

KY Council for Exceptional Children

Don't Miss Fall Conference 2012

Are YOU attending the Fall 2012 Exceptional Children's Conference in November? Look at what is happening!



With the continuous growth we experience in education, we have ensured our program is aligned to the goals and strategies of the Kentucky Department of Education. EACH presentation will begin with a look at the goal with which the session aligns. In addition, each presenter will ask for an evaluation and provide an EILA certificate at the end of their session. We want to make certain your time at the conference is valuable to you!

Our keynote speaker this year is Nelson Lauver, author of the book *"Most Unlikely to Succeed"*. Nelson graduated from high school despite not learning how to read. Nelson is a story teller and motivational speaker, and he will be sharing his story with us. (See page 6 for keynote biography).

As in the past, we will have great sessions, wonderful exhibits, door prizes, awards, and the State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children will be joining us again! Be sure to look for the many fabulous items at the All Day Silent Auction, sponsored by the Student Council for Exceptional Children!

To register, go to the KYCEC website at http://www.kycec.org/cec_online_registration.html. We look forward to seeing you at the Galt House in Louisville, KY -November 18-20, 2012.

Special points of interest:

Fall Conference 2012

"Yes I Can"

Mini-Grant Information

Student Chapter Updates

Awards

Voting Procedures

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Message From the KYCEC President, Arden Goodman



It's easy to stay informed. Visit our website for professional updates and opportunities for you and your classroom needs.

www.kycec.org

**ATTN:
KYCEC MEMBERS**

To learn more about how your chapter or division can receive a mini-grant, please access the mini-grant application from the website or contact Debbie Samples at debbie.samples@graves.kyschools.us.

Kentucky has many legislative issues on the table right now which impact students with disabilities across the state. Issues related to the proposed changes to The Inclusion of Special Populations in the State-Required Assessment and Accountability have been brought to the attention of legislative committees, and possible amendments are being discussed. The use of restraint and seclusion are at the forefront of discussions, with proposed changes that may impact the way school personnel responds to incidents involving students who are exhibiting aggressive behaviors. The safety of all students and personnel is of utmost importance, and school districts need to insure that students and staff are not put at undue risk. Changes to the teacher evaluation system and the option for an Alternative High School Diploma are being discussed. Stay informed as these issues pro-

gress and decisions are made by checking the KYCEC.org website and looking for the latest news.

The Fall Exceptional Children's Conference is approaching quickly. Sessions have been planned across many strands which will allow educators and service providers who work with children with special needs to obtain new information and strategies to maximize their abilities to address the needs of these children. It is a wonderful time to network with other professionals and collaborate together to share our resources and information.

As a KYCEC member, you are eligible to apply for a mini-grant to provide funding for a program in your classroom. Previous awards have included materials, specialized programs, technology, or other innovative

ideas which can be used to support students with disabilities. Details for applying are on the KYCEC website.

One of the ways you as an educator can make the most impact is as a mentor for a new teacher in your building. Share your knowledge, experiences and be there to support your colleagues as they work through the many day to day issues which arise. It may be as simple as reminding them of the code to the copier, or just being a sounding board when the day has been difficult.

Take the time to become involved with KYCEC! We are always looking for new members of our Board of Directors, and elections will be held soon for open positions. Consider talking to a current board member about opportunities that are available and ways you can be involved.

Mini-Grant Opportunities & Winner

KYCEC is pleased to announce that mini-grants in any amount up to \$650.00 are available to chapters and/or members. Proposals should address one of the following areas — membership, teacher training, or development and implementation of a model program.

To date this year, Kentucky CEC has awarded one mini-grant to Leslie Brauer who teaches at Glasgow Middle School. Ms. Brauer will use the grant to purchase and implement the "Teaching to Standards: SCIENCE" program. This program will allow the students to participate in hands-on experiments and to engage in the inquiry process. Ms. Brauer's goal is for students with moderate to severe disabilities to be empowered through participation in this program to show-what-they-know to peers in the general education science class.

Funding is available for four additional mini-grants during this academic year. For more information about the grants and proposal forms, visit the KYCEC website or contact Debbie Samples.



Yes I Can 2012

KYCEC will once again recognize the winners of the 2012 Yes I Can program at Fall conference in November. The nominations were accepted from across the state in nine categories: Academics, Arts, Athletics, Community Service, Employment, Extracurricular Activities, Independent Living Skills, Self-Advocacy, and Technology. Yes I Can coordinator, Pam Matlock, reported the nominations were received from many districts and recognized students from all ages and categories of disabilities. The nomination packets are currently under review by a committee to choose this year's recipients, who will be recognized with their guests at the conference luncheon on Tuesday. Additionally, the winners will be invited to share their talents and stories at a session prior to the luncheon. All are invited to come and celebrate the accomplishments of this stellar group of individuals at the pre-luncheon session.

