

# GEORGIA CEC NEWSLETTER

<https://georgia.exceptionalchildren.org/>

## President's Message



DR. DAMITA JAMES  
PRESIDENT 21-22

Make sure to check out our  
new website at  
[Georgia.ExceptionalChildren.org](https://Georgia.ExceptionalChildren.org)  
Follow us on Facebook  
@GeorgiaCEC  
Twitter@CECGeorgia

**Grit**, yep that's the word that comes to my mind when I think of the work you are doing throughout the state.

The new school year is certainly in full swing and I know that you are doing all you can to stay safe and be well all while educating our most precious students. It has been said that, "Grit is having the courage to push through, no matter what the obstacles are, because it's worth it." I think that sums up where we are right now as special educators. We are digging deep into ourselves to find that Grit!

As we continue to press towards the mark of ensuring our students are reaching their full potential, we are challenged to find new and innovative ways to help them reach their goals. I have no doubt that you are giving your all each and every day and will continue to do so because the calling is greater than the sacrifice. When all else fails, let's take our cue and learn a lesson from the salmon.

### **Sometimes you have to go against the flow.**

Salmon don't just float merrily along. They fight against the current, swimming upstream. A trout couldn't swim upstream; it isn't strong enough. Swimming upstream is possible because of the salmon's strength. I believe you have the strength to keep swimming.

**Keep the faith, Stay Safe, Mask Up and Teach On While Going Upstream!**

# EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S WEEK



**MARCH 7-11,  
2022**

**In 2022, CEC will be celebrating  
100 years of Leading Special  
Education!!**

**With our 2022 ECW theme this  
year we are...**



**CELEBRATING THE PAST,  
COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE,  
CHEERS TO 100 YEARS!**

## What are your plans?

*What a year, what a year, what a mighty busy start to the year!* This seems to be our mantra as of late and without a doubt I know that you all have started the year running. Despite all that you may be facing, it is my hope that you will continue to lean on your professional organizations and other resources around the state to guide you in the work you do for students with disabilities. With that being said, we are excited to be celebrating an anniversary!

**Happy 100th Anniversary to CEC!** The Council for Exceptional Children is celebrating 100 years of service to educators across the world. As part of the celebration, this year's National CEC Convention will include a Legacy Luncheon and a Birthday Bash that will be held during the CEC Convention (January 16-19, 2022) in Orlando, FL. The luncheon is on January 17 from 11:00-1:00 PM. It is our hope that you will join the GaCEC Executive Board at the luncheon. We are planning to reserve tables but we need to know who will attend. If you are planning to attend the conference and will purchase tickets for the luncheon, please let us know by completing the following [FORM](#). We're hoping that we will see many Georgia faces at the convention. Georgia CEC has always had a great representation of special educators from around the state.

Hopefully, as a member of CEC you have received information concerning the upcoming convention. Your Georgia state CEC Executive Board meets regularly to support all its members statewide and wants to be a support for you and your districts. Please let us know how we can be of service to you. As always, the [ExceptionalChildren.org](https://ExceptionalChildren.org) website provides a wealth of information that could be of great reference for you.

***"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."***~Unknown

Stay safe, be brave, and be encouraged!

Dr. Damita James, GaCEC President



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTION NETWORK

BY: KELLY STANDRIDGE, GA CAN COORDINATOR



What is a good analogy for advocacy? Is it the heart of special education? Is it the hub of a wheel? Is it the handle of the special ed umbrella? Maybe it can be compared to all of those things, but for today, let's think of advocacy as being like the chain on a bicycle. I'm not a cyclist, and I've fallen off my bike a time or two, but nonetheless, I know that a bicycle needs a chain. *The I Love Bicycling* website describes it like this, "A bicycle chain is simply a roller chain that transfers the power you into your pedals to the wheel of your bike. The harder you pedal the faster your bike goes." Advocacy transfers the power from your voice to the actions of our policymakers (whether the policymaker is an administrator, a state legislator, or Congressperson).

Pedaling is all of the hard work we do each day to support our students and families, and we need to link that to the wheels of policymakers. We need your voice- and advocacy- so that our policymakers can hear what we need to fulfill the promise of IDEA. Instead of just spinning our wheels in special ed circles, we can advocate for change to help our students, families, and colleagues pedal their way to success. We are the links in the chain of advocacy.

The Special Education Legislative Summit is one way to advocate. This past July, we had over 50 CEC members participate in SELS. As a Georgia team, we met with 9 of our Congressional members.

