This week, we share how 1 special education teacher reminds herself to implement behavior-specific praise, the latest from the CECommunity forum, journal articles of the week, and more.

Tricks and Tips from the Classroom

3 Tips for Remembering Behavior-Specific Praise
Today on the blog, special education teacher Kelsey Smith shares how she reminds herself to implement behavior-specific praise on a consistent basis.

Take Action

Tell the Administration and Congress to Support Public Education
Stories like yours have made an important difference as appropriators make decisions about annual spending. Tell your congressional delegation to support public education funding today.

Action Alert: Senate HELP Committee Ramps Up Negotiations to Reauthorize HEA
As the U.S. Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee ramps up negotiations to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA), show your support for an HEA reauthorization that strengthens the educator pipeline and services for students with disabilities enrolled in higher education.

Fresh Off the Forum

Conversations from the CECommunity
Each day, our members take to the CECommunity All-Member Forum to ask questions, find solutions, and improve their practice through a shared network of experiences, resources, and advice. ICYMI, here are some of the conversations our community had this week.

- Interested in getting UDL-related feedback on a lesson plan and helping a teacher in training at the same time?
- Looking for resources and trainings available for teachers of medically fragile, severe profound high school

Journal Articles of the Week

**Creating Inclusive Music Classrooms Through Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies**

This article from the Jan./Feb. 2020 issue of *TEACHING Exceptional Children* introduces a peer-assisted learning strategy used in the music classroom and provides practical applications to design curricula and classroom routines.

**Predicting Special Educators’ Intent to Continue Teaching Students with EBD in Self-Contained Settings**

In the latest issue of *Exceptional Children*, researchers found that special educators’ perceptions of adequacy of planning time, workload manageability, stress, and emotional exhaustion mediated relationships between other working conditions and intent to stay.

CEC Reads

**High-Leverage Practices Laminated Resource Guide Collection**

Guess what? Through March 15, 2020, you can get this set of six laminated guides for only $69!

**Co-Teach! Building and Sustaining Effective Classroom Partnerships in Inclusive Schools**
Get answers to your co-teaching questions in this NEW book from Dr. Marilyn Friend, complete with discussion guides and extensive resources.

**Embedded Instruction in the General Education Classroom for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

The 12th book in the Prism series, developed by CEC's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD), is your guide to the development and implementation of embedded instructional programs.

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**Get Involved**

**Give Us Your Feedback**

As a CEC member, you have a chance to learn more about your organization, expand your leadership knowledge, and get involved by weighing in on proposed revisions to CEC's Bylaws! All comments will be provided to the Board of Directors, with the comment period ending on **March 2, 2020**.

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**DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY**

School of Education

Become a leader in special education and advance your passion for providing quality environments for individuals with disabilities.

The Ph.D. in Special Education at Duquesne University is an 80 credit program that allows students to begin upon completion of their undergraduate degree. This program gives
candidates the tools to maximize the potential for achieving meaningful quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Students accepted to this program receive a 25% tuition scholarship. This program can be completed at the full or part-time course load.

### Upcoming Events

**NC CEC 33rd Annual General Conference**  
Greensboro, NC | February 26-28

**Alabama CEC Annual Conference**  
Trussville, AL | February 27

**SC CEC 2020 Conference**  
Myrtle Beach, SC | February 28-29

### News

**Special education in California in need of overhaul, researchers say**: Policy Analysis for California Education has released a package of research reports calling on the state to make major changes to how schools handle special education.

**In Some States, ESSA Goals for English-Learners Are 'Purely Symbolic,' Report Finds**: More than four years since it passed, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) may not have led to gains for English-language learners, according to a report from the Migration Policy Institute.

**One Size Does Not Fit All: Analyzing Different Approaches to Family-School Communication**: A new Center for American Progress survey and analysis illustrate the importance of schools communicating different types of information to parents through a variety of communication systems in order to strengthen school-home partnerships and engagement.
Girls consistently outperform boys in reading skills – but could this be changing?: While female students worldwide consistently have outperformed their male peers on reading exams, the latest PISA results show that male students may be catching up -- primarily because performance among girls declined.

The Nation's English-Learner Population Has Surged: 3 Things to Know: There are approximately 4.9 million students in K-12 schools in the US who are English-language learners, about 1 million more than two decades ago, according to a report from the US Department of Education.

Home Visits Are Effective. Here’s Why They Still Make Some Teachers Uneasy.: Many early education programs, including Head Start, use home visits to foster better relationships with families and improve outcomes for students. However, a number of educators say they have safety concerns about visiting children at home.