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# PIONEERS PRESS

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**2011 Annual Convention and Expo  
Council for Exceptional Children  
National Harbor, MD  
April 25-28, 2011**

It is not too soon to look forward to next year's CEC Annual Convention and Expo. After a most successful convention in Nashville, TN, we turn our sights to the newest of the Gaylord Hotel and Convention Centers in National Harbor, Maryland. As you pencil in the April 2011 convention dates, you will find a new convention date pattern being instituted for the 2011 convention. The convention begins on Sunday, April 24, 2011 and ends on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The general schedule of key includes:

- ✓ Interdivisional Caucus and convention workshops, Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011
- ✓ General Opening Session, Monday, April 25, 2011
- ✓ Division Executive Board Meeting, Tuesday, April 26, 2011
- ✓ Division Business Meeting, Tuesday, April 26, 2011
- ✓ Annual CEC-PD Division Dinner, Tuesday, April 26, 2011
- ✓ Program Advisory Committee meeting, Wednesday, April 27, 2011
- ✓ Yes I Can! Student Awards, Wednesday, April 27, 2011.

One of the responsibilities of the CEC-PD Vice President is serving on the CEC Program Advisory Committee, and building the convention program sessions for the CEC-PD division. As in the past, our Division will feature a Showcase Session which will honor the work and the contributions of a leader in the field of special education through research, the promotion of evidence-based practices, or providing leadership within the field. If you would like to suggest a Showcase honoree/presenter, please share your ideas with Bill Bogdan at [WKBogdan@aol.com](mailto:WKBogdan@aol.com).

**SAVE  
THE DATE**



# CEC 2011 CONVENTION & EXPO NATIONAL HARBOR, MD

April 25-28 (M-Th)



## **Election Results**

Thanks to Bill Littlejohn for a slate that received a large voting percentage from our membership. Dave Roels deserves a special Thank You for completing the elections task including a run-off election due to a tie for one office.

Congratulations to all candidates who were a part of the election process. The Nominations and Elections Committee has already begun their work for the next election, so be ready for an opportunity to serve.

### **Officers Elected to Begin January 1, 2011**

**Vice President  
Lyndal Bullock, TX**

**Secretary  
Nancy Riffin, IL**

## **PIONEERS PRESS**

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## President's Message: Reflection on Reform and Promise

The fall of the year is always exciting for educators and filled with the promise of a new school year. This provides a unique way to look at the world with promise, ignoring the coming winter months and the spring crunch to get to the end of the school year for the much anticipated "summer vacation". This is also a time of year for elections. The juxtaposition of policy and promise is front and center as candidates appear on the television screens with promises or with the perils of electing their opponent. Amidst this background, there is much discussion of school reform. School reform has been a more formalized topic moving into the public policy arena with such items as the 1983 publication of *A Nation at Risk*, the enactment of "No Child Left Behind," and the current "Race to the Top," along with the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act in the area of special education. This reform has also been part of the education landscape in Canada and many other countries under the titles assigned by educational policy makers. The role and relationship of special education within the education system has moved from a place outside the system; to a parallel system; to a time of examining the role of the "special educator", the relationship with "general education," and what constitutes a "high quality education," effective practices, measurable outcomes, and appropriate post school goals.

In these days of instant messaging and drive through meals, it is often difficult to make the time for reflection and discussion to find solutions to the concerns creating the call for reform. At a conference in the early 1990's, a politician working on education legislation stated, "Beware of a solution that fits neatly on a bumper sticker." Developing answers to complex problems requires working through issues over time, and given today's economic issues and fast pace the answer identified may well fall into the bumper sticker category if we do not demand more.

All of the reform efforts notwithstanding, many schools today are not vastly different in appearance from years past. However, the knowledge base on instructional strategies, the research on effective practices, and the options for creating a positive learning environment make a difference internally that can be seen and replicated. We have all assisted in these efforts through our participation in CEC. Our challenge as an organization is to keep our focus on the things that have been important to CEC and the field, and to continue to build on past success without ignoring new ideas and solutions.

