

President's Message



Becky Davis

Hello and Happy New Year! I am hoping that you are all safe, warm, and enjoying the beginning months of 2014. We certainly have many exciting opportunities and adventures

ahead.

The Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 9th through the 12th, 2014. Participants can register to attend preconvention workshops or any of the 800 scheduled educational sessions by going to the following webpage (http://www.cec.sped.org/Professional-Development/Annual-Convention?sc_lang=en). Thousands of special educators, administrators, researchers, professors, and students from around the world will discuss major issues and share information in a variety of topic areas, including Common Core state standards; program administration; autism; co-teaching; collaboration; emotional and behavioral disorders; instructional strategies for math, reading, and science; policy; technology; response to intervention; and, most exciting of all, assessment. Be sure to attend our CEDS Showcase Session to learn more about our evolving field.

The CEC annual convention also provides us with a very special opportunity to meet and greet both new and continuing members of our division. The CEDS Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, April 9. The CEDS Business Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, at 4:30 p.m. Membership will discuss many important items, including proposed

changes to our constitution and election results. Be sure to join us that same day for the CEDS Social at 6:00 p.m.

Members frequently ask about opportunities to serve on the CEDS Executive Board. As you will read in this edition, there are two elected positions that must be filled. **Jessica A. Rueter** has been nominated to serve in the position of Vice President. Dr. Rueter has many years of experience as a special education teacher, educational diagnostician, and university professor. **Elizabeth Hennington** has been nominated to serve in the position of treasurer. Dr. Hennington has served one term and was nominated to serve a second. Be sure that you read their biographies within this edition. The official election will be held electronically from March 15, 2014, through May 1, 2014, at the following website (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XWTMFPC>).

As my own term as president is ending, I would like to thank the CEDS Executive Board and all of our members. I appreciate the support you have given to me and to our organization. I also look forward to the leadership of Mitch Yell as he assumes this role on July 1, 2014. The future looks great!



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Plan to Attend the
2014 Annual
Council for Exceptional Children



Courtesy of Philadelphia Convention & Visitor's Bureau



April 9–12, 2014
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania Convention Center

For more information or to register, visit
www.cec.sped.org

CEDS Events at 2014 CEC Annual Convention

April 9:	Board Meeting	6:00–9:00 p.m.
April 10:	Business Meeting	4:30–5:30 p.m.
April 10:	Social	6:00–7:30 p.m.



Courtesy of Philadelphia Convention & Visitor's Bureau

All of these events will be held at
the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown,
1201 Market Street.

CEDS Constitution Under Review



Connie Nielson, Constitution Chair

The CEDS Constitution and By-laws Committee is reviewing the constitution to make any updates or changes that might be needed. The Executive Committee will be making decisions to be presented to the membership in April at the CEC Annual Convention in Philadelphia. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the document, please contact **Connie Nielson** (cnielson@kc.rr.com) by April 1, 2014.

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>

CEDS Website:

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Election Time for Vice President & Treasurer

Kathie Good, Past President

Sadly, we only have one professional running for each open office. At one time we have had three professionals running for an office, but due to changes in work obligations, timing of terms of office, and other conflicts, we are down to one in each office. I would like to thank all of the individuals who were nominated and continue to encourage you to run for a leadership role in CEDS when your schedule opens up again!

The election for Vice President and Treasurer will be open from March 15, 2014, through May 1, 2014. It will be held electronically through Survey Monkey. Please use the following link to cast your vote (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XWTMFPC>)

VICE PRESIDENT

Nominee: Jessica A. Rueter, PhD



The 2014 election brings an important decision for the membership of CEDS. During this election, we will be electing 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) during the time that 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 as well as planning the conference and program to be presented. 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.

