

President's Message



Becky Davis

Hello and welcome! Please let me again take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment to the field of assessment and to CEDS.

I have just returned from our fall conference. This 2013 conference was co-hosted by CEDS and the **New Jersey Association of Learning Consultants**. Conference activities were held at the Lincoln Sheraton Harbor Hotel in Weehawken, New Jersey. CEDS conferences are opportunities to discover and discuss new ideas with top professionals in the field of assessment. This year's conference was no exception. If you were unable to attend, you missed an excellent opportunity for professional growth. Session themes were varied, including RTI, legal issues, linking assessment and instruction to the Common Core, instructionally relevant assessment, assessment for transition, dyslexia, autism diagnosis, intervention portfolios as assessment tools, disproportionality, and many other excellent topics.

Our keynote speaker was **Dr. Samuel Ortiz**, who has studied and published on topics that include assessment of culturally and linguistically diverse individuals, application of modern intelligence theory in testing through CHC Cross-Battery assessment methods, differentiating cultural and linguistic differences from disorders, and development of the CHC Culture-Language Matrix as a method for determining the primary influence of culture and language on test performance. Dr. Ortiz recently authored three chapters in *NASP's Best Practices IV* on nondiscriminatory assessment, contemporary intellectual assessment, and working with culturally and linguistically diverse children and families.



However, I have to admit that my favorite memories of this year's conference were visiting with our old friends and new ones each morning at breakfast and at Friday's luncheon. Many thanks go to **Becky Dieckmann** and **Heather Clowers** for their work "on the ground" in New Jersey and for facilitating this opportunity to collaborate with our New Jersey colleagues. You two are the best!

I have often used the T.E.A.M. acronym—*Together Everyone Achieves More*. As your president, I urge you to embrace that concept and be an active member of the CEDS Division. With your help, I know that we can strengthen our organization as we work together to improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Mark your calendar for the 2014 Annual Council for Exceptional Children Convention & Expo

April 9–12, 2014

Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Convention Center

Register by **January 15, 2014**, for the lowest rate available

CEDS will host a business meeting, social, and numerous sessions focusing on assessment.

For more information, visit www.cec.sped.org

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Call for Nominations for Vice President & Treasurer

ALL NOMINATIONS DUE TO KATHIE GOOD BY **JANUARY 21, 2014**

VICE PRESIDENT

The 2014 election brings an important decision for the membership of CEDS. During this election, we will be selecting a new Vice President. Some refer to this office as the *president-elect*, which is also an accurate description.

The successful VP candidate will represent CEDS at headquarters and the CEC conference for two years as a member of the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) as the upcoming national conference is planned. In conjunction with the summer PAC meeting, the VP also represents CEDS at the Leadership Conference, which takes place at headquarters the two days prior to the PAC meeting. The VP also has a vital role in the success of the CEDS conference by helping locate venues and plan the conference and program.

The VP serves a two-year term, which directly moves into a two-year term as president and then concludes in a two-year term as past-president/ Representative Assembly member. The person nominated for this position should have the time to commit to attendance at the CEDS and CEC conferences as well as conference calls with the PAC and IDC throughout his or her term.

TREASURER

This position is a three-year term. The role of the treasurer is to act as the financial manager of the organization. From basic deposits and payment of bills to filing our organizational taxes, the treasurer is imperative to the success of CEDS. A successful candidate should plan on spending an average of 10 hours per month on CEDS work; although there will be busier times (during conference) and off times, 10 hours/month is a good average to expect. Taxes are simple to file, and there are many years of history to use as you file the required documents each fall.

If you are personally interested, or wish to nominate an assessment professional for either of these important positions, please contact:

Kathie Good, Past President and Chair, Nominations/Elections Committee (kathie.good@enmu.edu)

2013 CEDS Election Results

Kathie Good, Past President, Nominations/Elections Chair



Joan Hofmann

Congratulations to **Joan Hofmann**, who was unanimously elected to a second term as the Secretary for CEDS. Joan has served on the CEDS Board of Directors in many capacities over the years, including chairing two successful annual conferences. Congratulations to Joan, and thanks to everyone who took the time to vote in our election!

Leann DiAndreth-Elkins, Editor

Communiqué is the official quarterly newsletter of the Council for Educational Diagnostic Services (CEDS), a division of the Council for Exceptional Children. Subscriptions are by membership to CEDS. Web postings are made when the newsletter is sent to members. The editor encourages responses, ideas, and inquiries. Submissions of previously unpublished material are welcome for consideration.

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Assessment for Effective Intervention:

The official quarterly research journal of CEDS is *Assessment for Effective Intervention*, provided through CEDS membership. The primary purpose of the journal is to publish empirically sound manuscripts that have implications for practitioners. Submissions are encouraged; guidelines are available at <http://aei.sagepub.com>

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Professional Standards Report

Teresa Oettinger Montani
Professional Standards Chair



This report from the Professional Standards Committee will be brief. The Knowledge and Skills Subcommittee was scheduled to meet on October 25th and 26th at CEC Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. However, the meeting was cancelled due to the ongoing efforts of the Work Group assigned by the Board of Trustees to review the role of the Knowledge & Skills subcommittee and its link to the Professional Standards and Practices Board of CEC.