Members of the Pioneers Division have been a part of much of this recent reform activity based on our membership criteria of having been involved in the profession and CEC for twenty years or more. Our newest members were beginning teachers in 1990 and continue our progress in schools everywhere, while some of our more "senior" members have stories of schools where students with special needs were not even part of the formal education community. We, as the Pioneers Division, have a particular opportunity to foster reform by our reflections on the past and a focus on the future.

The CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program is one illustration of how this focus can be put into practice. By matching experience in the field from the mentors, with the students just entering the profession, past success can link to current research and practice. The results are better opportunities for all within the education system, as well as fostering individual personal and professional growth. There are other opportunities for us as "Pioneers" whether within the context of our family, circle of friends, our professional associations, or our current employment to encourage forward progress and therefore define reform.

Leadership is a quality of members of the Pioneers Division. As fall moves into winter, take time to reflect on the strong contributions that have been a part of your professional experience; determine what you think educational reform should be; and decide on a strategy to implement one thing that will impact the future in your home, school, community, or in the larger world. It is always exciting to be a part of change, although often tempered by fear of the unknown. I know that you as members of the Pioneers Division will continue making contributions that reform practice and our organization. I look forward to hearing about your efforts and activities.

Contact President Diane Johnson at [dianej99@gmail.com](mailto:dianej99@gmail.com)

### Important Note: Reduce your carbon footprint: New Electronic Communication Option for Pioneers Press

CEC-PD will always have the option of receiving information via the conventional postal service. However, as more electronic choices become available, this is one way to possibly save some dollars and save the earth! If you would like to receive your copy of the Pioneers Press electronically, please send your name and email address to: [cecpdnews@gmail.com](mailto:cecpdnews@gmail.com). This address can also be used for sending general news items for the Pioneers Press newsletter team.



### Arizona

Dave Roels has shared some recent experiences that have reinforced his belief that "It really IS a small world." For example, four years ago, he moved to a new house, after living in his previous home for 34 years. He found the new home was built exactly where he had gone on a field trip to pick cotton in fourth grade. He said that his curriculum included the "Five Cs of Arizona: Cotton, cattle, citrus, copper, and climate.

Then, more recently, Dave was in Kutna Hora, a city in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic, in the Central Bohemian Region). He met a couple there with whom he had attended high school and some very good friends from Kentucky CEC. He has had many such experiences.

Dave also sends his best wishes to all of his friends in CEC-Pioneers.

### Florida (and Illinois)

Pam Gillet, who now lives in Florida but is reporting about Illinois, is presently traveling in Italy. After a recent conversation with him, she has sent us an update on Bill Vickers. Bill has just moved back to the apartment complex in which he and Bob Abbott lived before moving to an assisted living facility. Bill is very pleased with his new location, which puts him back closer to friends on which he can rely for company, transportation, and help with errands.

A memorial for Bob was held in early August at the middle school that was named for him when he retired from the Waukegan Public Schools. Over 300 people attended—friends, family, and parents of students, as well as professional and organizational colleagues. A painting of Bob by a Waukegan artist was presented to the principal of the school by Bob's family. It will hang in the entrance of the school. There will also be a program in Bob's honor at the Fall conference of Illinois CEC.

### Georgia

Georgia Pioneers remains active and is being called upon to assist with numerous projects throughout the state. Always present at state CEC Board meetings and conventions, our subdivision continues its support of special education at the local and state levels.

Recently Pioneers made contact with the Georgia Retired Educators Association (GREA) to determine if the archives from Georgia CEC could be housed in a planned state education museum. Following a call to the GREA Executive Director a meeting has been scheduled with him and former state CEC presidents Carol Quinn and Mike Weinroth and the GREA Historian to review and evaluate the records of state CEC that date back to the group's inception at 4-H Camp, Rock Eagle in the spring of 1957.

An ongoing project of Georgia Pioneers is the videotaping of pioneers in our state that have had a lasting impact on the lives of disabled children. The last such interview was conducted at Valdosta State University (VSU) with 92 year old Dr. Margaret Hiers. Margaret was literally the voice of special education throughout South Georgia beginning in the mid 1960's through the 1990's. Margaret Hiers was never one to "mince" words and her interview is as relevant today as it might have been 25 years ago. It is interviews like this that must be kept for future generations of special educators.

