

GEORGIA CEC NEWSLETTER

community.cec.sped.org/ga/home

President's Message



DR. DAMITA JAMES
PRESIDENT 20-21

Join our social media pages and check out our website for upcoming opportunities and relevant information that can be used in your setting.

Follow us on Facebook
@GeorgiaCEC
Twitter@CECGeorgia.

Resilience!

What a great word to describe the state of educators today! Kudos to the educators who have been able to roll with the punches and teach with grace. During my first term as President of Georgia CEC, I am challenged to find ways to guide GaCEC to continue to be the voice and vision for students with disabilities. It is with great pleasure and out of the box thinking that we pledge to be the guidance needed to provide relevant information and resources to assist Georgia educators to better serve students with disabilities.

During this time of uncertainty, we have had the opportunity for renewal and growth. It is my hope that as things begin to develop into the new normal, we won't forget the lessons that we have learned about ourselves, our commitments, and our responsibilities to our profession. Now more than ever, we have to embrace the circumstances and continue to find new approaches to the way we interact with our families, students, and other educators.

It is up to GaCEC to be the beacon of light for educators across the state and the country as it pertains to cultural responsiveness and equitable services for our students. We must ensure that we are providing high leverage practices to close the gaps that our students have experienced.

Exceptional Children's Week

BY DR. KARIN FISHER

We are pleased to announce the winner of our 2020 Exceptional Children's Week contest! Paris, from Conyers Middle School, integrated our theme in this beautiful poem.

See My Abilities

*Written By: Paris Key
(Conyers Middle School)*

March 5, 2020

Why do people criticize
the blurry in my eyes

The visions could not be clear-er
and none of that is lies

Despite a person's struggle
their dreams can help them rise

I'm seen as sad and disabled
but that's only a disguise

People often like to think that they can terrorize
Those poor defenseless souls and see their misery as their prize

But those people are wrong they might not compromise
but if they want to know what is fear, they would look into their eyes

Paris and her teacher,
Mr. Griffiths were each
awarded a \$50 gift card.
Congratulations to both!



Be on the lookout for our
2021
Exceptional Children's week!
Coming March 1-5, 2021
Theme:

**VIRTUALLY
UNSTOPPABLE!!**



YES I CAN!



The Yes I Can! awards celebrate the achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities, encouraging these individuals to seek their highest potential, and increasing public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities.

We are now accepting nominations for the 2021 Yes I Can Awards through **Nov. 10, 2020!**

[YES I CAN! Nomination Form](#)

Exciting Opportunities

Have a great idea for your classroom, but no money to implement it? Apply for a mini-grant for up to **\$500**



Application requirements:

- Open to all PK-12 special education teachers who are members of CEC.
- Grants of up to \$500 will be dispersed to the top 4 applicants.
- Grant recipients will be recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children
- Applicants must provide proof of employment to receive funds.

The deadline to submit the application by **November 30th, 2020**

Click to apply: <https://community.cec.sped.org/ga/minigrants>

Scholarships

2020/21 Theodore Smith Scholarship

This award allows Special Education teachers or Special Education paraprofessionals to continue the pursuit of excellence with two scholarships of \$1000 each.

In addition to the \$1000 for higher education, paraprofessionals who are not CEC members will receive a one-year free CEC membership.

Deadline: **February 28, 2021**

CEC/GCASE Ambassador Application

It is our hope that Special Education teacher leaders will be selected to serve as ambassadors for the G-CASE Spring conference. Ambassadors will receive conference registration and travel expenses as appropriate. Ambassadors will assist with conference registration and support throughout the conference.

Deadline: **TBD**

2021 Tony Molinari Scholarship

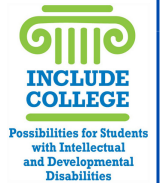
Each year two \$1,000 scholarships are available for special education administrators, with a preference for at least one of the awards being given to a beginning special education administrator in the first 5 years of service. Recipients of this award must be members of G-CASE, CASE and CEC. This scholarship fund was established to enable special educators, especially special education administrators, to attend the International Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention.

Deadline: **TBD**

Click on the name of the scholarship to apply!



Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Spotlight



By: Dr. Toni Franklin

It's never too early to start thinking about college for your students!

Inclusive Post secondary education (IPSE) programs provides students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities a college experience. Currently, in the state of Georgia, there are nine inclusive college options for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Programs such as the *GOALS program at Columbus Sate University*, provides students with a personally meaningful university experience in which students engage in college life as a foundation for active, lifelong career and community participation. The GOALS program uses a combination of inclusive classes, social engagement, career exploration, peer mentoring, and personal advisement to help students continue to expand their skills in self determination, community engagement, personal independence, and career development. For more information about the GOALS program at CSU or other IPSE programs in GA email: goalsinfo@columbusstate.edu

Welcome!!