Jessica A. Rueter is an assistant professor at The University of Texas at Tyler in the School of Education. Dr. Rueter has 19 years of experience as a special education teacher, educational diagnostician, and university professor. She has several publications to her credit and is a frequent speaker at the international, national, and state levels. She is an assessment consultant to school districts in East Texas and in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area and has served as an expert witness in due process

hearings. Her research interests include best practices for assessment of students with disabilities and translation of assessment results into evidence-based instructional practices. Dr. Rueter currently serves as the past-president of the Texas Council for Exceptional Children and is a member of the Council for Exceptional Children, Council for Educational Diagnostic Services, Small Special Education Program Caucus, Council for Learning Disabilities, and the Texas Educational Diagnostician Association. If she is elected as vice-president, her primary goals are to grow the membership of CEDS and to provide CEDS members with high-quality professional development opportunities.

TREASURER

Nominee: Elizabeth Hennington, EdD



The term of the treasurer is three years. 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 a month on CEDS work; while there will be busier times (during conference) and off time, 10 hours a 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.

Dr. Elizabeth Hennington is an assistant professor in the Behavioral Sciences Department at Lubbock Christian University. She teaches undergraduate- and graduate-level coursework in the field of human services, educational leadership, counseling, and psychology. Elizabeth began her school career teaching special education in 1994 and has been an educational diagnostician since 2002. She is currently working on researching the role of the educational diagnostician and comparisons of face-to-face versus online programming in higher education. Her goals as treasurer include maintaining efficient financial records for CEDS, furthering the field of assessment for more effective intervention, and increasing the awareness of CEDS. Elizabeth has served as the treasurer for CEDS for the past three years.

Ten Great Reasons to Attend an Annual Conference

Rebecca S. Davis, EdD, and Kathie Good, EdD

The 2014 Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention will be held April 9–12 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. If you do not attend, you will miss these Top 10 highlights of the 2014 convention:

1. **Session choices.** Convention Program Chair Russell Gersten and the Program Advisory Committee have planned more than 800 sessions. Topical sessions will address such issues as teacher effectiveness, universal design for learning, collaboration, response to intervention, evidence-based instructional strategies, Common Core state standards, restraint and seclusion, alternative schools, autism, mental health, classroom management, and much more!
2. **High-caliber keynote speaker.** Andrew Solomon will give the keynote address on Wednesday, April 9th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. His most current book, *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity*, recounts the stories of people meeting the challenges of parenting children with physical, mental, and social disabilities. Solomon won the 2001 National Book Award for Nonfiction with his last book, *The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression*, and was a finalist for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize.
3. **International and national perspectives.** Session presenters represent innovative researchers and practitioners from the United States and around the world.
4. **National Certification of Educational Diagnosticians exam.** The NCED exam leads to national certification for practicing educational diagnosticians, a notable achievement. NCED board members will provide information and inspiration for aspiring certificate recipients.
5. **Reflection and inspiration.** Outstanding presentations provide multiple opportunities for personal reflection. Conference attendees reported renewed energy, a plethora of ideas for improving professional practices, and a sense of clarity of purpose.



6. **Networking opportunities and CEDS social.** Professional conferences provide an opportunity to interact with professionals from across the United States. The Thursday evening CEDS social will offer great food, great conversation, and even greater door prizes.
7. **Interaction with the CEDS Board.** CEDS board members will be available to listen to concerns of the membership and to solicit ideas for improving the organization. Attendees will be given opportunities to volunteer for committee participation within the CEDS board.
8. **Destination: Philadelphia.** *The City of Brotherly Love* is a perfect site for the 2014 conference. The cultural diversity embodied in the art, museums, restaurants, Reading Market, Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the Historic District, and cinema icons provide endless opportunities for sightseeing and fun.
9. **Chance to take the stage.** Poster and lecture sessions provide opportunities for new and seasoned researchers to share information with their assessment colleagues. Graduate students can share their research and brainstorm ideas for future projects. [The call for presentations/posters for the fall 2015 CEDS conference in New Orleans will be issued in the spring of 2015.]
10. **Comments from past conferences:** While there are most likely countless reasons that professionals choose to attend national conferences, comments from attendees of the 2013 CEDS Conference in Weehawken, New Jersey, share some of the highlights of their conference experiences:
 - *It was great to have a chance to exchange ideas and to meet so many others in the profession.*
 - *I learned new strategies, discovered new resources, and was able to pick up some new books.*
 - *I loved the keynote speaker and the legislative updates. This conference gave me information that I could not have received through my school district.*
 - *I learned information about the tests and test administration that will improve my professional practice.*
 - *I took the NCED exam AND had an opportunity for professional development too!*

