As we anticipate an exciting new year, the Council for Exceptional Children remains a constant in its dedication to educators by providing the professional support you’ve come to know and count on.

Whether it’s for the purpose of community, knowledge, professional growth or advocacy, our objective is to ensure you have the necessary tools and resources to provide an optimal educational outcome for children and youth with exceptionalities.

As your professional home, we share your commitment to excellence and influence in an evolving environment. We are here for you.
Best wishes for a year filled with continued success and promise!

Spotlight Feature
CEC 2019 Yes I Can awardees — School and Community Activities Category

Rebecca Caron, of Patchogue, New York and Harrison Barnes, of Bridgeville, Delaware will receive a 2019 Yes I Can Award — in the School and Community Activities Category, from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) in February. It is our pleasure to introduce them...

Rebecca Caron’s proudest achievement is the work she has done to help educate young people about Tourette syndrome. She has been a Youth Ambassador at the Tourette Association of America since 2017. Rebecca is an exceptional Youth Ambassador and has dedicated the past year toward building awareness, promoting anti-bullying campaigns and advocacy efforts. Read more about Rebecca.

Despite Harrison Barnes’ exceptionalities, he found a way to not only live with them, but to thrive. As a young child, his parents were told he might never be independent. Today, Harrison is a dual sport state champion, honor student running a non-profit, crafting and influencing legislation, mentoring children with exceptionalities, working as a lifeguard and a candidate for the Congressional Award. Read more about Harrison.

Stay tuned for more about our 2019 Yes I Can awardees in the next issue of Special Education Today!

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.

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**Courage to Risk Conference – February 1-2, 2019**

**Courage to Risk** (CTR), a collaborative conference for special education, will take place at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado on February 1 - 2, 2019.

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!

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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.
**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**

Next Steps prepare students with special needs for life after school: “What does professionalism mean?” The small group of teenagers paused to consider the question and threw out suggestions, writing their ideas on a large classroom whiteboard. “Be polite.” “Be on time.” Those qualities are among the building blocks of the Next Steps Summer Program, which offers young adults with physical and developmental disabilities the opportunity to live on the University of Toledo’s campus for five weeks of college and career-readiness development. Read more.

Students receiving special education services in Texas more likely to receive harsher punishments in school: Students with exceptionalities disproportionately receive harsh punishments in Texas schools, including being sent to programs run by the juvenile justice system, according to an analysis of state data. The Texas Education Agency has implemented a system to monitor how districts discipline students to address the issue. Read more.

Vancouver teacher adapts computer science, math lessons for visually impaired: Teacher Amanda Rodda, her husband professor Andreas Stefik and other educators have rewritten Code.org's puzzle-type exercises to help students with visual impairments learn how to code in their Advanced Placement Computer Science class. Rodda, who teaches at the Washington State School for the Blind, adapts the visual-based math and computer curricula by using hands-on activities. Read more.

Bagged lunch business provides work experience: Three Kentucky educators have started a school-based brown-bag lunch business to give students with exceptionalities
opportunities to develop job skills. Students plan, prepare and deliver meals to school employees every other month. Read more.