### Illinois

Bill Littlejohn has shared a story about a trip to Costa Rica, where he and his wife Sally visited in February. They traveled via Caravan tours, Inc., for a 10-day tour. They visited the Poas Volcano, hiked in the Cloud Forest, and visited the National Museum on their very first day. On the second day, they visited the Braulio Carrillo National Park and a butterfly garden and cruised a canal to Tortuguero National Park. The tour took them from the Central Valley to the East Coast, then to the Pacific Coast. According to Bill, they did much more than space would allow him to include. They had numerous enjoyable experiences.

He said it was a wonderful tour, with a super tour director and driver (and reasonably priced). After the tour, they stayed for a week at a bed and breakfast on the Gulf Coast. They found the Costa Ricans to be friendly, hard-working people; the country beautiful; and the hotels excellent. The weather was also great--dry on the Pacific side and rainy in the rainforest areas.

### Montana

Norma Gilmore has written that, after living and working in Michigan, Colorado, and Nebraska, she moved to Montana to be near her two sons. For her 86th birthday, they took her cross-country skiing, which she described as "a thrill on a beautiful day."

For the past three years, for two months each year, Norma has been involved as a volunteer, working with children in a program which aims to prevent learning disabilities. These children are either kindergartners or are struggling with reading in the early grades in a small school district. Norma does "cranial-sacral" (relaxation) work with them. According to Norma, one

interesting finding in this program is that some of the children do not have symmetrical cheekbones. The muscles near their eyes apparently cause the children to "skip" either words or letters within a word on a printed page. For example, in the word "after," a child might see the "a," but not the "ft," and then see the "r." Norma says that this problem can be corrected by osteopathic doctors and trained cranio-sacral therapists. She finds her work very interesting.

#### **Note from the Editor**

I want to express my sincere thanks to those who sent contributions for this issue. Pioneers, your friends want to hear from you! Please send reports of your activities for the next issue.

Also, please make your plans to attend our meetings during the CEC Convention in National Harbor, Maryland, in April, 2011.

We've changed the schedule and events to some degree, to make it even easier to see your colleagues and to enjoy the convention. We hope to see you there.

Send your news to Eleanor Guetzloe, 812 Woodside Avenue; Clearwater, FL 33756 or by email to [cbcd1@aol.com](mailto:cbcd1@aol.com))

#### **Historical Initiative Work Group Appointed to Address CEC-PD Goal and Assist CEC**

The purpose of the Work Group is to: identify/locate current historical files and information related to CEC and CEC-PD; determine ways in which the history can be preserved and shared; and develop a plan that will bridge and link the past to the future with suggested activities and possible timelines. Included in this plan will be continued support of the CEC Archives.

Work Group members are Jamie Hopkins, Chair, Linda Marsal and Jean Hebler. Watch the next newsletter for updates.

The PD Membership Directory is available electronically or hard copy. To request a copy please email Membership Chairperson, Patricia Seibel at [drtrisha2002@yahoo.com](mailto:drtrisha2002@yahoo.com) or phone 412.561.1258. Make sure to indicate whether you want an electronic or a hard copy.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CEC/CEC-PD MENTORING PROGRAM PAMELA GILLET, COORDINAOR**

The 2009-2010 year is the third year of operation for the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program.

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Program continues to provide mentoring services by professional CEC members (mentors) to student CEC members (mentees) belonging to selected CEC student chapters. Twenty (20) mentors have been involved with the Program for all three years of operation; thirty (30) mentors have been in the Program for two years; and nineteen (19) joined the Program this year. Five (5) new student chapters were selected by CEC to participate in the 2009-2010 Program. Five (5) student chapters in the 2008-2009 Program continued their participation in the Program for 2009-2010. Eighty nine (89) mentees were involved during this year; an increase of 43. This is the first year that a student chapter from Canada is participating. To mentor these students, five CEC Pioneers members from Canada were recruited.

The ten (10) colleges and universities selected to participate in the 2009-2010 Program were: University of Cincinnati (OH); Canisius College (NY); Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (IL); Georgian Court University (NJ); Georgia College and State University (GA); Tennessee Technological University (TN); Bowling Green University (OH); Anderson University (SC); Bloomsburg University (PA); and University of Toronto (ON).

