



Communiqué

Council for Educational Diagnostic Services

A Division of the Council for Exceptional Children

Volume 35, Issue 2, Winter 2007

President's Message:

Carol A. Layton

Fall has always been my favorite season of the year. I love the changing, colorful leaves and brisk, cool air. As I write this message, I am preparing for our board meeting and annual conference in New Orleans. Like the beautiful fall leaves, we are seeing a new season at CEDS. I encourage you to participate as advocating professionals, voting members, committee members, and potential officers. It is up to us as professionals to guide this new season with excitement and purpose. Let's look at current changes and enjoy the splendor of this season for CEDS.

- The annual conference in New Orleans will be our largest. Gene Schwarting, our conference chair, has prepared a great program with excellent choices for all our attendees. We will have approximately 250 participants in attendance.
- Our membership has grown tremendously. We have approximately 300 new members in CEDS. This growth indicates a healthy involvement in assessment and effective intervention issues. We are pleased to have more wonderful members working toward common goals that produce quality outcomes for children.



- The National Credential for Educational Diagnosticians (NCED) becomes a reality this fall. The initial exam will be given on Saturday following the conference. As a body, CEDS is encouraging our membership to promote this national certificate across states to unite educational diagnosticians in their pursuit of evaluation excellence.
- Our journal editors, Nick and Linda Elksnin, applied their creativity, expertise, and hard work to make our journal, AEI, fabulous. Within the next year, the current editors will step down to pursue other opportunities. We will watch expectantly as a new editor continues to guide the production of a quality journal from which we all repeatedly learn.
- During our conference, the CEDS board will engage in strategic planning. With the dramatic changes in special education evaluation, we need to make sure that we are providing our expertise to make national policy changes. Hopefully, many of you will volunteer to contribute to position papers. Certainly, we want the voice

of highly qualified educational diagnosticians to be heard and clearly understood.

- Please continue to read the newsletter and check our Web site. Leann Elkins and Cleb Maddux spend time each week working on these news outlets. They will keep you up-to-date with the many facets and opportunities available within our organization.
- We have an election approaching for vice president. Please look for the ballot in this newsletter and vote!
- Please let us hear from you! We need committee members. The board roster is located on the web site; contact a board member if you would like to serve on a committee.
- Finally, plan to attend CEC in Boston in the spring. Our CEDS business meeting will take place on Thursday at 4:30 followed by a social sponsored by Pearson Assessments. Check your convention program to locate the festivities! We welcome you!

As you can see, we are experiencing growth and change coupled with professional savvy. We want to direct our organization to improve the lives of students with special needs. Recruit your colleagues; join us in our grand venture!



❁❁ In this issue ❁❁

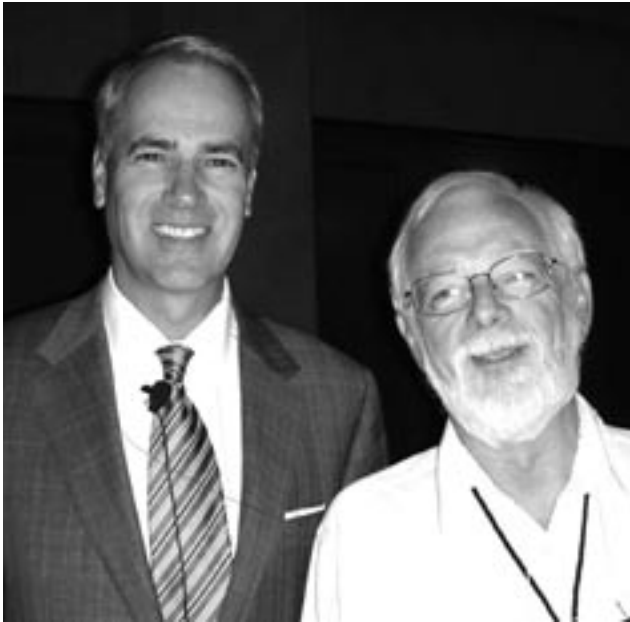
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Photos from the CEDS Annual Conference

Jazzing up Assessment IV:

Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans?

New Orleans, Louisiana, October 18–20, 2007



Dr. Randy Kamphaus, Keynote Speaker and Gene Schwarting, CEDS Conference Chair



Dr. Carol Layton, CEDS President, and Patricia McElroy, Louisiana Member of the Year



Joe Sutton and Dr. Frey receiving first certificate from NCED Board



CEDS Members enjoying the social



CEDS Members enjoying the social

Mark you calendar...

2008 CEDS Conference

October 23–25, 2008

Albuquerque, New Mexico

“Kick Up Assessment on Route 66”

For additional information or call for papers contact co-chairs:

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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 thirty days after 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. Submittals are encouraged; guidelines are available on the CEDS Web site.

CEDS Web site:

www.unr.edu/educ/ceds/

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Council for Exceptional Children

2008 Annual Convention & Expo

April 2–5, 2008

Hynes Convention Center
Boston, Massachusetts

CEDS Program at the CEC Convention:

Thursday, April 3rd, at the Convention Center

- 4:30 pm CEDS Annual Business Meeting
- 6:00 pm CEDS Reception hosted by Pearson Assessments

For more information about the convention, visit the CEC Web site (<http://www.cec.sped.org>)

CEDS Member Profile

Connie Nielson, Membership Chair

Let me introduce you to **Susan Keithley** from Bedford, Texas. Susan officially retired in 2003 but continued working under the retire/rehire option. She **truly** retired in May and for that reason found it important to maintain as many sources of accurate and current information relating to exceptional children as possible. Of course, CEC/CEDS was one of those options, so she joined this year.

