A Message from the Executive Director: Day 1 at CEC

This week, Chad Rummel, M.Ed., CAE, officially joined us as CEC’s new executive director. Read his message to the community to learn more about his commitment to children and youth with exceptionalities and to hear reflections from his first day.

Read the full post!

Do You See Yourself as a Leader?

“As a long-time CEC member, I entered my Leadership Development Committee (LDC) term with quite a bit of uncertainty. Did I have the skills necessary to make a long-lasting impact on CEC? By serving on the LDC, my time,
talents, and voice have helped shape the future of the organization. In return, the LDC has provided me with resources and opportunities to further hone my leadership skills, learn about best practices in non-profit governance, and interact with some of the brightest people in the special education community."
- Anna Adl, Diagnostian, Franklin, WI

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is seeking three committed CEC members to join its ranks!

The LDC is charged with identifying, cultivating, recruiting, and orienting a well-qualified and diverse pipeline of volunteer leaders for board and committee positions responsive to the current and future needs of CEC. Serving on this exciting, fast-paced committee requires you to be creative, collaborative, and solution-focused.

Applications are now being accepted for three-year terms beginning Sept. 1, 2020 and are due Feb. 13, 2020.

Learn more and apply today!

Social Shout-Out of the Week: Teacher Education Division Members Add Voices in Special Education to New Research Handbook

According to CEC’s State of the Profession Survey Report, 8% of special education teachers rated general educators as well-prepared to help students with exceptionalities meet IEP goals, while only 18% rated their district administrators as very to extremely prepared to support special education instruction.

Given the growing special educator shortages and the fact that inclusion is the most cited strategy for instruction of children with exceptionalities, it’s more important than ever before for ALL educators to understand what it means to help our students succeed.

To bring the special education voice to mainstream teacher education research, several experts from CEC’s Teacher Education Division (TED) represented the world of special education professors in this non-special education book, “Handbook of Research on Developing Engaging Online Courses.”
Policy Highlights

President Trump’s Budget Expected to Arrive to Congress on February 10

On Monday, the White House confirmed that the Trump Administration’s budget proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 will be sent to Congress on February 10. Read more.

U.S. Education Department to Examine Federal Education Spending in 400 Districts

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced that it will evaluate how states are spending some of the largest pots of federal money at elementary and high schools across the country. Read more.

Upcoming Events

**SuperConference 39**
Lafayette, LA | January 12-13

**DADD 21st International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability, and Developmental Disabilities**
Sarasota, FL | January 22-24

**CEC 2020 Convention & Expo**
Portland, OR | February 5-7

Clean. Fresh. Modern: Empower™
Empower is PRC’s new interface for Accent® devices that’s easy to use. The streamlined navigation makes it easy to start communicating – fast. Visit booth #206 at CEC 2020 to learn more.

Congress Hands Special Ed Hefty Funding Boost: Federal funding for special education will rise the most it has in years under a $1.4 trillion package signed late last year by President Trump.

Special Report: 10 Big Ideas in Education: Education Week’s new edition of Big Ideas questions some of the basic assumptions that underpin public education and stand in the way of transformation.

What is the "gold standard" of PBL?: According to a report from the nonprofit PBLWorks, creating "gold-standard" project-based learning requires effective training and buy-in from leadership.

How Many English-Learners Do Districts Serve? Data Are Inconsistent: A new analysis finds some big holes in a federal database on English-language-learner students in the nation’s school districts, and that's a concern for researchers in the field.

The 15 Key Technology Hurdles, Trends and Enablers for 2020: The Consortium for School Networking has identified the 15 technology hurdles, trends, and enablers awaiting education leaders in 2020.

More States Say They're Teaching Media Literacy, But What That Means
Varies: A report from Media Literacy Now says only 14 U.S. states have laws requiring some form of K-12 media literacy education, though several state legislatures will consider the subject this year.

State funding for higher ed edges up 5% in 2020: Funding rose year-over-year in all but three states, though a handful of those states accounted for half the gains, according to the latest Grapevine report.

How music motivates students to make the grade: Research by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation finds districts with high percentages of low-income students are finding ways to fund music education – and graduation rates show it’s paying off.

U.S. Schools See Surge in Number of Arabic- and Chinese-Speaking English-Learners: While Spanish remains the most commonly spoken English-learner language by far, the numbers for speakers of Arabic and Chinese have grown dramatically over the past decade, federal data show.

How PLCs power progress in schools: Professional learning communities are expanding beyond individual schools and into online platforms, creating a larger learning network for teachers, school leaders say.