



Communiqué

Council for Educational Diagnostic Services

A Division of the Council for Exceptional Children

Volume 34, Issue 3, Spring 2007

President's Message

Carol A. Layton

For this spring issue, I would like to direct our thoughts to our current CEDS organization and present opportunities to create a stronger future for CEDS. I believe that CEDS remains poised for tremendous growth. I think it is possible to become one of the largest CEC divisions in the coming two years. Why is this important? CEDS requires a stronger voice, and greater membership focused on assessment and intervention will enable us to strive for this incredible voice. By gaining members across the nation that have assessment roles, we stand to unite our concerns within the largest special education society: CEC. We want to increase our current status within CEC by increasing our membership, so we can advocate for children with special needs and our professional role in special education. I have listed a few of the highlights we accomplished last fall and will conclude with where the organization heads now and in the coming year.

During the fall of 2006 CEDS experienced:

- A great annual fall conference in Kansas City directed by Gene Schwarting
- Wonderful participation from the Missouri CEDS subdivision and other local participants in Kansas City
- Extensive progress on our national credential

- Smooth and painless transition to PRO-ED for AEI and the *Communiqué*
- An increase in membership for our organization
- Active participation on committees working diligently for our organization

During the spring of 2007 CEDS must progress in the following areas:

- Continued momentum in participation during our last fall conference
- Further submissions of skillful and innovative proposals for our next fall conference at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, October 18–20, 2007
- Increased progress in a national credential with work accomplished through the NCED Board. This year should bring the exam and certification into existence.
- Persistent work on our revision of the advanced standards for Educational Diagnosticians. These standards will enhance our role and require us to sharpen skills and meet the challenge of our changing field.
- Additional progress in promoting CEDS as the diagnostic body within CEC

As CEDS makes progress, consider what we as members can generate to aid our diagnostic organization:

- Diligently talk to others about the importance of our organization. CEDS remains the only assessment division for CEC.

- Submit a presentation proposal for our upcoming fall conference.
- Spread the word about our national credential. Hopefully this initiative will pull many educational diagnosticians and similar assessment personnel into one central national body through membership in CEDS.
- Encourage others to maintain their state affiliations and additionally join CEDS. These credentials together would not exceed dues for other prominent national assessment groups outside of CEC.

As you can see, our work as an organization continues to increase in intensity. Presently, we must advocate for CEDS. Assessment and intervention remain our major focus as special education assessment personnel. Let's encourage our professional body to voice our goals and our abilities to work for positive educational outcomes for individuals with disabilities. The greatest vehicle for this voice is CEDS, so my message to all assessment personnel alerts us to "Get on Board! Join us!" CEDS is embarking on a worthwhile journey. We will be charting some new territory during the coming year. Be a part of this growing movement in CEC to make a difference in quality assessment and productive intervention for all children with special needs. Strength in common goals through greater membership will make a significant difference to us professionally and to the children and families we serve.

Scenes from the CEDS Fall 2006 Conference

Nancy Halmhuber, past-president, Gary Navarri, & Connie Neilson, membership chair



Larry Hanken, Pearson AGS, awarding a door prize



Kathie Good, secretary, & Gene Schwarting, conference chair



Michelle Elek, Member of the Year & Rachelle Bruno, research chair



Missouri CEDS members enjoy the social sponsored by Pearson AGS



Michelle Elek, Member of the Year, & Sonja Painter, previous Member of the Year



CEDS Communiqué
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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. Submittals are encouraged; guidelines are available on the CEDS Website.

CEDS Website:

www.unr.edu/educ/ceds/

CEDS Business Address:

1110 N. Glebe Road
 Arlington, VA 22201

Children's Action Network Report

Stephen Walker, CEDS Governmental Relations Committee Chair and CAN Coordinator

The 110th Congress is now in session! But, what will this mean for the field of Special Education and especially for children with educational disabilities? The new Congress has a Democratic majority in both houses, and for the first time in our nation's history a woman, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), has become Speaker of the House. The current question is: Will this change in leadership result in progress, or simply more gridlock and divisiveness? Leaders from both parties have vowed to work in a bipartisan fashion, and now we must hold them to their word!

