



Communiqué

Council for Educational Diagnostic Services

A Division of the Council for Exceptional Children

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President's Message:

David W. Walker

I hope everyone had a good and productive summer. I want to start my term as president of CEDS by thanking our previous president, Carol Layton, and past president, Nancy Halmhuber, for the fine job they did as president, having been very instrumental in moving CEDS into the future. I also want to thank Carol, Nancy, and Connie Nielson, membership chair, for their actions to increase CEDS membership.

As with many CEC organizations, CEDS is facing some important issues:

1. Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). I have heard some rumblings that there will be more similarities between these two pieces of legislation, even to the extent that IDEA will be incorporated into NCLB. While I don't think this will happen, I do think we need to continue to advocate for and safeguard the right to a free, appropriate education in the least restrictive placement for the child with disabilities. Notice that I use the term "least restrictive placement" and not "inclusion." I believe that the majority of children with disabilities may be and should be educated in the general education classroom. Until such time that Congress provides full funding for IDEA, it is very doubtful that teachers will have the resources they need to provide a beneficial, let alone quality, education for those children with disabilities in the general classroom.

2. Impact of Rising Gasoline Costs on Professional Development Opportunities. Over the last couple of years, I have heard many educational diagnosticians in my state, Mississippi, tell me that they have been unable to attend CEDS conferences because their school district would not pay for their travel and they could not afford to pay for it themselves. As a professional organization and as stated in its constitution, CEDS has an obligation to its membership to consider using other means, such as the Internet, to provide professional development opportunities. While I believe that there is benefit to attending a conference in person that may not be duplicated through some other avenue, the CEDS executive committee has begun to investigate ways in which professional development opportunities may be offered via "Webinars" or conferences presented over the Internet.

Also, I want to thank you for supporting your organization and ask for your continued support. If I may be as bold

as to modify a quote from one of America's great presidents, John F. Kennedy: "Ask not what your [professional organization] may do for you, but what you may do for your [professional organization]." What I mean is that CEDS is only as strong as the activity level of its membership; therefore, I hope that you will give considerable thought to contacting one of the following board members and volunteering to be a member of his or her committee.



- **Stephen Walker, Governmental Relations Chair**, advocates for diagnostic issues impacting exceptional children at national and state levels.
- **Connie Nielson, Membership Chair**, needs members to develop CEDS subdivisions in their state.
- **Patricia Frawley, Professional Standards Chair**, identifies knowledge and skills that diagnosticians should possess at beginning and advanced levels.
- **Rachelle Bruno, Research Committee Chair**, identifies and conducts research on effective diagnostic practices.

In closing, I want to remind you about the CEDS annual conference on October 23–25 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with the theme "Kicking Up Assessment on Route 66." The conference organizing committee has received some excellent proposals and has selected the best of these proposals for conference sessions. Conference information is on the CEDS website (<http://www.unr.edu/educ/ceds>) and in this newsletter.

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Call for Treasurer Nominations

Carol A. Layton, Past-President

Nominations are open for the position of treasurer on the CEDS Board for a term beginning July 1, 2009. The treasurer is elected for a 2-year term. A complete listing of duties and responsibilities is available on page 5 of the CEDS Constitution on the CEDS website (<http://www.unr.edu/educ/ceds>).

In accordance with the CEDS Constitution, any group of 10 active CEDS members may submit a nomination petition for these positions. Nomination petitions must include the names, signatures, and addresses of the members submitting the nomination petitions. Accompanying the petition should be a letter from the nominee accepting the nomination and including the nominee's complete vita; home, work, and e-mail addresses; and telephone number. All candidates must be members in good standing of CEDS and CEC.

Nominations are due by **October 15, 2008**. Send nomination petitions to Dr. Carol A. Layton, CEDS Past-President, 3105 79th Street, Lubbock, TX 79423.

Member of the Year Nominations

Patricia Frawley, Professional Standards Chair

Nominations are being accepted for the CEDS 2008 Member of the Year Award. This award is intended to recognize and honor individuals within the CEDS membership who have enhanced the profession of educational diagnostician through their efforts in a particular state or on a national level. Letters of nomination, including rationale, will be accepted until **October 15, 2008**. Please send your letters to: Dr. P. Frawley, 522 Elm St., Westfield, NJ 07090 or e-mail to pfrawley@fdu.edu.

Since this award will be presented at the CEDS Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, members in New Mexico are particularly urged to consider the nominating process.

CAN Report: Get Ready to Advocate!

Stephen Walker, Governmental Relations Chair and Children's Action Network Coordinator

Since the fall 2008 national election is only weeks away, one of the best ways to advocate is to learn the views of candidates on the issues that impact you and the students you teach. Then, cast your vote for the candidate who best represents your interests and values.

With a new administration arriving in January 2009 and Congress ready to begin work on new legislation, it will be an opportunity to once again let your representatives know the importance that you place on good educational policy. To stay informed on the critical issues, such as funding for IDEIA, reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, and other important legislation affecting the lives of children with exceptionalities, please visit the CEC Legislative Action Center by going to <http://www.cec.sped.org> and clicking on the Policy and Advocacy link. Select Legislative Action Center (left frame). You will find policy analysis and an opportunity to directly contact your Congressional representative using well-prepared and thoughtful letters created by the CEC staff. In most cases you will receive a reply from your representative that will let you know where she or he stands on the issues that are important to you.