Welcome to our newest chapters in GA:
North GLRS District 3
Marietta City

CEC Resources

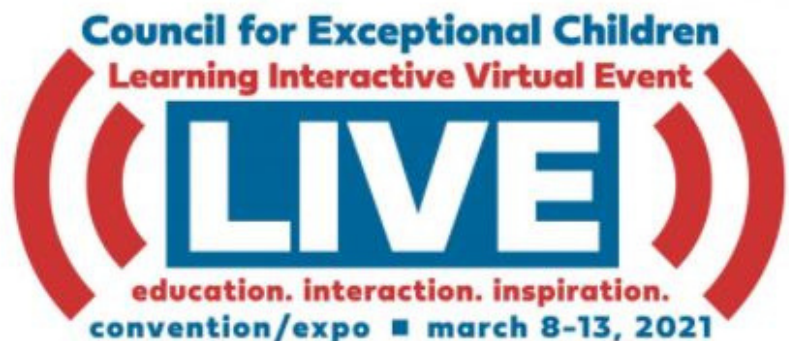
From resource links to free CEC webinars for teachers AND administrators, we've got you covered with the latest resources and information on teaching remotely during COVID-19. Visit the NEW CEC website for more information: exceptionalchildren.org

CEC 2021 Convention & Expo is going virtual!

- Participate from the comfort of your home
- Reduced registration rates
- Flexible scheduling

Click the link for more information:

[CEC LIVE](#)



Engage in GaCEC....



The various talents and perspectives of the members of GaCEC are what keeps our organization moving forward toward our mission of improving the education and quality of life for children and youth with exceptionalities.

Volunteer

We are currently seeking volunteers to work on the following standing committees:

- Awards committee
- Communications
- Finance
- Membership
- Nominations and Elections
- Policy and Advocacy
- Program Committee Student
- Advisory Committee
- Exceptional Children's Week

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, email cecgeorgia1@gmail.com

Let Your Voice be Heard

Georgia CEC Children and Advocacy Network

Click, and instantly become an advocate...
<https://cqcengage.com/cek/app/onestep-write-a-letter?13&engagementId=508609>

All you have to do is put in your zip code and it **AUTOMATICALLY** pops up with a letter already prepared to send to your specific Georgia Representative and both of our Senators. It really is easy. You can add to the letter if you want to make it more personal before you hit submit. CEC has a dedicated staff to examine policies and make recommendations on behalf of our students and fellow professionals in our special education family. Another click takes you to all of CEC's Policy and Advocacy efforts <https://exceptionalchildren.org/policy-and-advocacy>

To get involved in Georgia CEC Children and Advocacy Network, please email Kelly Standridge at gaceccan@gmail.com.



GaCEC is going to offer a virtual teacher's lounge in January 2021!

Please let us complete the survey below to suggest dates for the lounge.

[Teacher's Lounge Survey](#)

We want to hear from you!

Click the link below to fill out a survey to share your thoughts on what you would like to see in the future from GaCEC

[GaCEC Interest Survey](#)

Additional ways to Support **YOUR** organization.

GaCEC currently has several opportunities for your support your organization while getting some holiday shopping done from the comfort of your home.

AmazonSmile

When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to GaCEC! You do not need to be a member of GaCEC to identify it as the charitable organization, so please feel free to share with family and friends!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1276502>



Add **Georgia Federation for Exceptional Children Inc.** to your AmazonSmile:

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser with your Amazon credentials.
2. From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page and then select your AmazonSmile Charity (under Other Programs). Or, from your mobile browser, select Your AmazonSmile Charity (under Other Programs) from the options at the bottom of the page.
3. Select search and type in Georgia Federation for Exceptional Children Inc. as your charitable organization.
4. Bookmark smile.amazon.com so you can see your generated donations to the Georgia Federation for Exceptional Children Inc. each time you shop at Amazon.

Boon Supply

Use the link below to shop at Boon Supply and 40% of your order will be given back to GaCEC:
<https://www.boonsupply.com/collections/611976-georgia-council-for-exceptional-children>

You can also find us by going to boonsupply.com and searching for "Georgia Council for Exceptional Children" under Find a fundraiser.

CEC T-Shirts



We still have T-shirts for sale.
The shirts cost \$15 with **FREE** shipping
If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt send an email to gacecsecretary@gmail.com