

This week, we look back on our #SELS2019 advocacy efforts, celebrate a 2019 Yes I Can Award winner, and put out a final call for Professional and Student Award nominations.

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Special Education Today

News, resources, and tools for educators like you.

Digital Recap: #SELS2019, #4SpecialEducation, and Facebook Live



The 2019 Special Education Legislative Summit may have officially come to a close, but the pictures, quotes, messages, experiences, and efforts of our advocates have taken the digital world by storm!

On [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#), advocates shared their stories – including rallying for full IDEA funding with U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman, their favorite quotes and learnings from the pre-event preparation sessions, message of appreciation for the staff and Congress members who took the time to meet with them, and – of course – the best selfies!

To learn how you can advocate all year long, read the Policy Insider highlight below. In the meantime, check out the 2019 Special Education Legislative Summit [Facebook Live recording](#) to meet the advocates and learn more about how you can get involved in CEC advocacy!

Watch the #SELS2019 Facebook Live!

LAST Call for 2020 Professional and Student Award Nominations!



Nominations for the 2020 [Professional](#) and [Student](#) Awards are CLOSING on July 15! But, there's still time to recognize a special education professional who has made valuable contributions to the CEC mission; a graduate or undergraduate student who is preparing to step into the field; or an outstanding professor who is making a difference in special education teacher training and preparation.

This year, we're offering the following Professional and Student Awards, presented on the big stage at the CEC 2020 Convention & Expo:

- The Frederick J. Weintraub Outstanding CEC Leadership Award
- The Susan Phillips Gorin Award (which honors an outstanding college or university faculty member)
- The Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award
- The CEC J.E. Wallace Wallin Lifetime Achievement Award
- The CEC Special Education Research Award
- The CEC Business/Organizational Award
- The Outstanding CEC Student Member of the Year (Graduate & Undergraduate) Awards

Send in your nomination today!

Did You See Our 2019 Yes I Can Award Recipient on ESPN's ESPY Awards?

Guess what? This week, 2019 Yes I Can Award recipient, Harrison Barnes, was honored on the live ESPN broadcast of the ESPY Awards as an inaugural recipient of the Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award!

Harrison, who is from Bridgeville, DE, founded "GearUp," a nonprofit organization that promotes bicycle riding as a way for young people to overcome personal challenges. GearUp refurbishes and gives away used bikes, offering prizes for reaching weekly cycling goals and hosts an annual multi-state bicycle event for children of military families while mentoring young cyclists who have physical or developmental disabilities.



Congratulations, Harrison! You are truly exceptional and – clearly – destined for great things!

Learn more about Harrison and the other Yes I Can recipients!

What's Happening in Washington?



On **Wednesday, July 17**, join us for this year's "What's Happening in Washington" webinar, where you'll learn about the current education policies under consideration by the administration and Congress, and how they could impact you. Plus, you'll find out how you can advocate for the success of our field and the children and youth we serve. This webinar is FREE for CEC members -- register now!

Register now!

Policy Highlights

Advocacy 365

On July 9, 289 advocates "stormed the Hill" to champion the provision of special education and early intervention for children and youth with exceptionalities. Now, #SELS2019 advocates invite you to "storm the hill from your location across the nation" by visiting CEC's Legislative Action Center. [Read more.](#)



Upcoming Events

What's Happening in Washington

CEC Webinar | July 17, 2019

Educating Students with Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorders: Research-Based Practices

University of Arkansas | July 29, 2019

MAASE Summer Institute 2019

Acme, MI | August 11-14, 2019

Data-Based Behavior Plans: What Do They Look Like?

CEC Webinar | September 11, 2019

News

Preschool for children with disabilities works, but federal funding for it is plummeting:

Special education programs for preschoolers with disabilities are required by law. But as the number of students needing services has doubled, funding per child has decreased 40% in two decades

Brewing Battle Over Pell Grants:

Lawmakers consider expanding Pell Grants to short-term job training, with backing from community colleges and business groups, while critics question the payoff for short-term programs.

Can "playful assessments" tell us whether maker education works? An MIT pilot project at two schools seeks to measure hands-on, collaborative learning.

Can 'growth' data push parents to more integrated schools? A new study says maybe: Parents were more likely to choose to enroll their children in a school district that was lower-income and had more students of color when they received data about the district's academic growth over time, according to a study by a researcher at Harvard University. Some study participants received growth data, others were provided absolute test score performance, and some received both growth and test scores.

Report: More states pursuing innovative assessment models: Giving interim student assessments for accountability purposes could "discourage weeks of pretest preparation" and provide schools with more useful feedback. But,



interim student assessments for accountability purposes could "discourage weeks of pretest preparation" and provide schools with more useful feedback. But, there might also be resistance to shifting curriculum and pacing during the school year, and teachers would need support in using the results.

Middle schools beefing up career and technical ed labs:

As debate persists around how young is too young for students to begin deciding on careers, the middle grades are increasingly eyed as a good introductory period for a variety of skills.

Want More Creativity? Help Children See Themselves Differently:

Young students who understand they have "multiple identities" -- such as being a sibling, student and athlete -- have improved creative problem-solving skills, according to a recent study. The findings show that the students are four times as likely to consider various ways to solve a problem, compared with their peers.

Want Transformational Teachers? Here's Why Change Starts With

Coaches: The Dynamic Learning Project, supported by Google for Education, Digital Promise and EdTechTeam, was launched to showcase the value of effective coaching on teachers. In this article, EdTechTeam's Chief Program Officer describes the project's work and its findings.

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Council for Exceptional Children
2900 Crystal Drive
Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22202

1-888-232-7733

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