

# KY Council for Exceptional Children

## CEC Conference—Denver: Representative Assembly

KYCEC President Jennifer Green and President-Elect Arden Goodman represented KY in Denver at the 2012 CEC Representative Assembly. The Representative Assembly is the advisory body of CEC. It brings the perspectives of the membership from each state to the work of the Council, and plays a key role in communication between the units and CEC about issues, policies, priorities and activities related to the field of special education and related services. It assists in examining the impact of these issues on children with special needs and those who work with them. Details on discussions led by CEC President Margaret McLaughlin and others can be found on page 3.



KYCEC President, Jennifer Green, and President—Elect, Arden Goodman are pictured at the Representative Assembly in Denver.

### Importance of Partnerships with KYCEC and KDE

Johnny Collett, Director, Division of Learning Services in the Office of Next Generation Learners, is nearing the completion of one year on the job, including his time as interim director. Recently at a Stakeholders meeting for seeking input on the upcoming State Personnel Development Grant from the U.S. Office of Special Programs, he expressed his commitment to seek input from stakeholders on pertinent issues “early and often” during his tenure, and he cited the critical importance of keeping reciprocal channels of communication open between the partnerships within the state. Mr. Collett stated the current organization within the Kentucky Department of Education provides the structure for being efficient and effective in ensuring all students reach proficiency and graduate from high school ready for College and

Careers. This is a priority goal for the Division and the State. He reiterated the continuing commitment of the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Learning Services to ensure that students with disabilities receive the support and services they need to meet these goals. Additionally, Collett expressed the importance of a strong and growing partnership with KYCEC. He welcomes input from members and values this partnership. KYCEC supports and looks forward to continuing our partnerships as we work to accomplish common goals.

-Submitted by Pam Matlock

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Members with questions, concerns or comments can contact Director Collett at [Johnny.collett@education.ky.gov](mailto:Johnny.collett@education.ky.gov).

++++ALERT++++

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**UNTIL MAY 31, 2012**

**PUBLIC HEARING MAY 25**

**Proposed 703 KAR 5:070**

Major changes are being proposed regarding accommodations for students with disabilities during statewide assessments. These changes are for the 2012-13 school year and have been approved by the KY Board of Education.

All public comments will be compiled with the responses made by KDE staff for a return of the regulations to the KBE June 6 meeting.

Go to [kycec.org](http://kycec.org) and then to the KYCEC News page for a link to the regulations, a description of proposed changes and other background. This page will be updated as new information becomes available. It is important to stay informed on this issue because it impacts all exceptional education classrooms.

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## Message from the KYCEC President Jennifer Green

What a fantastic and wonder-filled time of year for our students with the exciting opportunities of summer break just ahead! However, in the eyes of educators this is a time of uncertainties and anxieties regarding the statewide assessments just ahead. We have faith in our students and their attitudes to do their best. We have seen them accomplish great things and make enormous strides toward proficiency in the year leading up to these moments. We have done our best to implement new Common Core Standards and to instruct students with integrity and fealty toward achievement of their individual goals and objectives. So why are we still so anxious? Because we are teachers, administrators, and service providers and we CARE! Simply put, this is the characteristic of teachers and our profession that makes us so unlike any of hundreds of other careers. Teachers deserve professional respect and reverence that should be associated with the sculpting of tomorrow's leaders.

It is with this thought in mind, that I was invited and attended a National Conversation About the Teaching Profession with the U.S. Department of Education and the National Council for Exceptional Children at the CEC 2012 National Convention and Expo in Denver Colorado. I feel it is my duty to report back to our membership that the U.S. Department of Education is currently at work on the development of the framework for a competitive grant program entitled The RESPECT Project that would seek to reward teachers and principals in ways commensurate with the valuable work they do. Currently, discussions are happening nationwide to gather feedback toward the vision and development of this project. It is hoped that these conversations will inform future policy and program directions. If you would like to be involved, email your request to read The RESPECT Project discussion document to [teachtalk@ed.gov](mailto:teachtalk@ed.gov).