Nomination Information for Five 2012 KYCEC Awards

- Mary May Wyman Outstanding KYCEC Member of the Year Award**
 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.
- Carl Perkins Contributor to Special Education Award**
 This award is given to individuals for their distinguished leadership and service in the interest of exceptional children
- Outstanding Special Education Administrator of the Year Award**
 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.
- Outstanding KY Student CEC Member of the Year Award**
 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 member of a KY student chapter or a regular chapter.
- Certificates of Appreciation**
 Each Kentucky CEC chapter or subdivision may submit a name of ONE agency, organization, media network, etc., which has contributed to the advancement of education for exceptional children in the chapter or subdivision.

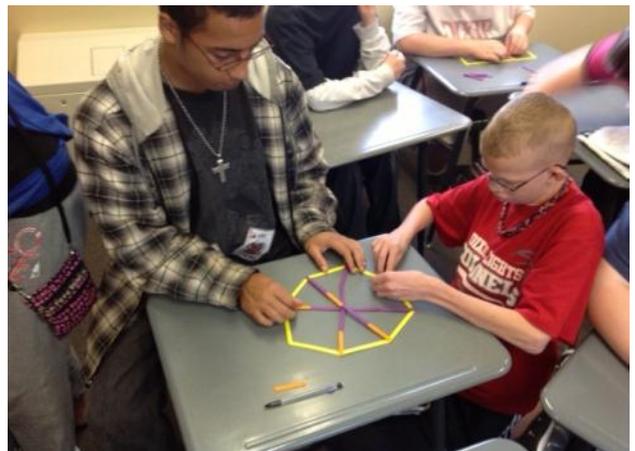
Watch for e-communications with CEC updates. Join our Facebook members.

Algebra Can Be Challenging!

When asked to describe the learning process her students go through on a daily basis, Allyson Hurtt, special education teacher at Dixie Heights High School of Kenton County Schools explains: "These students *can* solve equations accurately and efficiently with the help of a variety of manipulatives; creating algebra that is concrete is the key." In Mrs. Hurtt's classroom there is a palpable energy and enthusiasm for learning in a course that is many students' nemesis in high school: algebra. This course can be very challenging, especially for students with disabilities. The multi-step process of solving equations can be labor intensive and frustrating, leading to both a loss of focus and a loss of confidence for the students as they attempt to navigate these abstract concepts.

Mrs. Hurtt's classroom is filled with colorful contraptions that look much like games—sticks that she uses to create 3D images to teach fractions, balances and counters to teach positive and negative numbers, as well as zero pairs, and rainbow colored fraction

bars to visualize and grasp the concept of equal fractions, just to name a few. Mrs. Hurtt explains that "tapping into the kinesthetic learning style makes math real and attainable; students are empowered and confident." A natural byproduct of that confidence is a positive learning environment.



KYSCEC News: State Student Chapters are having a busy year!

Message from
Sarah Hawkins—Lear
KYSCEC Advisor:

Student Council for Exceptional Children chapters continue to grow across the state. There are several colleges/universities that are in the process of re-activating their chapters. Stay tuned so you can congratulate them as they become official SCEC state chapters.

The SCEC state officers have been busy beginning to organize the silent auction for the KYCEC state conference. The silent auction will run Sunday through Tuesday morning of the conference. Please check your conference program for exact times and the location of the silent auction. If you would like to donate an item please contact Dr. Sarah Hawkins-Lear at s.hawkins@morehead.edu

Morehead State Chapter News

Morehead State University's SCEC chapter continues to grow this school year. We have many new members and have increased our membership at our regional campuses. Monthly meetings have been taking place via an on-line program called, "Collaborate." This program has allowed off campus students to attend the meetings without having to travel 1-3 hours to attend the meetings.

MSU students are also busy organizing our 4th Annual Transition Fair. The Transition Fair will be held on November 15th on Morehead State's main campus. The students are in the process of contacting Kentucky schools, agencies and organizations to attend the Fair. If interested in participating or attending, please contact Dr. Sarah Hawkins.