The Professional Standards and Practice Board studies the area of practice standards and advises the CEC Board of Directors regarding CEC professional policies and activities. Other duties include the development of guidelines and materials to assist the field in meeting the Council's professional standards.

The Professional Standards Work Group made recommendations to the CEC Board, which were discussed at length at the CEC Board Meeting on October 4th and 5th. These recommendations were returned to the Professional Standards and Practices Standing Committee (PSPC) as the means to seek input from divisions, the IDC, and unit leadership before making recommendations to the CEC Board. The PSPC will consider these recommendations and input, along with that of the divisions, before considering any process changes. At this time the Knowledge and Skills Subcommittee will work on completing the review of standards while awaiting notification of the ongoing role of this committee.

Governmental Relations Update

Brenda Gilliam
CAN Coordinator



CEC's Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) consists of a cadre of individuals dedicated to engaging in activities that advance policies affecting students with disabilities. CAN seeks to (a) influence governmental actions at the local, state, and federal levels that allow the implementation of CEC policies relating to the education of exceptional children and (b) further CEC public visibility. A major re-

sponsibility in my position on the CEDS Board is that of serving as the CAN Coordinator representing CEDS.

To keep CAN Coordinators and other interested professionals informed about the latest policy issues in special education and gifted education, CEC has begun a regularly updated Policy Insider blog. It can be accessed via a link on the CEC home page. I encourage you to get involved and go to the site for more details. A sampling of the news found there follows:

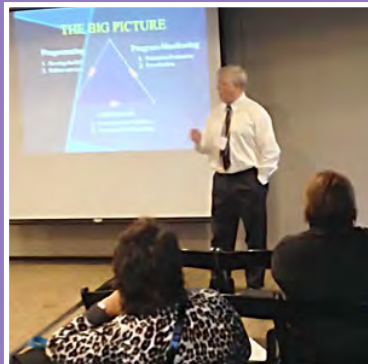
1. CEC supported ratification of the Disability Rights Treaty without success last December. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is the framework written to protect the human rights of individuals with disabilities throughout the world. The Treaty is modeled on our Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and is designed to protect the independence, respect, and dignity of persons with disabilities. It has been supported by more than 700 U.S. organizations, and it is time for it to be ratified by our senators.

Currently, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, is committed to holding hearings and passing the CRPD this year. Hearings are scheduled to begin in November. Supporters of civil rights, veterans, and disabilities are needed to overcome the strong opposition. At present, 61 senators out of the 67 needed have indicated support for the treaty, but the votes of at least 6 more committed senators are needed to ratify the treaty. Your help is needed! Please act now by going to the Policy Insider blog for history and details, then go to the CEC Legislative Action Center and contact your senators. It does not take long, and a sample letter and talking points are provided.

2. Michael Yudin has been confirmed as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services within the U.S. Department of Education by the U.S. Congress HELP Committee. In addition, James Cole, Jr., was confirmed to serve as General Counsel for OSERS. They now must go before the full Senate for final approval.

3. Last week, contrary to CEC's position, Congress again passed a provision allowing teachers still enrolled in preparation programs to be called "highly qualified" through the 2015–2016 school year. CEC has advocated against calling teachers-in-training "highly qualified," pointing out that it is a misnomer for individuals who have not completed their training programs and acquired expertise and skill in teaching. CEC has maintained for several years that reauthorization of NCLB/ESEA needed to require that alternative routes to certification programs be rigorous and of high quality. Because of the vast shortages of special education teachers; however, CEC has not opposed alternative certification programs in general.

Scenes from the 2013 CEDS Annual Conference Weehawken, New Jersey • October 17–19, 2013



Top 10 Hints That You've Been a Diagnostician Too Long

Submitted by **Ellen Frye**

1. You realize the stopwatch you have used for over 10 years will also tell you the time (traditional and military varieties) and can be used as an alarm clock.
2. You were trained on the WISC-R and/or remember writing FIE, CIA, or whatever they were called, by hand.
3. You notice the weekly schedule of a Mid-East peace negotiator on Fox News, CNN, or MSNBC and think, "Gee, I wish my ARD/IEP meeting schedule was that light!"
4. You find yourself estimating the intelligence of the person checking you out at the grocery store, the telephone solicitor who calls every evening at 6:18 pm, and your teenager's latest date.
5. The number for your cell phone and your 4-digit building extension are correct responses to an item from Digit Span, Numbers Reversed, or Number Series.
6. The only names you could think of for the Obama's pet dog were Kaufman, Wechsler, Woodcock, and Johnson.
7. You dream about Lops, Maycar, and Wimplemat; creating block designs; and/or trying to figure out why a drawing is inside a box.
8. Your work and home answering machines explain the procedural safeguards.
9. The numbers you choose for a lottery ticket come from the last item of Digit Span, Numbers Reversed, or Number Series you administered.
10. You leave written messages for your family with symbols from Rebus and Visual-Auditory Learning, and they understand your message!