

# GEORGIA CEC NEWSLETTER

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

## President's Message



DR. DAMITA JAMES  
PRESIDENT 20-21

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

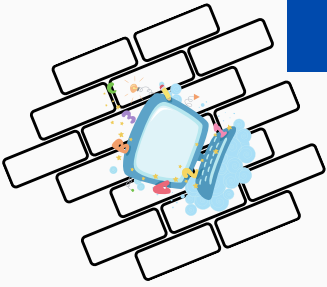
It's hard to believe that one year ago our educational processes changed literally overnight. Yet, here we are...proving that we are "virtually unstoppable". Despite the unwavering changes we have faced during this year, we have proven that we have the tenacity to continue the good fight for educating our students with disabilities. Our teachers, administrators, students, and parents have taken what has been given and made the best out of it. For this, I salute you!

As we continue to celebrate all the accomplishments of this past year, I believe that we still have a lot more to do and will exceed any expectations that we have set forth. The best is yet to come because we are forever learners and change makers. It is my hope that you took this month to reflect on the positive and celebrate the exceptional work that you and your students have completed this school year.

We want to honor and celebrate you too. That's why our Exceptional Children's Week theme, "Virtually Unstoppable" is so fitting. So let's show all the ways that you have been unstoppable this year. If no one else has said it, please know that **YOU ARE EXCEPTIONAL!**

Be Well,  
Damita♥

# Exceptional Children's Week "Virtually Unstoppable"



Thank you to all of the teachers and students who helped celebrate ECW 2021 and shared your celebrations with us. Members from across the state showed how truly unstoppable we really are!!

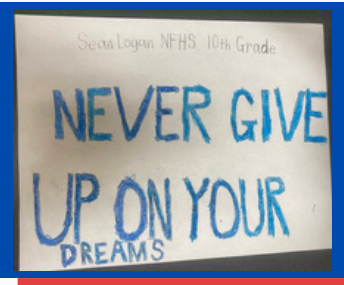
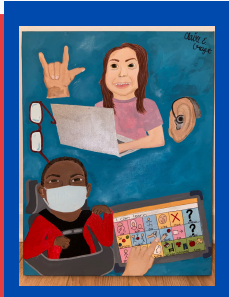
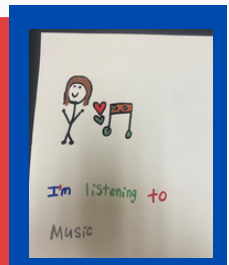
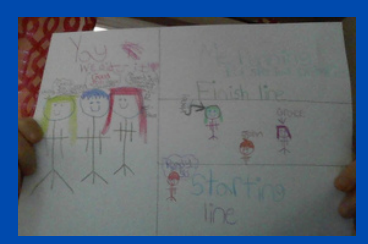
Houston County held a county-wide virtual celebration



White County remade a classic and created an awesome video. To see the video, visit our [Facebook page](#).



Teachers from across the state submitted entries for the student artwork contest. Be on the lookout for the announcement of the winner of the student art contest!

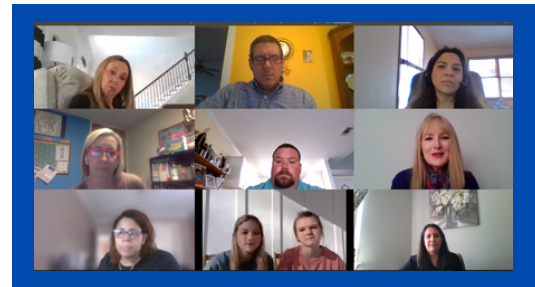


# Student Chapters Update

With student organizations not being able to meet in person and everyone suffering from major Zoom fatigue, the student leaders knew that they needed to do something different. In a plan to renew our vitality, the student CEC chapters from Georgia College, Georgia Southern, Augusta University, and Columbus State University decided to combine their efforts, enjoy each other's company and organize well-developed and worthwhile meetings.

Georgia College hosted the January meeting on job hunting. We secured two local principals to talk to teacher candidates about the interview process and the characteristics they are looking for. In addition, we had two former students who are new teachers, talking about their job hunting experiences and characteristics of schools that they looked for in potential employers. In total, our Zoom meeting attracted 62 participants. We look forward to the continued partnership with the student CEC chapters across the state.