(continues on next page)

Professional Standards Report

Teresa Oettinger Montani
Professional Standards Chair



The Knowledge and Skills Subcommittee (K&SS) met via conference call on December 18, 2013. The purpose of this meeting was to respond to a request from Robin Brewer, president-elect of CEC, to provide input regarding the feasibility of the Workgroup recommendations that had been discussed at the October 2013 CEC Board Meeting. 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 studies the area of practice standards and advises the Board of Directors regarding CEC professional policies and activities. Other duties include developing guidelines and materials to assist the field in meeting the Council's professional standards. The PSPC was charged with considering these recommendations, along with recommendations from the divisions, before considering any process changes.

The K&SS members who participated in the December conference call provided feedback on each of the Workgroup report's sections:

1. Principles
2. Types of standards
3. Frequency of revisions
4. Standards leadership
5. Committee size
6. Appointment criteria & PSPC membership
7. PSPC responsibilities
8. Work groups/subcommittees
9. Resources

The summary of the input from the K&SS is that the K&SS, which includes representatives from each of the CEC divisions, should replace the proposed PSPC and provide leadership for the standards development.


At this time the K&SS awaits clarification from the PSPC regarding which sets of

standards (initial, advanced, practice, ethical) should be incorporated into one set of standards. Once this feedback is received, the K&SS can continue to work to complete the validation of the standards that appear in draft form on the CEC website.

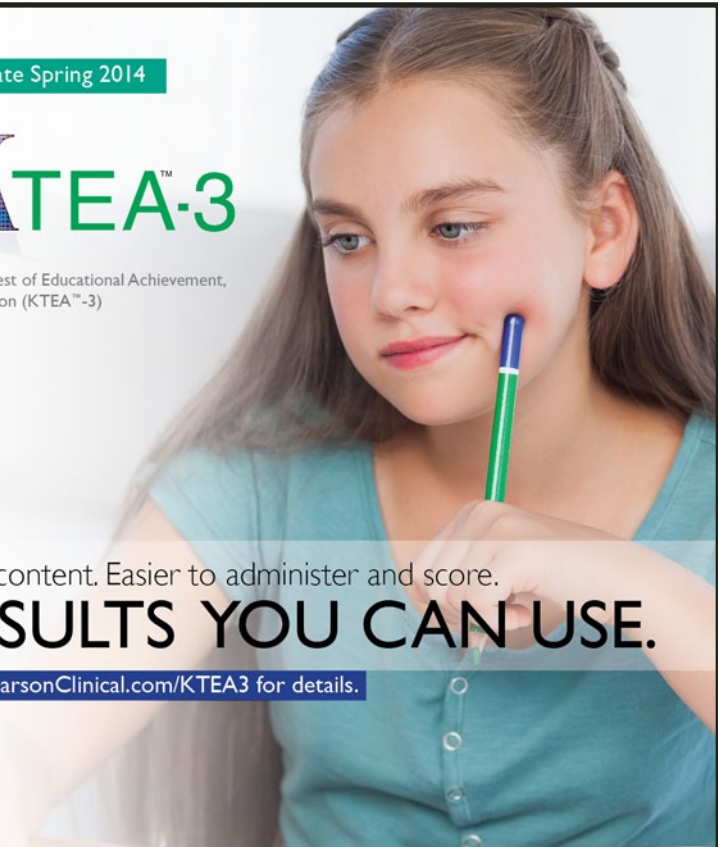
(Ten Great Reasons, continued from page 4)

As the field of special education continues to evolve, assessment professionals will need to take an active role in defining their future. Annual conferences provide opportunities for professional growth and networking that inevitably lead to a greater awareness of the strengths and challenges associated with educational diagnostic services. This year's CEC conference will feature a similar slate of outstanding voices in the field of assessment. We'll see you there!

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