



# Communiqué

Council for Educational Diagnostic Services

A Division of the Council for Exceptional Children

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## President's Message

Carol A. Layton

One of my major objectives during my tenure as president includes growing a robust constituency. During the last several months, CEDS has experienced growth. As a board, we are working together with Connie Nielson, our membership chair, to expand the membership. I want to encourage you to be actively involved in the CEDS organization and to help recruit your colleagues for membership in CEDS.

I am deeply aware that educational diagnosticians and special education assessment personnel need a voice at the national level; CEC offers a strong voice and can help influence national policy on Capitol Hill. As the CEDS membership grows, our professional voice expands. You can lead the way by recruiting your colleagues to join CEDS and the Council for Exceptional Children. The following 15 reasons comprise a rationale for recruiting your colleagues to participate in CEDS. A much stronger CEDS organization is essential to focus and speak to new IDEA legislation/interpretation and the critical role of assessment professionals and, more specifically, educational diagnosticians.

Joining CEDS . . .

1. extends your voice to the national level.
2. enlarges the reputation and prestige of the educational diagnostician role.
3. connects members to the lobbying presence of CEC during legislative sessions.
4. combines your voice the CEC voice; CEC is always called to committee meetings when any special education legislation is presented or before Congress.

5. increases our prominence as a role within the national special education workforce.
6. offers a strong, viable opportunity to mold the foundation of the national certification of educational diagnosticians.
7. publicizes the role of educational diagnosticians and special education assessment personnel.
8. links states that have educational diagnosticians.
9. creates a national body of professionals involved in the role of assessment with classroom experience.
10. provides members with a relevant journal and newsletter.
11. affords members the opportunity to receive up-to-date e-mails regarding legislation and activity on Capitol Hill.
12. presents opportunities for further professional growth through the annual conference of CEDS and the national conference of CEC.
13. assists diagnosticians who do not have a strong state organization.
14. establishes educational diagnosticians in a prominent role needed by all school districts.
15. aids in the ability to move with the educational diagnostician role to another state.

Please share these reasons with your colleagues. An active membership will help shape the future of special education assessment. I look forward to meeting you in New Orleans at our annual conference on October 18–20, 2007. Please plan to join us as we learn innovative assessment information and make new professional contacts.

## Election Results

Nancy Halmhuber, Past-President

CEDS is proud to announce the results of the Fall 2006 elections.

The newly elected CEDS Board Secretary is Dr. Ellen Ratcliff. Dr. Ratcliff teaches assessment courses at the graduate level and focuses her time on training educational diagnosticians and undergraduate teacher candidates in the area of assessment. Currently, Dr. Ratcliff is working with assessment personnel in a local school district about the effectiveness of RTI.

Dr. Brenda Gilliam was elected to her first term as Board Treasurer. Dr. Gilliam has an extensive history of leadership in CEC and recently with CEDS. She has served her state CEC in many positions, including president in 1991–92. She later served on the CEC Board of Directors as governor from TCEC. Brenda served as an educational diagnostician in public schools for ten years and currently heads the Educational Diagnostician program at UT Tyler.

These officers will begin their duties July 1, 2007. Welcome Ellen and Brenda!

## Member of the Year

Nominations are currently being accepted for the annual CEDS Member of the Year award. Any current CEDS member may nominate another member who has supported the work of CEDS in terms of his or her committee involvement, conference attendance, or promotion of the CEDS mission in any manner. Nominees should be current CEDS members with documentation supporting their contribution to CEDS. Nominations should be submitted to Pat Frawley ([pfrawley@spf12.org](mailto:pfrawley@spf12.org)) by September 20, 2007. The award will be presented in New Orleans at the annual conference in October 2007

## Scenes from the CEDS Spring 2007 Conference



CEDS members enjoying the reception sponsored by Pearson Assessments



Carol Layton, president; Steve Walker, CAN coordinator; and Rachele Bruno, James A. Poteet President's Award recipient



Diane Sketch; David Walker, vice president; Steve Walker, CAN coordinator



"The CEDS Mt. Rushmore" past presidents: Rachele Bruno, Jennifer Goldblatt, Nancy Halmhuber, and Carol Swift

### 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/](http://www.unr.edu/educ/ceds/)

#### CEDS Business Address:

1110 N. Glebe Road  
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## Children's Action Network Report

### Stephen Walker, Governmental Relations Committee Chair and CAN Coordinator

Please make a difference and get involved in legislative issues! Go to the CEC Web site (<http://www.cec.sped.org>), click on the Policy and Advocacy link, and select Legislative Action Center to learn more about how you can help influence these issues in Congress.