Between now and SELS 2022, you can advocate by going to the CEC Legislative Action Center and simply put in your zip code to send a letter to Congress. You can forward that website to friends and colleagues so they can send a letter.

[TAKE ACTION Legislative Action Center | Council for Exceptional Children](#)

You can check out Georgia education issues by going to the GAE or PAGE websites to see their Legislative web pages. These sites also give a link to your State Legislator.

Contacting Your Legislator - [Georgia Association of Educators \(gae.org\)](#) or

[RESOURCES | PAGE \(pagelegislative.org\)](#)





## GA DEC DIVISION

Hello Georgia CEC! As president of the Georgia Division for Early Childhood (DEC), I would like to extend a warm welcome from our executive board! We are a division of the Georgia Council for Exceptional Children. The DEC promotes policies and advances evidence-based practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of young children (ages 0-8) who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities and their families. The DEC is an international membership organization for those who work with or on behalf of young children with disabilities and developmental delays and their families. Georgia DEC specifically focuses on policies and practices that support young children and their families, educators, and service providers who reside in the state of Georgia.

We are excited for you to get involved with Georgia DEC, and we welcome your participation. Importantly, we are hosting a special election for Georgia DEC officers this November 2021. We are seeking nominations for a Vice President, a Family Representative, a Member-at-Large, and a student representative. You can find more information on the Georgia DEC Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GeorgiaDEC/>

Sincerely,

Katy Green, Ph.D.  
President, Georgia Division for Early Childhood

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Past President: Michael Morrier, Ph.D., BCBA-D,

Secretary: Nicole Hendrix, Ph.D., BCBA

Treasurer: Melanie Leya-Abad

CAN Coordinator: Chelsea Morris, Ph.D.

Membership Chair: Brooks Peters, Ph.D.

BY: MIKE WEINROTH, PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA PIONEERS

## **Georgia CEC Preparing for National CEC Convention in Orlando, Florida and a Bit of CEC History**

January, 16-19, 2022 is the date set for the first national Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) conference held in two years. Last year's conference was virtual due to Covid-19. This upcoming conference in January is being held at the Orlando World Center Marriott. A highlight of this convention will be the celebration of the founding of CEC 100 years ago. So, this convention is a Centennial celebration. CEC began through the efforts of one young woman in 1922.

Elizabeth Farrell is a "genuine American hero: the woman who 'created' special education and devoted her life to making a difference in the lives of children and American public schooling". Farrell was the founder of the first 'ungraded' class in U.S. public schools and one of the founders of the Council for Exceptional Children. She also served as CEC's first president from 1922-1926".

Ms. Farrell was among a group of educators attending a summer session at Teacher's College, Columbia University, and with faculty members on August 10, 1922, CEC was born. (quoted material courtesy of the Council for Exceptional Children)

A highlight of the conference will be the Legacy Luncheon that is scheduled on Monday, January 17, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We're hoping that we will see many Georgia faces at the convention. Georgia CEC has always had a great representation of special educators from around the state. Hopefully, as a member of CEC you have received information concerning the upcoming convention. Your Georgia state CEC Executive Board meets regularly to support all its members statewide.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, you will be asked if you are making plans to attend the convention. In previous years it was not unusual that Georgians from around the state were spotted, either because they looked familiar or they were wearing a name tag that reflected their city and state.

Hopefully, we'll have an opportunity to see one another at the Legacy Luncheon, the 100th Anniversary Birthday Bash scheduled on Tuesday, January 18, in a session or workshop. At least this year, getting to Florida doesn't require an airline ticket!





## Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Spotlight



Possibilities for Students  
with Intellectual  
and Developmental  
Disabilities

Did you know that **ALL** Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) programs  
Programs in Georgia are Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary  
programs (CTP)??

That means that students with intellectual disabilities are eligible to receive federal  
financial aid when they are enrolled in an IPSE program in Georgia to help pay for  
the cost of attendance, even if they do not have a regular high school diploma and  
are not matriculating towards a degree.



For information about IPSE options in Georgia visit: [www.gaipsec.org](http://www.gaipsec.org)



**MARK YOUR  
CALENDERS**

# JUNE 2023



The Executive Board decided to postpone the statewide in  
person conference until 2023. More information coming soon!!

If you do not have the time right now to volunteer,  
you can still support **YOUR** organization

### 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 the option to 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.

### 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](mailto:gacecsecretary@gmail.com)