On a note closer to home, KYCEC is still at work to get you the latest updates and information regarding the proposed regulation changes outlined in 703 KAR 5:070. Kentucky Department of Education has submitted a rewrite of the original proposed regulation change regarding inclusion of special populations in state required assessment and accountability systems. The previous proposal, 703 KAR 5:070, was met with enough opposition and argument over technicalities and proposed revisions, that it was not passed in time for implementation in this assessment cycle. The revised version of this same regulation provides much more clarification about accommodations for students with disabilities, those with 504 Plans, and English language learners. It continues the elimination of a reader for reading portions of the assessments, with only rare instances in which the District Assessment Coordinator can apply for a waiver. The public comment period for this revised, proposed regulation change is open through May 31, 2012 if the comment is provided in writing. The public comment hearing will be held on May 25, 2012 if one prefers to make public comments in person. Please navigate to <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Legal+and+Legislative+Services/KDE+Public+Hearing+Information.html> if you are interested in any information regarding how you can be involved with public comment, on this page you will find two documents listed alongside the Regulation name 703 KAR 5:070. The first document outlines details regarding how one can be involved with public comments or hearings. The second document gives the reader specific information regarding the proposed changes. The proposed regulation changes are expected to go before the KBE in its June session for implementation in the next school year.

I would also like to make our membership aware that Arden Goodman, our KYCEC President and Elect, and I attended the Council for Exceptional Children Representative Assembly held on April 13th at the Denver National CEC Convention. Of greatest importance within that day's meetings were discussions regarding teacher evaluation practices and CEC membership categories. National CEC President Margaret McLaughlin, facilitated the discussion of the Council's Teacher Evaluation Background Paper. It is hoped that with the added recommendations of the Representative Assembly, that CEC will have developed a final position paper in the Fall of 2012. Dan Ratner, Assistant Executive Director, Membership Services, facilitated the discussion of Membership Categories and Member Benefit structures. It is hoped that through the participation and comments of the Representative Assembly, the organization will restructure its membership categories in such ways to provide greater benefits and cost-sensitivity to its members.

Finally, if you would like to become more involved with National Council for Exceptional Children, you have an opportunity to nominate yourself or someone you know to serve on the CEC Board of Directors. Positions in need of applications are: President Elect, Member-at-Large Non-Designated (3 positions), Member-at-Large Diverse Ethnic and Multicultural Groups (2 positions), and Student Member. You may find more information at [http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/GovernanceLeadership/BoardofDirectors/Want\\_To\\_Make\\_a\\_Diffe.htm](http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/AboutCEC/GovernanceLeadership/BoardofDirectors/Want_To_Make_a_Diffe.htm).

## CEC Representative Assembly

CEC President Margaret McLaughlin led the meeting with a discussion of the mission statement and strategic plan. Other board activities included discussions of the requirements of states and local school districts to focus on evaluating teacher effectiveness and creating new teacher evaluation systems that include student achievement data. There has been little discussion on how the roles and responsibilities of special education teachers will be addressed in these requirements. Comments were made regarding types of data collection that should factor into teacher evaluation and measures of student achievement that should be considered when measuring teacher effectiveness. How will we accurately measure growth of students with disabilities? How will co-teaching be incorporated into the evaluation procedure? What training will need to occur? Following the convention in Denver, CEC will be incor-

porating the member feedback, identifying challenges and developing a position. CEC Asst. Executive Director of Membership Services, Dan Ratner led a discussion on membership categories. The Representative Assembly gave suggestions regarding membership models which provide the largest benefit for members, and how electronic communication and delivery of benefits can be implemented effectively. State and Provincial Membership Chairs met at the convention to discuss issues related to member benefits, retention and recruitment. Activities were shared by representatives from each state to assist in facilitating growth and insure that members have access to all benefits. The Council for Exceptional Children exists for the benefit of its members. It gives those who support people with disabilities a voice and a connection to decision makers at the federal and state levels. It is instrumental in assuring that issues and policies are communicated and information is shared. We will insure that our members in KY are represented and that your voice continues to be heard. -Submitted by Arden Goodman

As a **CEC** member, you are one of 33,000 other professionals who care about children & youth with disabilities.

**Remember to visit KYCEC website over the summer for updates on pending legislation.**

## Mini-Grant Update

All of the Mini-Grants were awarded for the 2011-2012 year. Following is a summary of one awarded to Fulton County schools.

The **Handwriting Without Tears** program has been a wonderful addition to our curriculum at Fulton County Elementary /Middle School. We found that the program is packed with wonderful ideas and motivational material that encourages our students to become better writers. Our students have had fun utilizing the program this year and have been

proud of the progress they have made. We highly recommend this program and believe every student can benefit from it. We are grateful for the grant that made it possible for us to have this wonderful program.

- Shelly Weatherford

**Plan now to request a 2012-2013 Mini- Grant for your program.**  
**Visit [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org) for info.**

**Summer Reading:**

- Read those back issues of *Exceptional Children... the # 1* most cited journal in special education !

Current EC has article by Vanderbilt University's Fuchs on "Smart RTI."