Unfortunately, the idea of fully funding IDEA is still a dream for children with disabilities, their families, and their teachers. Federal funding, originally promised at 40% of "excess costs" in 1975, has never exceeded 18% and would drop to only 16.4% for 2008 under the budget proposal presented to Congress by the Bush Administration. However, Congressman John Larson (D-CT) has introduced legislation that would fully fund IDEA Part B. The increases would take place gradually, and IDEA would be fully funded by 2011. Additionally, this legislation would make IDEA funding mandatory. Co-sponsors are needed for this bill, so consider to contacting your Congressional Representative and ask her/him to become a co-sponsor.

The Jacob Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act is the only federal initiative that directly funds programs specifically focused on the needs of gifted and talented children. The Act is charged with funding and coordinating research projects and demonstration projects to establish and disseminate best practices and strategies for the programs that serve the special educational needs of gifted and talented students. In fiscal year 2007, the Javits Gifted and Talented program received \$9.6 million in appropriations. Unfortunately, the President did not request any funds for this much-needed program for fiscal year 2008.

Currently, the Medicaid program reimburses school districts for health care services delivered by health professionals to students with disabilities. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services may soon end these reimbursements for administrative and transportation expenses, which would shift the financial responsibility of medically necessary related services to individual school districts and local funding sources. This potential policy change may result in a negative financial impact upon school districts.

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 students you serve.

## New Member Profile

### Connie Nielson, Membership Chair

Ginny Garrison from Austin, Texas (calls herself "dyslexia-ginny"), is a new member to CEDS and joined to be able to fully access research articles. She is focusing on reading and administration and is looking forward to working on a PhD in special education with a reading specialty.

Ginny received her B.A. and M.A. in English from the University of Texas at Austin. Ginny was born in Austin and grew up in West Texas on a Hereford ranch, where she actively participated in the everyday ranch work. After graduating from high school, she briefly attended Abilene Christian University and

spent a year studying with Pepperdine University at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Ginny has taught high school English and is a certified dyslexia specialist (thus the nickname!). Her work in public schools has been in the area of testing and working with children diagnosed with dyslexia. Her last project entailed creating a curriculum for middle school students who had never passed the state reading exam and resulted in 80% of the students passing in April of the same year!

Ginny loves to travel and has been to 20 states and 11 countries. She loves to read, especially Patricia Cornwell novels. Plus, she reads some new research every day from her favorite websites: Schwab, Colorin' Colorado, Reading Rockets, Mel Levine's site, CEC, IRA, and of course now, CEDS!

## Call for Nominations

### Nancy Halmhuber, Past-President

Nominations are open for the position of vice president on the CEDS Board for a term beginning July 1, 2008. The vice president is elected for a two-year term, succeeds to the presidency for two years, and continues as immediate past-president for an additional two years. In total, this is a six-year commitment. A complete listing of duties and responsibilities is available in 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. A letter from the nominee should accompany the petition accepting the nomination and include 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, 2007. Send nomination petitions to Dr. Nancy Halmhuber, CEDS Past-President, 12901 Drury Lane, Plymouth, MI 48170.

## CEDS Annual Conference Registration

New Orleans, Louisiana

October 18-20, 2007

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:

#### Pre-registration by October 3, 2007:

		On-Site (after 10/3/07)
CEDS member (ID _____)	\$180 _____	\$205 _____
Non-Members	\$215 _____	\$230 _____
Student Rate*	\$100 _____	\$120 _____
Single Day [Circle day: Thurs. Fri. Sat.]	\$100 _____	\$110 _____

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

#### Group Pre-registration (only if packaged together with full payment/PO):

Groups of 3-4 are eligible to receive a 10% discount (regular members \$162; non-members \$192.50).

Groups of 5 or more are eligible to receive a 20% discount (regular members \$144; non-members \$172).

### 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 15, 2007.

### 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

**CEU's available from the American Council on Education:** For a listing of CEU courses and other information, please check the CEDS website at [www.unr.edu/educ/ceds/](http://www.unr.edu/educ/ceds/)

**Hotel Information:** The negotiated conference room rates are: single or double, \$179; triple, \$204; quad, \$229, plus tax. Reservations must be made by September 21, 2007.

Hotel Monteleone  
214 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130-2201  
Phone: 504-523-3341 or 1-800-217-2033.

## Call for Proposals

CEDS Annual Conference  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
October 18-20, 2007

The Council for Educational Diagnostic Services (CEDS) is pleased to announce the call for proposals for 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, learning disabilities, emotional/behavioral disorders, assessing culturally/linguistically diverse students, assessment and accountability, assessment and the IEP process/product, functional/authentic assessment, curriculum based measurement, response to intervention, evaluation of programs and interventions, test development/construction.

**Proposal Guidelines:** Please include a cover sheet, a 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

Submit proposals to: Gene Schwarting (gschwart@fontbonne.edu)

**DEADLINE: July 30, 2007**