**Spotlight Feature**
**CEC 2019 Yes I Can awardees — Arts Category**

**Jonar Sardon**, of Worth, Illinois, and **La’Juane Nash**, of Jonesboro, Louisiana will receive a 2019 Yes I Can Award — in the Arts Category, from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) in February. It is our pleasure to introduce them...

Jonar, a first-grader, is the youngest of our 2019 Yes I Can Award recipients.

One of Jonar’s many remarkable attributes is his pursuit of music and dance, despite a hearing impairment, that has improved both his academic and functional skills. Jonar also motivated his peers to engage with music, encouraging them and his school’s staff to increase their ability to use sign language for greater communication in the classroom. Read more about Jonar.

When a social worker helped La’Juane discover his love and talent for art, it became a turning point in his life.

La’Juane had previously faced learning challenges that resulted in behavioral problems, causing a negative effect on his relationship with teachers and peers. As he entered the ninth grade, La’Juane was placed in the school’s Talented Art program where he has continued to excel and overcome past behavioral issues. Read more about La’Juane.

*We look forward to celebrating each of our awardees at the CEC 2019 Special Education Convention & Expo on February 1, 2019.*
to Support Early Career Educators

In November 2017, the Council for Exceptional Children’s Board of Directors approved a recommendation that all committees periodically undergo a recharter application process. The objective of the process is to clarify and justify the need for committees to support CEC’s mission and strategic plan. The review is also intended to strengthen and support committees to ensure effective performance on behalf of CEC and/or its members. Read more about the process.

Did you know...CEC 2019 INDIANAPOLIS has something for every educator and every budget?

Think you can’t attend the CEC 2019 Convention & Expo because you have a tight schedule or tight budget or both? We’ve got the answer: flexible registration options and even sessions on Saturday. Choose what best fits your schedule and budget.

• **Single Day Registration**: Includes professional sessions and time in the Expo Hall. PLUS, you’ll be earning professional development hours while you’re learning. Check it out—browse through hundreds of sessions—then personalize your schedule.

• **Flex Pass Package**: Includes 10 single day passes, good on Thursday, Friday and/or Saturday that may be used by 10 team members or in multiples as designated by the purchaser.

• **Convention Workshops**: Dive deep into a hot topic with a full- or half- day workshop. If attending a workshop is all your schedule will allow, register for a workshop only!

Not only do these registration options allow flexibility, they save you dollars.

Courage to Risk Conference – February 1-2, 2019

Courage to Risk (CTR), a collaborative conference for special education, will take place at the

Initiated for educators and families, CTR comprises a variety of organizations committed to the educational success of students with diverse learning needs. The conference is planned with the mission of providing quality educational experiences to parents, students, teachers and community members; providing networking experiences for participants and motivating those who work with students with diverse learning needs.

The CTR 2019 program features a range of presenters including international speaker and author, Craig Zablocki, owner of Gray Matter Education Consulting, Kim Bevill, Board Chair of Celebrate EDU, Philippe Ernewein, renowned author, speaker and licensed social worker, Christian Moore and founder of Results Learning, Cyle Feingold.

The program includes two keynotes featuring Rose Marie Allen: Beyond Cultural Responsiveness: Equitable Education in the Classroom and Jonathan Mooney: Normal People are People you Don’t Know Very Well.

Currently an assistant professor in the school of education at Metropolitan State University of Denver, Allen served as a leader in early childhood education for nearly 40 years.

Mooney, a writer and learning activist, co-founded Project Eye-to-Eye, a nonprofit advocacy organization for students with learning differences.

The conference will also feature workshops, exhibits and a range of daily sessions led by educational experts.

Early bird specials will continue to be available for registrants completing their online registration before January 25th. Learn more about Courage to Risk and how to register.

CTR is proudly sponsored by the Colorado Council for Exceptional Children and various other state sub-divisions. Learn more about the Colorado chapter and the Council for Exceptional Children by visiting our site!

Data toolkit + FREE webinar

Collecting data on behavior, academic skills, and IEP goals is an essential step in showing student progress, but it can also be a complicated, time-consuming process. Take the worry and stress out
of data collection with “The Data Collection Toolkit: Everything You Need to Organize, Manage, and Monitor Classroom Data.” This ultra-practical resource is packed with tools you need to organize, manage, and monitor critical information on your students’ progress. What’s even more valuable are the first-person classroom examples, quizzes, definitions of key terms and a complete package of reproducible forms and tools you’ll have access to.

And — there is an added bonus! When you purchase “The Data Collection Toolkit,” you will receive a complimentary webinar presented by author Cindy Golden, who will share tips and tricks of how to maximize this essential resource. Become a data collecting superstar by ordering your copy today.

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**Master of Arts (M.A.) in Developmental Disabilities**

Become a highly skilled professional prepared to work with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families across the lifespan. [Learn more.](#)

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**Upcoming Events**

**20th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities**

Lahaina, Hawaii | January 16, 2019

**North Carolina CEC 32nd Annual General Conference**

Wilmington, North Carolina | January 23–25, 2019

**CEC 2019 Convention & Expo**

Indianapolis, Indiana | January 29–February 2, 2019

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**News**

**How to include all students:** Educators can incorporate social and emotional learning into engineering group projects, as well as adapt them, so struggling students can become equal participants, middle-school special-education teacher Sarah Kesty writes in this blog post. She shares tips on how teachers can design and monitor such projects. [Read more.](#)
The teaching profession in 2018: This year will go down in history as a milestone year for the teaching profession. In six states, tens of thousands of teachers walked out of their classrooms to protest low salaries and cuts to school funding. Nearly 180 current classroom teachers ran for their state legislatures on a platform centered around funding education, and 43 of those teachers were elected. Suddenly, the whole country seemed to be talking about how underpaid and overworked teachers are. Read more.

Iowa school opens sensory room for students: One Iowa high school has opened a sensory room filled with items such as weighted blankets and a trampoline to help students struggling with behavior or concentration problems. The room will be open to all students, but it is expected to be used mostly by the special-education and guidance departments. Read more.

School disciplinary guidance rescinded: The US Department of Justice and the Department of Education have rescinded an Obama administration-era "Dear Colleague" letter aimed at reducing unfair disciplinary practices against students with disabilities and students of color. Advocates say the move doesn't negate current law, but critics say it could lead to a rise in disciplinary actions taken against such students. Read CEC's position on this issue in Policy Insider: CEC Denounces Federal Commission on School Safety Recommendation to Rescind School Disciplinary Guidance

Teacher opens classroom to students during holiday: A teacher at one Louisiana school that serves students with disabilities kept his classroom open during winter break to allow students to pursue passion projects. Rod Spilling says the multimedia camp he organizes gives students a break from more regimented activities and helps them develop new skills. Read more.
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