about how to increase the reading skills of students with disabilities – while meeting the standards. During the session, there was a constant stream of conference attendees from schools throughout the state. Small groups stayed at each presentation to ask questions or get more information on the topic.

The students in the WKU Exceptional Education program learned a great deal of information while in the process of preparing the posters, but it was during the session at the conference when the information "came to life". It was a memorable experience and one that will influence our professional lives forever.

The WKU students would like to thank the State Council of Exceptional Children for their support through the mini-grant. We used the mini-grant to pay conference registration for students who were members of the WKU SCEC chapter – that was nearly all of us! A big thank you to Dean Sam Evans of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at WKU. Dean Evans made certain that all students who had a proposal accepted attended the conference to represent our profession, WKU and our program.

Although we attended other sessions and activities during the conference, the highlight of the event was the presentation. We were nervous beforehand, but once we got started – it was a powerful experience to realize that we know what we are talking about! We are getting a great education at WKU and will be fabulous special educators when we graduate!



Western
Kentucky
University
Student
KYCEC
Chapter
2010-2011



Spotlight exceptional children and educators in your district in a future newsletter! Contact a KYCEC board member for more information.

Arden Goodman
116 Green Ln.
Georgetown, KY 40324

Phone: 502-542-0582

Web: www.kycec.us

Dustin Flagg was a Yes I CAN! award winner last year. Will it be someone YOU nominate this year? Contact Jennifer Eckler to get all of the information!

Jennifer.eckler@nkces.org

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