



KENTUCKY

The voice and vision of special education

## News Brief

*Winter 2017*

### **Sending Valentine wishes and Good News from KYCEC:**

#### **KYCEC MEMBERS AWARDED MINI-GRANTS**

Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children (KYCEC) is happy to announce the six winners of the 2017 Mini-Grants! Each winner received \$650 to be used toward meeting the goals of their application.

**Jane Kyle** - Barton Reading and Spelling System

**Selise Ridolfi** - Reading Mastery Program

**Gina Brockman** - Amazon Echo, Amazon Tap and iPad Pro

**Brittany McIntyre** - 5 Amazon Fires with kid-proof cases

**Sarah Neikirk** - Touchchat HD app, iPad Mini, Protective Cases

**Holly Wells** – Introductory Kits for Teaching to Standards Math, Teaching to Standards English, and Explore American History

KYCEC encourages all members to consider applying for a grant. We will start accepting grant applications again in July, 2017. Go to [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org) and click the KYCEC tab for full information

#### **KYCEC MEMBERSHIP IS STRONG!**

KYCEC has nearly 500 members, and constantly looking to grow. Membership Chair, Cain Alvey, recently had a phone conference with National CEC and other Membership chairs from across the nation. Through that phone call, he learned that Kentucky is a model for membership. Our ideas and initiatives to gain new members, retain current members, and reach out to past members created great examples for other units. Alvey works closely with the Membership Committee to develop new ways to improve our membership and strengthen our current methods. Cain believes now is an important time in education, as CEC works with legislators to re-authorize IDEA and adjust to a new Secretary of Education. It is of great importance that we as special educators work to improve education for our students and the opportunities they have in life. Alvey hopes during this time of change KYCEC membership will continue to grow.

## YES I CAN 2017 NATIONAL WINNERS

KYCEC is thrilled to announce that two of our state Yes I Can! winners have been selected by the Council of Exceptional Children as recipients of their national Yes I Can! award. Matthew Chapman, KYCEC winner in the area of transition, and Hannah Babcock, award winner for School & Community Service, will be traveling to Boston, MA in April to attend the CEC conference and accept their awards. This is a tremendous honor for these two well-deserving students. Please join KYCEC in congratulating Matthew Chapman of Greene County, and Hannah Babcock of Murray State University for their impressive accomplishments



**Matthew Chapman**  
**Transition**  
**Greene County High**



**Hannah Babcock**  
**School & Community Service**  
**Murray State University**

## YES I CAN – KENTUCKY 2017

The Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children is pleased to honor students with the Yes I Can! Awards program. These awards allow KY CEC to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities throughout the state. It is once again time to nominate students for their accomplishments. Students can be nominated in any one of the following categories: academics, arts, community and school activities, self-advocacy, technology, and transition. Each nominee is eligible in only ONE category. Candidates must be 2-21 years of age when they are nominated and a resident of Kentucky.

All nominees for the Yes I Can! Awards will receive a certificate of achievement. Award winners in each category will be given special recognition at the 2017 KY CEC Yes I Can! Awards program during the Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference in November. Kentucky winners will then be nominated for the national Yes I Can Awards.

KY CEC is asking for your support to promote the Yes I Can! Awards program by nominating eligible students. Please encourage teachers, families, friends, support workers and others in the field of Special Education to nominate a student. Nominations forms can be found at [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org) Applications may be submitted electronically between March 15 and May 1, 2017. No late applications will be accepted. For additional information contact Debbie Samples at [debbie.samples@graves.kyschools.us](mailto:debbie.samples@graves.kyschools.us)

## Honor someone you respect today with a nomination!

### **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 to be 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 sub division 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.