Over the coming months there will be several legislative issues that you will want to watch closely and provide comments to your congressional representatives, including:

- Proposed legislation will cut the interest rates on student loans. All of you paying off student loans know the importance of keeping access to higher education affordable, especially in a period of rising costs.
- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), now known as No Child Left Behind, is due to be reauthorized sometime in 2007. The reauthorization and rewriting process will allow Congress to make changes to the law and gain input from the public on issues of concern. Although no one is predicting major changes to

NCLB during the Bush administration, this will be an opportunity for all of us to urge our congressional representatives to revisit the highly qualified teacher provisions that have been so problematic for special educators.

- A bill may resurface this year to amend Title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase teacher familiarity with the educational needs of gifted and talented students. Congress needs to hear from the field that support for expanded and effective educational programs for children with gifts and talents is in our national interest.
- A long-term issue will again be the effort to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which is more than 30 years overdue! Congress must be held to their promise and find a way to fully fund IDEA.

What can you do about these issues as they come before Congress? Please get involved and make your congressional representatives aware of your knowledge and professional beliefs about legislation that is important to you and to the children you serve. To learn more about current issues, go to <http://www.cec.sped.org> and click on the Policy and Advocacy link.

New Member Profile: Carol Price

Connie Nielson, CEDS Membership Chair

Carol Price joined CEDS at the fall 2006 conference in Kansas City, where she also presented "High Stakes Testing: What Must Students Know to Succeed?" Carol is from Blaine, MN, where she works as director of alternate assessments for Data Recognition Corporation. Carol has been a CEC, CASE, and TAM member but now believes that she has found a real "fit" with CEDS. Carol has worked for McGraw-Hill and Harcourt (among other corporations) in assessment management and development.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Carol received her BEd from Washburn University, Topeka, KS; her MEd with Special Education emphasis, leadership and supervision, and a second MEd in Educational Administration/Leadership, all from University of New Orleans, LA. Beginning her professional career as director of the ARC Early Intervention Program, Carol has been a public school teacher, an adjunct professor, and a program coordina-

tor for the Louisiana Department of Education before her work with test publishers. Carol's list of credits includes Positive Behavioral Support Trainer; large print and Braille best practices, training, and assessment experience; and developer of a university course in American Sign Language. She has worked with several states on large-scale high-stakes testing; accommodations and alternate assessments, computer-based assessments, universal design, creating and using rubrics in the classrooms, and ELL/LAS Benchmark assessments. And this doesn't even count her early-learning math and literacy work or her presentation for the International Reading Association!

Carol's family is still rebuilding in New Orleans. Hopefully, she will be able to visit them at the CEDS fall 2007 conference. If you see her there, ask about her cat collection! CEDS welcomes Carol!

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CEDS FALL 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Jazzing Up Assessment IV "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?" New Orleans, Louisiana October 18-20, 2007

The Council for Educational Diagnostic Services (CEDS) is pleased to announce its annual conference. The audience of the conference is diagnosticians, psychologists, special and general educators, and learning consultants. You are invited to submit proposals for review and possible inclusion in the program, as well as to be electronically published. Assessment, both formal and informal, implications for instruction, and interventions will be the focus. Topic areas include, but are not limited to:

- Autism
- ADHD
- Assessment and the IEP Process/Product
- Assessment and Accountability (IDEA '04 and NCLB)
- Assessing Culturally/Linguistically Diverse Students
- Communicating Assessment Information
- Curriculum-Based Measurement
- Response to Intervention
- Early Childhood Assessment

- Emotional/Behavioral Disorders
- Evaluation of Programs and Interventions
- Functional/Authentic Assessment
- Learning Disabilities
- Test Development/Construction

Proposal Guidelines: Please include a cover sheet, conference program description, and an abstract.

Cover Sheet: Include the title of the proposal and the names, titles, addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone and fax numbers of the session leader and other participants.

Conference Program Description: 50-word description of the presentation

Abstract: 300–500 words that include:

- A statement of the issue and its relevance to the field
- Objectives for the presentation
- The audience and how information will be conveyed to them
- Usefulness to practitioners
- Type of presentation: lecture, demonstration, poster, workshop
- Time requested: one, two, or three hours

DEADLINE: July 30, 2007

Submit proposals to:

Gene Schwarting (gschwart@fontbonne.edu)

Council for Exceptional Children 2007 Annual Convention & Expo April 18–21, 2007 Kentucky International Convention Center Louisville, Kentucky

CEDS Program at the CEC Convention:

Thursday, April 19 at the Convention Center

- 5:00 pm, CEDS Annual Business Meeting
- 6:00 pm, CEDS Reception hosted by Pearson

For more information about the convention, visit the CEC Web site

<http://www.cec.sped.org>

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