Leann DiAndreth-Elkins, Editor

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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 Web site:

www.unr.edu/educ/ceds/

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President's Award Winner

Connie Nielson, Membership Chair

Winner of the 2008 James Poteet President's Award is **Nancy Halmhuber**. This award recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding service to CEDS and students with exceptionalities and is given by the current CEDS president. Nancy is leaving the executive board this year as past president, but if you have been a member for a while, you have undoubtedly seen her before. Nancy is from Michigan and received her BS from Central Michigan University, her specialist in school psychology/learning disabilities and MA in educational administration from Eastern Michigan University (EMU), and her PhD from the University of Michigan. Nancy has been a teacher and school psychologist in the public schools and has held several positions at EMU, including professor in the Department of Special Education. She has been awarded various grant moneys,



made numerous presentations at local and national workshops and conferences, and authored the book *Case Studies about Children and Adolescents with Special Needs*.

Nancy and her husband Gary Navarre (also a special education professor) retired from EMU with a combined 60 years of service. They established the Halmhuber/Navarre Graduate Endowed Scholarship to assist graduate or specialist students studying high-incidence areas in special education. Though retired, Nancy continues to consult on early intervention and programs for young children and as a trainer/coach for START (Statewide Autism and Resource Training). She is active with her local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international professional women educators group, and is president of her chapter of PEO, an international philanthropic educational organization for women, which owns Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri.

On top of that, Nancy plays handbells and is a wedding hostess coordinator for her church. She walks daily and has taken up yoga. Nancy and her husband love traveling and have recently been to Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, the Canadian Rockies, and Costa Rica. With plans to go to Scandinavia in August and the Panama Canal in January, we are hoping that she will be able to squeeze in a trip to the CEDS annual conference in Albuquerque.



CEDS Annual Conference

"Kicking Up Assessment on Route 66"

**Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 23–25, 2008**

CEDS will hold its annual conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 23–25. An opportunity for diagnosticians, psychologists, university faculty, special and general educators, and learning consultants to review and reflect upon topics associated with assessment, the conference will focus on formal and informal assessment, implications for instruction, and intervention strategies. Topical sessions will address a variety of relevant issues, including, but not limited to, autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, assessment of culturally/linguistically diverse students, assessment and accountability, assessment and the IEP process/product, functional/authentic assessment, curriculum-based measure-

ment, responsiveness to intervention, evaluation of programs and interventions, and test development and construction.

This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Socorro Herrera, director of the Center of Intercultural and Multilingual Advocacy at Kansas State University. Dr. Herrera, a noted author and professor, will address multicultural issues in assessment through her keynote address as well as a more in-depth discussion to be presented as a conference workshop. Also addressing the conference is nationally recognized assessment professional Dr. Cecil Reynolds, Distinguished Research Scholar at Texas A & M University and author or editor of more than 30 books, including *The Handbook of School Psychology*, *Encyclopedia of Special Education*, and *Handbook of Psychological and Educational Assessment of Children*.

"Kicking Up Assessment on Route 66" is the conference theme, and co-chairs are Dr. Kathie Good (kathie.good@enmu.edu) and Dr. Rebecca Davis (rebecca.davis@enmu.edu) from Eastern New Mexico University. Conference registration forms and hotel information are on the CEDS website (<http://www.unr.edu/educ/ceds>).



CEDS Annual Conference Registration

Albuquerque, New Mexico

October 23–25, 2008



Pre-Registration Postmark Deadline: October 3, 2008

Name: _____ Name on badge, if different: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone (O) _____ (H) _____ E-mail _____

Registration fee for the full 3-day conference includes all workshops,
with admittance being on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration Fees:

Preregistration by October 3, 2008:

CEDS member (ID: _____)	\$180 _____
Non-Members	\$225 _____
Student Rate*	\$100 _____
Single Day [Circle day: Thurs. Fri. Sat.]	\$110 _____

On-Site (after 10/3/08)

\$205
\$250
\$120
\$125

*To receive the student rate you must include a photocopy of your CEC student ID card.

Group Preregistration (only if packaged together with full payment/PO):

Groups of 3 to 4 are eligible to receive a 10% discount (regular members: \$162; non-members: \$202.50).

Groups of 5 or more are eligible to receive a 20% discount (regular members: \$144;
non-members: \$180).

Payment Options:

Enclosed is a check payable to CEDS for \$ _____ .

Enclosed is Purchase Order # _____ [Attendees are to be listed on PO].

Refunds: Refunds, less a \$20 processing fee, will be honored if received by September 30, 2008.

Send registration forms and payment to:

Dr. Brenda Gilliam, Treasurer
The University of Texas at Tyler
3900 University Boulevard, Tyler, TX 75799
e-mail: bgilliam@uttyler.edu

CEUs available from the American Council on Education: For a listing of CEU courses and other information, please check with the CEDS website (<http://www.unr.edu/educ/ceds>).

Hotel Information: The negotiated conference room rates are single or double \$129, plus tax. Reservations must be made by October 7, 2008, to obtain this rate:

Albuquerque Marriott
2101 Louisiana Blvd NE,
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-881-6800 or 1-800-228-9290