- Read those back issues of *Teaching Exceptional Children...* filled with researched based strategies.

Current edition has article by Dr. Missy Jones, Northern Kentucky University, on developing post-secondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

### Western Kentucky University SCEC Chapter's Annual Quiz Bowl

On Friday, February 17, 2012, Western Kentucky University's Student Chapter of CEC held its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Quiz Bowl. High schools in surrounding counties were invited to compete in this Academic Team Meet. The only requirement for team members was that the students have an IEP, but did not qualify for Special Olympics. Sixteen teams signed up and came ready to play that morning. Each team was required to pay a small registration fee and given t-shirts for the students. Before the competition started, a kick off ceremony was held. WKU SCEC President Laura Crabtree and Quiz Bowl Coordinator Alex Wood started off the ceremony by introducing all of the teams that were in attendance. A WKU football player, Hendrix Brakefield, was invited to get the crowd excited and pumped up for the day.

The teams were separated into two divisions in order to complete the competition within a reasonable amount of time. Each team division had 3 rounds, where the schools went head to head against each other. Each round was split into two halves so the students could have a small break. Question topics included Social Studies, History, Literature, and Math. Students were given an amount of time to answer. If they did not answer the question, the other team had an opportunity to answer. Scores were taken, and at the end of the ceremony winners were announced. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place were given to each division, along with a Sportsmanship Award.

This was a great day for everyone involved. The students had a great day of friendly competition, and WKU's SCEC thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone. This year was a success, and hopefully, this tradition will continue throughout the years. - Submitted by [Laura Crabtree](#), WKU SCEC President

## Welcome Bellarmine College—Newest KYSCEC Chapter - Thanks to Dr. Lauren Pohl, Advisor

### KYSCEC Outstanding Student

[Lisa Davison](#), Senior, Murray State University, was named KYSCEC Outstanding Student for 2011—2012. Lisa is the outgoing President of KYSCEC and has been a very visible advocate of special education and participant at KYCEC events across the state, such as Buddy Walk for Down Syndrome Awareness, Special Olympics, and Polar Plunge. She has just completed her semester of student teaching at MSU. Lisa is an enthusiastic supporter and advocate for CEC. She states, "Throughout my experiences at MSU, I have had the esteemed privilege of meeting and working with many successful and wonderful educators through KYCEC's student program. I served as Treasurer of my local chapter, and I was



elected KYSCEC President at the 2011 KYCEC Leadership Conference. It was there I was honored to meet the Pioneers and other members of the KYCEC board. I am so proud to be a part of this wonderful group of educators, who work tirelessly to support students with disabilities across the state. Receiving this award is such an honor. I want to thank the members for all their support throughout my education, and I look forward to being a member of KYCEC as a professional educator."

### Murray State KYSCEC News

Murray State KYSCEC Chapter has been fundraising this semester. After T-shirt sales, they are planning hoodie sales in the Fall. On May 4, the group participated in Calloway County's Relay for Life to support cancer fundraising. by selling popcorn and having a corn hole tournament.. Several of their meetings were conducted via Skype to accommodate both campus sites. Plans are continuing to begin recruiting in August.

## KYCEC Welcomes Barbara Washington—Vice—President

Spring 2012



The new vice-president is Barbara Harmon Washington, who has over 25 years experience in special education. She received her Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate degrees from Vanderbilt

University. She tenured in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools as a teacher and consultant for students with severe disabilities. She also worked in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools in Charlotte, NC as the transition specialist. Throughout the years, Barbara has served on many advisory boards for adult service agencies and organizations for persons with disabilities, further developing her passion for transition and self-determination. During the last 5 years, Barbara has worked as an assistant professor at Murray State University where she teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in moder-

ate to severe disabilities. In addition she is an advisor for Murray State's SCEC. Barbara has been an active member of the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children since 2008 serving as the KYCEC Mini-Grants chairperson. Barbara is a long time advocate and voice for students with disabilities. She enjoys and delights in her family. She is married to Gerald and they have 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren. Barbara welcomes the challenge of getting more involved with KYCEC, and KYCEC welcomes Barbara as our new Vice-President..

Morehead State's KYSCEC Chapter was accepted again into CEC's Pioneer Mentoring Program. This will be their third year to participate. Congratulations.