Maggie Fisher, President of the Georgia College Student Chapter.



## Columbus State University hosted the March meeting

GRADUATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING....

The Best Educators never stop learning and growing

Join the student chapters of the GaCEC as we learn about continued professional growth after graduation.

Wednesday, March 24th at 4pm



Georgia Southern University hosted the second state SCEC workshop on February 24th. The topic was the Special Education GACE and our presenters were from the Professional Services Commission (PSC) and Educational Testing Services (ETS). A survey was provided to SCEC members at all participating universities and the presenters tailored their presentation to the survey results. The presenters discussed test structure and design, preparation, test questions, and resources. Next, the SCEC chapter president for Georgia Southern, Abigail Walker, facilitated a question and answer session with the facilitators. The workshop was recorded and can be viewed at this link -

<https://vimeo.com/523072795/d1e5c205a4>

As a result of our workshop, the PSC created a document titled GaPSC Special Education Fields and GACE Alignment to better explain the special education requirements.

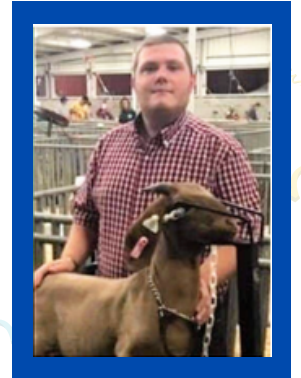
Dr. Karin Fisher, Advisor and Abigail Walker, President of the Georgia Southern University Chapter.

If you are a student or professor at a Georgia institute of higher learning and would like to join the collaboration of the Ga SCEC chapters, contact Karin Fisher at [kfisher@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:kfisher@georgiasouthern.edu)



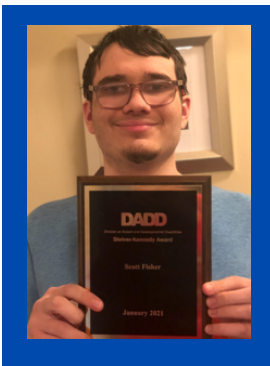
## Student Award Winners

Presented each year at the CEC Convention & Expo, the Yes I Can Awards recognize 12 outstanding students with exceptionalities in six categories: Academics, Arts, School & Community Activities, Self-Advocacy, Technology, and Transition. Last Month at CEC LIVE Georgia student, Jacob Rider won the Yes I Can award in the category of Transition.



# CONGRATULATIONS

## Jacob & Scott



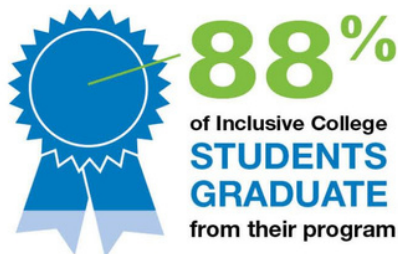
In January, 11th grade Southeast Bulloch High School student Scott Fisher was awarded the Schriver-Kennedy Award for academic achievement. Scott was nominated by his special education teacher, Stephanie Mireles. This national award is given to one outstanding student by the CEC Division of Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) at their annual international conference. Congratulations to Scott Fisher from Statesboro, Georgia!

## Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Spotlight



Possibilities for Students  
with Intellectual  
and Developmental  
Disabilities

Inclusive Post secondary education (IPSE) programs provide students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) the opportunity to attend college.



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

BY: MIKE WEINROTH, PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA PIONEERS

For those of you who may not be familiar with Georgia Pioneers, let me share a few of our activities with you.

Georgia Pioneers (a division of CEC) have been the keepers of the history of Georgia CEC. In our Bicentennial year, 1976, a group of us wrote a book on the history of Georgia CEC from 1957-1976. They were sold at several state CEC conventions. It included the important highlights that happened in Georgia CEC since our founding in 1957. We also sold copies of the book at the CEC National Convention that was held for the first time in Atlanta in 1977. That convention set a record of over 12,000 registered attendees and to date, no other national convention has exceeded that number!