Murray State Chapter News

The Murray State University's Student Council for Exceptional Children chapter had a great start this semester. We are selling t-shirts and tote bags as our first fundraiser. We will begin selling raffle tickets for baskets that members or area businesses have donated to the chapter. We will be completing this fundraiser during our homecoming weekend. The next big thing that we will be participating in is the Buddy Walk at Noble Park in Paducah, KY. It will be on October 20, 2012. Overall, we are planning another great semester.

Additionally the chapter is raising money to help support their trip to Louisville for Conference, which is always a highlight of the year. This year 9 students will be attending and participating in poster presentations on research-based reading strategies.

Western Kentucky Chapter Student Spotlight

Margaret Taylor Hayden is the current vice-president of the Western Kentucky SCEC. She wanted to join the national CEC as a student because it allowed her to have access to research-based materials through the website and the journals that you receive as a member. The materials that she received were helpful to her as a student and she knows the research will continue to be helpful next year when she has her own classroom.

Margaret was originally a communication disorders major, and had always dreamed of working in an educational setting. After working one on one with young students with autism, she decided she wanted to work with a variety of students with disabilities and not limit herself to communication disorders. She changed her major to special education.

She attended and presented at last year's fall state conference for the first time, and was amazed by the number of professionals and students that were present. She was also able to enjoy many different sessions on a variety of topics that all revolved around special education. Margaret was not only able to walk away with an abundance of knowledge about her future career, but also got to experience presenting a poster on "How to Implement Token Economies" to fellow students as well as professionals.

Margaret can truly say that she enjoys being in her major and learning about special education. She always gets excited when the professors at Western and her classmates talk about their future careers, because she knows that she chose the right major for her. "There is no better feeling than knowing you made the right decision, and I can say that I am thankful every day that I made the decision to be a special educator."



Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) Update

By: Jennifer Green, Past President

CAN held its annual meeting in Washington D.C. on June 9-12, 2012 at CEC Headquarters. The agenda was packed with policy and advocacy updates. After hearing many distinguished speakers, activities culminated with visits to Capitol Hill on Tuesday. CAN participants scheduled visits with their state Representatives and Senators.

Working in collaboration with Kim Hinkson-Lee, Doctoral Candidate with University of Kentucky, I made three visits on Tuesday: Katelyn Conner, Legislative Correspondent for Senator Mitch McConnell; Tate Bennet, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Brett Guthrie; and Bethany Williams, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Ben Chandler.

The following action items were discussed at these meetings:

- Fully fund all IDEA programs: this included Part B, Part C, Part D, restore and increase funding for special education research and restore funding to Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act
- Reauthorization of Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA), No Child Left Behind, with specific concerns addressed in CEC's Issue Brief and CEC's Recommendations for Reauthorization
- Charter School Recommendations, and
- Federal and/or State Legislation with specific recommendations regarding the Appropriate Use of Restraint and Seclusion



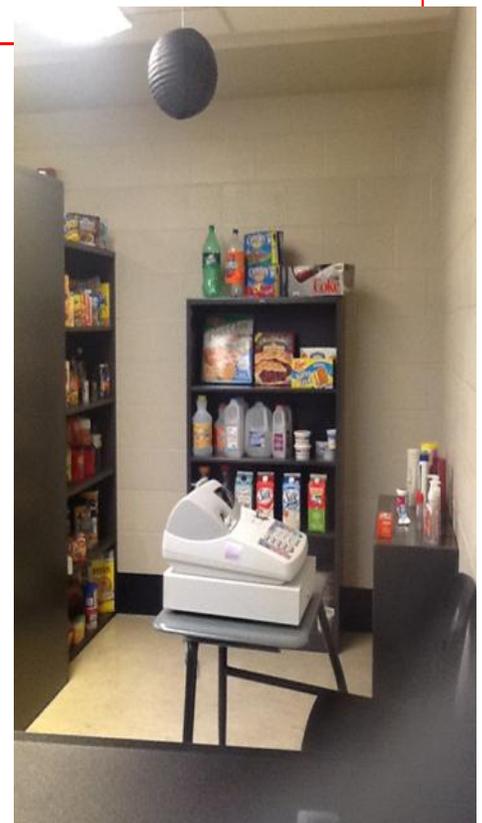
You can find out more information on the CAN action items Jennifer discussed with legislators on the KYCEC website at www.KYCEC.org

Colonel Corner Market at Dixie Heights High School

After collaborating with fellow teachers, Elizabeth Mizer, Karen McDermott, and Gina Brockman, it was decided that there was a need for more "real world community experience" at our school. We decided to create something "in house" to provide our students with realistic opportunities to use their independent living skills. The idea of a "community store" for our students began to form. A corner of my room has been sectioned off to create the Colonel Corner Market. My thoughts were for students to be able to practice making "purchases" using real world items. They would also practice their money skills with a real working cash register, as well as budgeting and money management skills, to include check writing. They would also learn how to restock shelves with items.