Please contact Rhonda Simpson [rhonda.simpson@green.kyschools.us](mailto:rhonda.simpson@green.kyschools.us) or visit [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org) for additional details. Nominations Due: May 1, 2017

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The KYCEC Board will have vacancies for Vice-President and Secretary beginning July 1, 2017. Vice-President is a 4-year commitment as the position progresses through the Past Presidency. Secretary is a two-year commitment. If you are interested, or know another CEC member who might be, please contact Rhonda Simpson [rhonda.simpson@green.kyschools.us](mailto:rhonda.simpson@green.kyschools.us) or visit [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org). We'd love to hear from you.

## **MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Hello CEC Members,

If you're reading this, thank you from the core of my soul for what you do each day for our children with disabilities. Your membership in this professional association is a testament of your dedication. Our board has been extremely busy with awards, getting the latest news to you and transitioning with our new Executive Secretary, Pam Matlock.

On top of the daily challenges, we are faced with uncertainty from the state and federal level. Our nominee to lead the Department of Education seemed unfamiliar with the federal law that protects our children with disabilities (IDEA). She has followed up by saying she's "committed to enforcing all federal laws and protecting the hard-won rights to students with disabilities;" while at the same time praising voucher programs that often require parents to give up their due process rights and services entitled under IDEA. On that same note, "charter schools" remain an area of caution in Kentucky.

As Educators and CEC members, we must educate ourselves in order to advocate. You may access these bills (HB103 & SB70) and others introduced this session at the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) website at this link: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/record/17RS/record.htm>.

Here is an article shared that explains charter schools and the potentially negative impact:

<http://kypolicy.org/charter-school-proposal-negatively-impact-funding-kentuckys-existing-public-schools/>

I urge each one of you to contact your legislatures with concerns. Also, visit [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org) for updates from our CAN Coordinator, Erica Cutright.

In the meantime, keep forging through and encourage your colleagues to give their best and do what's right for our children. As we know, success is obtained by implementing evidence-based practices within sustainable multi-tiered systems of linked practices, effective teams and pooling of resources.

Finally, your KY CEC and national CEC are here to support you. You may contact us or provide feedback by sending an email to [kentuckycec@gmail.com](mailto:kentuckycec@gmail.com). And as always, we invite you to get involved!

Best Regards,  
Kathy Maciel

### **NEW KYCEC Executive Secretary**

After several years of successfully juggling both Executive Secretary duties and Conference Coordinator responsibilities, Carrie Bearden resigned as Executive Secretary. According to President Kathy Maciel, "Carrie has devoted much of her life towards improving the education and lives of all children. Her enthusiasm and commitment have been a tremendous model to those around her. We cannot thank her enough for her time and continued work with education and KY CEC." Carrie is already actively planning our 2017 Conference and assisting with the transition of the new Executive Secretary.

Pam Matlock has been elected as Executive Secretary with her term beginning January 1, 2017. She has 42 years in special education experience having taught in Paducah Independent Schools for 27 years and is currently completing 15 years at Murray State University as Lecturer and Education Coordinator. While at MSU, she began the Best Buddies Chapter and is co-founder of the first Supported Higher Education Program approved in Kentucky by the U.S. Department of Education. She was President of KY CEC in 2013-2014 and has served on the Board since 2009. Additionally, she is on the CEC Pioneer Board serving as Secretary. Pam shares, "I am proud to continue to be a part of KY CEC, the voice and vision of special education in Kentucky."

### **2017 Behavior Institute: June 12-13, 2017**

KY-CCBD invites you to join us for an exciting professional development event dedicated to the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)! The Program Committee has planned thoughtful educational sessions in a variety of formats to meet every learner's needs.

Key Session Strands include:

**PBIS** - Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports

**RTI** - Academic & Behavior Response to Intervention

**SEL** - Social Emotional Learning

**Effective Instruction** - Increasing Student Engagement with Connections to PGES

**Mental Health & Trauma** - Intensive Mental Health & Behavior Needs of Students

To register, go to: <http://kycec.org/KYCCBD/behavior-institute-registration.html>

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**GET INVOLVED IN KY CEC...Visit our website [www.kycec.org](http://www.kycec.org)**