## KYSCEC Students Attend CEC Conference in Denver

**I had the honor of attending the National Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo in Denver, Colorado this year. I am so happy that I was able to attend. I have attended Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Louisville, KY twice and have had a wonderful time but this was such a different experience! This was my first time ever flying so that was an experience alone! I had the opportunity to attend many of the presentations while I was there. I brought back some great ideas and information that I have used in my current student teaching placement and plan to use in my future classroom. I also enjoyed walking through the poster sessions and seeing what other members had been doing throughout the year. The expo was overwhelming at first but so much fun! I loved walking through it and seeing all the different assistive technologies and resources that are available. There were also some items that were aimed for new teachers so I especially enjoyed those booths! I also had the opportunity to attend the CEC/CEC Pioneers Division Mentor/Mentee breakfast. Though my mentor was not able to attend, it was great to meet some of the other students who are taking part in the program as well. I also enjoyed the discussion about how to improve the program. This was a great trip and I am so happy and thankful that I had the opportunity to attend the convention. This would not have been possible without the support the KYCEC Pioneers and their generous donation to our chapter to assist us in funding our trip, in addition to support from Morehead State's Student Council for Exceptional Children's chapter. All of our hard work fundraising really paid off this year! I would advise anyone who has the opportunity to attend the National Conference next year in San Antonio to attend!**

**-Kallie Lake**



**Kallie Lake, Senior**

**Morehead KYSCEC Chapter**

**1st time CEC Conf Participant**

### Summer Conferences

#### Behavior Institute

June 27—28

Lexington

Convention Center

Featuring:

Mr. Mojo—Travis Brown,  
Marcia Tate  
Dianna Browning-Wright  
Marlene Wong

[www.state.ky.us/agencies](http://www.state.ky.us/agencies)

#### KYCASE Summer Institute

July 9—10

Embassy Suites

Lexington, KY

For more info:

Go to [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org)

Then

KYCASE Conferences

#### Early Childhood Institute

June 25-26

Crowne Plaza  
Louisville

[www.ky-ecsi.org](http://www.ky-ecsi.org)

#### KY Infant & Toddler Institute

August 7—9

Lexington Convention Ctr

[www.kentuckypartnership.org](http://www.kentuckypartnership.org)

#### Future

#### Conferences

- RTI  
Early Childhood  
Sept 19—21 San  
Ana Pueblo
- DEC Annual  
Conference  
October 28—30  
Milwaukee
- Fall Conference  
Nov. 18—20  
Galt House  
Louisville

### What's Going On....



#### GRREC Regional Director Named

The Green River Regional Educational Cooperative has appointed, Donna Link, as Special Education Division Director. Mrs. Link will coordinate and supervise special education consultative services provided through GRREC and ensure compliance with state funding requirements for the division, which includes more than a dozen special education consultants and staff members. GRREC is one of eight educational coopera-

tives in the Commonwealth and serves 36 districts in south central Kentucky and their 140,000 students, teachers, and administrators. She joined GRREC in 2005 as a Literacy Consultant and has served as a leader of professional learning for teachers throughout the region and state. Mrs. Link will begin her new role on July 1.

Submitted by Kathy Maciel

**As a member of Council for Exceptional Children, you are the voice and vision of special education.**

**CEC is interested in your suggestions & concerns about services, privileges, & benefits.**

**Contact them at 888-232-7733 or [service@cec.sped.org](mailto:service@cec.sped.org)**

#### SAVE THE DATE!!!

#### Fall Conference 2012

**November 18—20      Louisville**

**Keynote Address: Nelson Lauver**

Author, Broadcast Journalist, Humorist, and Human Rights Activist... Known to Radio Listeners for the "American Storyteller Radio Journal," a daily 4 minute slice of the American Experience.

**Summer Reading: Lauver's Newly Released Award Winning Memoir, *Most UnLikely to Succeed!***

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS:** If you have great information, strategies, or proven practices you want to share with your colleagues, and then go to [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org) under Annual Conference, Save the Date! There you will find a template of necessary information to submit a proposal.

Conference Coordinator Carrie Bearden.

**Publishing Opportunity from Kentucky Teacher Education Division:**

TED is excited to announce the upcoming publication of the online, *Kentucky Teacher Education Journal*. The purpose of this new publication is to provide research and practical information regarding teacher training in teacher education and special education. For those interested in submitting articles for the Spring/Summer edition, please contact Nicole Fenty, Editor, at nsfint01@louisville.edu.



KENTUCKY

The voice and vision of special education

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**It's easy to stay informed!**

**Visit the newly designed Website: [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org).**

**Watch for e-communications with CEC updates.**

**Join our Facebook members.**

CEC Convention

April 3 –6

San Antonio, TX

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***Thanks to all KYCEC members for their vocation to meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities in Kentucky!***