

5 things we really want to say to all the amazing special educators out there during Teacher Appreciation Week.



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5 Things We REALLY Want to Thank Special Educators for This Teacher Appreciation Week

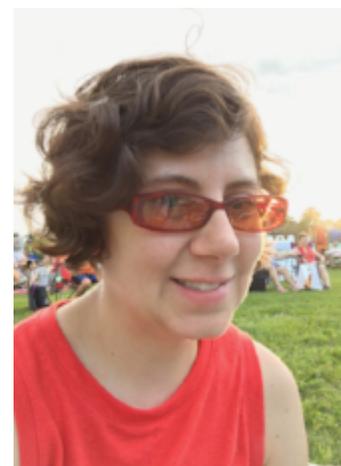


Today on the Special Education Today blog, we're sharing 5 things we really want to say to all the amazing special educators out there during Teacher Appreciation Week. [Read more.](#)

Students Have Spoken and Elected a Representative to the RA!

You may have seen the announcements in our March issues of Special Education Today, and now we're excited to announce the student elected to CEC's [Representative Assembly](#) (RA)!

Kelly Acosta, a doctoral student at the University of Florida, was recently elected by CEC's student members as one of two Student Representatives to CEC's membership advisory body. She joins representative Tracy Sinclair, a doctoral student at the University of Oklahoma, to act as the voice for CEC's student community.



Acosta will also serve on the Student and Early Career Committee, along with Sinclair, who will become the chair on July 1.

[Learn more about CEC's committees on cec.sped.org.](https://cec.sped.org)

Somewhere Out There is Our Next Executive Director for CASE...



At the end of February 2020, Dr. Luann Purcell, Executive Director of the CEC division The Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE), will retire after nearly 17 years of leadership. A strong leader and passionate professional, Dr. Purcell leaves CASE as a robust and vibrant organization of leaders, with a membership of nearly 4,000 Directors of Special Education worldwide.

As we prepare to say good-bye, CASE is now seeking qualified candidates to lead the organization into the future. Applications for CASE's Executive Director position are being accepted until **May 24**, so [check out the posting on CEC's Career Center and learn more about how you can apply.](#)

Advocates! Early Bird Registration Ends May 15

Each year, special education and early intervention advocates storm Capitol Hill and urge Congress to make the potential of every child and youth our national priority. Now, it's your turn. Speak up while Congress is listening when you sign up for the [2019 Special Education Legislative Summit](#) and receive quick, easy steps to make your voice heard on July 7-10.



Time may be limited, but an educator's ability to provide critical special education and early intervention services shouldn't be. [Watch the video](#) to learn why you should sign up ASAP and then [register today!](#)

Policy Highlights

Key School Safety Report Recommendations Released



U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos today [announced](#) the release of the [Parent and Educator Guide to School Climate Resources](#), intended to provide parents, teachers, administrators, and other interested parties with a general understanding of school climate, school climate improvement activities, and the availability of additional resources. [Read more.](#)

U.S. House Marks Up FY 2020 Appropriations Bill

The U.S. House Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up the Labor-HHS-Education FY2020 bill this week expected to increase funding for the Department of Education to \$75.9 billion. [Read more.](#)



ED Invites Applications for Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Student Education



The Department of Education has issued a notice inviting applications for [new awards](#) for FY2019 for the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education program. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming Events

2019 Leadership Institute

Arlington, VA | July 5-7, 2019

2019 Special Education Legislative Summit

Arlington, VA | July 7-10, 2019

What's Happening in Washington

CEC Webinar | July 17, 2019

News

Twice exceptional, doubly disadvantaged? How schools struggle to serve gifted students with disabilities:

Parents say it's often impossible to find schools to educate bright kids who have disabilities. Now, some are fighting to change that. [Read more.](#)

Apps Connect Teachers, Parents, and Students With Special Needs: Two new studies highlight the problems with existing apps for students with special needs, their teachers, and their parents and work toward tools that do more to help children and the people who support them. [Read more.](#)

The diversity gap for public school teachers is actually growing across generations: According to a report from the Brookings Institution, recent reports showing the increase of nonwhite teachers don't reflect concerns such as lower rates of diversity among millennials and greater diversity among students than teachers. [Read more.](#)

Why Social-Emotional Learning Is Suddenly in the Spotlight: Social and emotional learning is not a new concept, but it has gotten more attention since it has been backed up by research, says Christina Cipriano, director of research at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. In this interview, she shares how SEL can support students' "availability to learn." [Read more.](#)

Recess Can Be Hard on Those With ASD. Researchers Say it Doesn't Have To Be: Students with autism may experience school recess as loud, chaotic, isolating, and exhausting, but a new study is offering clues on how to better incorporate them. [Read more.](#)

Report: Career Planning Needs to Start in Middle School: Career planning is such a priority that it should begin in middle school and include more opportunities for work-based learning, according to a road map provided by a coalition of government, industry, education, and nonprofit organizations. [Read more.](#)



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