An email was sent to the staff at Dixie Heights asking for a variety of items that could be found at most grocery stores. And THEY CAME THROUGH!! An assortment of items was donated. The students will now have the opportunity to "shop" at the store with actual things that they see and use in their own homes. All of our items are priced. Each week there will be sale items with pictures posted. We are super excited to give our students more consistent practice with their independent living skills.

By: Patti Westerfield, Kenton County Schools



Contact Conference
 Chairperson, Carrie Bearden
 for additional information

Carriebbearden
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**47th Annual Exceptional Children's
 Conference 2012**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Not to be missed” Keynote: Nelson Lauver • State Advisory Panel Public Hearing and Meeting • Sessions by KYSCEC University Students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session Strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IEP Process - RTI - Technology - Early Childhood - Compliance - Integrating the Arts - Learning Strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards Luncheon : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes I Can ! - 25 yr special educators - Teacher of Year Award • Administration of the Year Award
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**Door
Prizes
during
Keynote
Address**

Visit the
educational
exhibitors
and vendors'
booths.

- Sessions on:
- Autism
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Blind/Visually Impaired
 - English Learners

**Join us at Conference for the KYCEC annual
meeting of the membership at the keynote
address on Monday**

**Be sure to support the KYSCEC Conference
fundraiser, the silent auction. Check your
conference program for auction location.**



The Keynote Address will feature Nelson Lauver. As a young boy, Nelson Lauver fell through the cracks of an educational system that was ill-prepared to deal with a student who couldn't learn like the rest. Socially promoted (just passed through), he actually graduated from high school and received a diploma he struggled to read. He knew he was different...he just didn't know why. After nearly a dozen more years struggling as a functionally illiterate young adult, an amazing chance encounter and the utterance of one word – dyslexia – changed Nelson's life and set him on a journey that few would have imagined. Today Nelson is an acclaimed author, broadcast journalist, speaker, humorist, and human rights advocate. He is known to radio listeners across the country for "The American Storyteller Radio Journal," a daily 4-minute slice of the American experience. Nelson's newly released, award winning memoir, *Most UnLikely to Succeed*, is an inspirational story of hope and determination against seeming insurmountable odds.

*****Be sure to visit the membership booth during conference to receive your free gift!*****

YOUR VOTE = YOUR VOICE



VOTE FOR YOUR 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VOTE

**and you could win an
iPad!**

October 1 – October 26, 2012

CEC leadership must represent the beliefs and values of our members.

Each one of you has a voice in electing CEC's future leaders.

View candidate biographies on CEC's Web site, www.cec.sped.org.

Vote between October 1 – 26, 2012.

Your ballot will be sent to your email from CECvote@directvote.net . You will receive a paper ballot if we do not have your e-mail address.

Contact service@cec.sped.org to verify or add your e-mail address and update contact information.

You could win an i-Pad! All eligible CEC voters who vote in this election will be entered. Names will be randomly selected by Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS).

Vote online! It's fast, easy, and it's **green!**

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

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 publication is to provide research and practical information regarding teacher training in teacher education and special education. Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer publications are planned. Submissions are being accepted for Fall/Winter 2012 edition. For those interested in submitting articles, please contact Wanda Chandler, Editor, at wanda.chandler@wku.edu.

KYCCBD isn't just for EBD Teachers!

Because understanding and addressing challenging behavior is at the core of all human activity, getting involved in KYCCBD isn't just for those who work directly with students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. In fact, KYCCBD has an active membership comprised of a diverse array of individuals who work with or on behalf of all students. Traci Sharpe, 2012-2013 President, has made member outreach a priority for her term. "I truly value the diversity and experience of our membership and am committed to reaching out to current and potential members to increase the number of individuals benefiting from CCBBD involvement." For more information about how to join KYCCBD go to <http://www.ccbd.net/content/join> or contact Julia Lin-scott at julia23e@earthlink.net.



Council for
Exceptional
Children

KENTUCKY

The voice and vision of special education

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Spotlight Exceptional Children and Educators in your district in a future newsletter!

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Thanks to all KYCEC members for their dedication in meeting the needs of students with disabilities in Kentucky!