The very first organizational meeting for state CEC was held at the Rock Eagle 4-H Club camp in Eatonton. Dr. Mamie Jo Jones was the first state president of Georgia CEC and she was also appointed Georgia's first State Director of Special Education at the Georgia Department of Education. Mamie Jo was an extraordinary individual. She came from a pioneer family in Elberton and after graduating from high school she was accepted at North Western University in Evanston, Illinois. She graduated with a degree in speech pathology and completed her special education graduate program from Columbia University in New York. It was at Columbia that she met Dr.'s Fran and Leo Connor and other distinguished faculty members in the emerging field of special education. There were very few training programs in special education in the U.S. in the late 1940's and 50's and Columbia was the preeminent university to attend.

In our Georgia CEC archives, we have conference programs from almost every state convention that was held since 1957. Until about 10 years ago, we held two state conferences each year. There was a Fall Conference and a Spring Conference. The President-Elect of state CEC was responsible for the planning and execution of these two conferences. The archives also contain our state newsletters, some of which are 30-40 years old as well as pictures taken at the conventions. Prior to the advent of computers, the state newsletters were mailed statewide using POSTAGE STAMPS!

Should anyone want to spend time in our state archives, they are open to the public. Until a year ago our archives were kept at the Georgia Retired Educators Association state office in Flowery Branch. Since then, the four file drawers that have over 64 years of Georgia CEC history in them, have been moved to a conference room at the University of North Georgia campus in Gainesville (formerly Gainesville College campus). For those of you who might want to spend time in the archives, please contact Damita James, President of Georgia CEC at [cecgeorgia1@gmail.com](mailto:cecgeorgia1@gmail.com) or Mike Weinroth, President of Georgia Pioneers at [mikeweinroth@aol.com](mailto:mikeweinroth@aol.com)

## Join the CEC Voice in Georgia



Use your voice to advocate on behalf of our students, families, and colleagues. In the Georgia General Assembly, there is Senate Bill 47 to expand the vouchers for Special Education students. Georgia CEC and the national CEC oppose legislation which takes public dollars out of public schools.

You are encouraged to contact your local GA Senator and Representative.

Both PAGE and GAE oppose the voucher bills in Georgia. You can get more information on Georgia Legislation through PAGE or GAE- use their resources to write your local rep.

[email : Webview : Shut SB47 Vouchers Down NOW! \(e2ma.net\)](#) or  
[LEGISLATIVE | PAGE \(pagelegislative.org\)](#)

To read more about CEC policy positions and get the facts, click here:

[Policy and Advocacy | Council for Exceptional Children.](#)

We are thankful for the additional monies in the pandemic relief funding to support special education.

Stay tuned for more information about the 2021 CEC Special Education Legislative Summit - we hope to have another large Georgia delegation to advocate with us at SELS this year.

## Update your Membership Info

We need your help to update our member information. Many of you are members of CEC but may not be associated with a particular chapter. According to National CEC, we have approximately 24 chapters in Georgia but the Executive Board is only aware of three. Please take a moment to complete the survey in the link below so that we can connect with you and support your chapter.  
Thank you!

[Link to Membership Survey](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities

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](mailto:cecgeorgia1@gmail.com)

## Become a Leader in **YOUR** organization

GaCEC is seeking nominations for the position of Treasurer. This position is a two-year consecutive term, and nominees are required to be members of CEC. If you are interested in serving as Treasurer or if you know of a candidate you would like to nominate, please submit a nomination form using the link below.

All nominations are due no later than Friday, April 23.

<https://forms.gle/ujGH236iaB2F64YY9>

## Mini-Grant Awardees

Congratulations to the following CEC members for each being awarded a \$500 Georgia CEC Mini-Grant.

Carrigan Flotlin  
Monroe County Middle School

James Kelley  
Harbins Elementary School

Cecilia Ayenesazan  
Radloff Middle School

April Durel  
Pharr Elementary School



We appreciate all of the great things they are doing in their classrooms and look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments using the grant money.

## It's Award time!!

It's time to celebrate those who are making a difference in Special Education. Do you know a Teacher or a Student doing an outstanding job? Nominate them for a GaCEC award. We are currently accepting nominations for the following awards:

- Business of the Year
- Co-Teaching Team of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement
- Outstanding Leadership
- Outstanding Student Member
- Paraprofessional of Year
- Teacher of the Year
- YES I CAN!



Click the link to nominate someone for an award today!!

[Awards Nomination Form](#)



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)