Susan attended Wichita State University in Kansas for her BA and master's degrees, majoring in Educational Psychology. She has certifications in elementary education, language and learning disabilities, and English as a second language. She has taught/worked at the Andover Preschool in Kansas, the Harwood Private School in Bedford, Texas, and the Hurst Euleess Bedford Independent School District.

Personally, Susan had the privilege of attending her son's college graduation in California in May. The proud mom she states, "He's a former SpEd student . . . learning disabilities and dystonia." Susan notes that her "dance card" is pretty full right now with "rebuilding her daughter's home and remodeling/restoring her own home . . . barring any more unforeseen crisis . . . whew!" When the weather and time allows, she enjoys bicycling with her daughter and granddaughter on the really fine bike trails in her area. In her spare time, Susan loves to read mysteries, and traveling is a priority. Recently, she traveled to California on Amtrak through the northern route, to Cancun, and to New York City.

Right now Susan is fine-tuning her resume, as she would like to continue working on a part-time basis. Her former special education director has requested that she do contract testing for the district on an as needed basis. Good luck to you, Susan, and welcome to CEDS!

CEDS ELECTIONS 2008 – OFFICIAL BALLOT

Candidates Vice President – Select One X

KATHIE GOOD

Currently the Department Chair for the Educational Studies Department at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU), Kathie Good, EdD, is an Associate Professor of Special Education and she teaches both undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Good earned her master's degree at ENMU, with an emphasis on Behavior Disorders and Learning Disabilities, and completed her doctoral studies at Texas Tech University, with a major in special education and a minor in diagnostics. She holds Level III licensure in New Mexico in Special Education (K–12) and Elementary Education (K–8), and is an Educational Diagnostician. While Dr. Good does consulting work and conducts assessments (usually on postsecondary education–age individuals), her interest in diagnostic work is not the assessment itself but interpreting the assessment data. Dr. Good works extensively with parents, helping them to understand their child's assessment report and the impact the report has on the IEP, and she serves as an advocate for parents as they attempt to navigate the processes involved in special education.

Dr. Good served for three years on the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Board of Directors and three years as the Secretary of CEDS, and she is currently the Co-chair of the 2008 CEDS National Conference in Albuquerque, NM, and President of the New Mexico unit of CEC.

*****Ballots must be returned postmarked by February 15, 2008*****

Current Litigation and Legislation: A Children's Action Network Report

Stephen Walker, Governmental Relations
Committee Chair and CAN Coordinator

Watching the progress of legislation and litigation in the field of special education is never boring! Currently, there are several items to watch, including a case recently heard in the U.S. Supreme Court. In the case of the *Board of Education of the City School District of New York v. Tom F. ex rel. Gilbert F., a Minor Child*, the Supreme Court granted certiorari in February of 2007 and heard oral arguments on October 1, 2007. This case concerns the question of whether a student with a diagnosed learning disability who receives special education services from a private school is eligible for tuition reimbursement even if he had not previously received special education services from his local school district. Basically, the issue is whether or not a local school district should have an opportunity to provide services to a child with a disability before it is asked to pay tuition for a private school placement made unilaterally by the family. Both the Second and First Circuit Courts previously ruled on this issue. The Second Circuit Court held that parents are entitled to private school tuition reimbursement if the parents gave the public school "reasonable notice" that they were rejecting the student's proposed Individualized Education Program. However, the First Circuit also ruled that a family is only eligible for tuition reimbursement for children who have previously received special education from the public school system. A decision is expected in the spring. To review transcripts of the oral arguments, go to the Supreme Court of the United States Web page (http://www.supremecourtus.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts.html) and click on case 06-637.

Senators Barack Obama and Dick Durbin, and Congressman Phil Hare introduced legislation that would provide funding for a bill titled The Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act, H.R. 3407 in the House and S. 2111 in the Senate. If enacted, this legislation would direct resources to teach positive behavior as a way to improve school climate and make it easier for students to learn. The Positive Behavior for Effective Schools Act would make positive behavioral support an allowable use of funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), more commonly known as No Child Left Behind. To learn more about this bill go to the CEC Web site (<http://www.cec.sped.org>) and then click on the Policy and Advocacy link.

In the U.S. Congress, fully funding IDEA is still being considered. A bill has been offered by Congressman John Larson (D-CT), and another bill has been introduced by Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). If you want to see a sample letter of support or use the CEC Policy and Advocacy Center to contact your congressional representatives on this matter, please go to the CEC Web site (<http://www.cec.sped.org>) and then click on the Policy and Advocacy link.

The Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act / No Child Left Behind Act is still being considered. CEC has recommended that this reauthorization blend the strengths of IDEA and ESEA. To keep apprised of progress on this important legislation, please check the CEC Policy and Advocacy Center from time to time. Start at the CEC Web site (<http://www.cec.sped.org/>). Click on Policy & Advocacy at the top of the page and follow the links to send comments to your congressional representatives or to just read about the status of pending legislation that affects individuals with disabilities as well as those who are gifted and talented.

Please cut out, stamp, and mail before 3/15/08

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