#### **Expansion of the Mentoring Program**

All the groups of participants feel that the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program should expand. If the expansion is to occur, more mentors are needed. Recruiting additional student chapters and students within the chapters appears not to be a problem. **Sign up to be a mentor by contacting Pam Gillet at [Pamelagillet@aol.com](mailto:Pamelagillet@aol.com).**

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the positive outcomes received by the mentors, the mentees, faculty advisors, and the CEC staff; the collaborative efforts of all involved (mentors, the participating CEC student chapter faculty advisors, and the CEC staff); the services provided to the student participants; the results of this and previous years' Program evaluations; and the inclusion of the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program in the current CEC Strategic Plan, it would continue to be recommended that the CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program be viewed as an ongoing program co sponsored by The Council and the Pioneers Division.

**A very big thank you to all of the mentors, especially our Pioneers colleagues who have served in this mentoring relationship for three years!**

**There are sixty nine mentors participating in the 2009-2010 CEC/CEC-PD Mentoring Program. Thirty two of these mentors are members of the Pioneers Division of CEC. Of these thirty two, there are seventeen (\*\*\*) who have been mentors during the three years of the Program's operation.**

William Bogdan***	Linda Marsal			
Hellen Bogie	Laura Mohr***			
Janet Burdick	Kathy Kersenbrock-			
Ilene McKenna***	Ostmeyer***			
Julian Butler	Connie Nielson***			
Iris Kerbis Cantor	Nancy Riggin			
Jim Chapple***	Dave Roels			
Rosalie Dibert	Kay Wright Rush***			
Carol Du Clos***	Sue Nelson-			
Deb Gartland***	Sargeant***			
Pamela Gillet***	Michael Thew***			
Mike Grimes***	Suana Wessendorf			
Eleanor Guetzloe	Diane Vandenbossche			
William Heller***	Deborah	Robert Henderson	Wichmanowski***	
Jamie Hopkins***	Cheryl Zinszer	Diane Johnson***	Lynn Ziraldo	Rose Merry Kirkpatrick

**CEC/CEC-PD MENTORING PROGRAM BREAKFAST in Nashville  
Pamela Gillet, Coordinator**

During the past three years, there has been an event planned at the CEC convention so that the mentors, mentees, CEC staff involved with the Program, and the participating student chapter faculty advisors are able to get together as a group.

Since the Mentoring Program is a virtual type of mentoring, with mentors and mentees residing in different states and Canada, there is limited opportunity for the mentors and mentees to have a face-to-face interaction during the mentoring process. The personal contact has only occurred in a few situations where the mentor and mentee live in close proximity to each other or are both able to attend some type of state/provincial meeting or conference.

The event at the convention provides a wonderful opportunity for not only mentors and mentees to personally connect, but to enable all of the individuals who serve as mentors, mentees, and faculty advisors to interact as like groups.

This year, the event was an early morning breakfast....**6:45 AM**...yes, that early in the morning! There were fifty seven participants: the coordinator of the Program; twenty nine mentors; five faculty advisors; seventeen mentees; the student member of the CEC Board of Directors; the chair of the CEC Student Committee; and three CEC staff liaisons to the Mentoring Program.

CEC President, Jacqueline Mault and CEC Executive Director, Bruce Ramirez, gave greetings and addressed the group regarding the importance of this Program within the Council's programs and its strategic plan.

**Romaine P. Mackie Annual Award for Leadership**

The purpose of this Award is to honor an outstanding professional who has demonstrated leadership in CEC and other organizations for an extensive period of time in various areas within the field: service delivery; teacher education and professional development; research; policy; assessment and publications. The individual should be nominated by someone who is familiar with the nature and quality of his/her work and who can also speak to the person's character. Nomination materials should include:

a letter of nomination which indicates the name, address, phone number, and email address of the nominee; reasons for making the nomination; the nominee's CEC identification number; and other information which might be helpful to the Awards Committee as the members study the information provided. The name and email address of the person/unit making the nomination should also be included.

A brief vitae or resume' for the individual nominated which shows educational background, places of employment, length of service, special projects undertaken, awards received, other information which might assist the Awards Committee in making a decision, and at least two (2) letters of support, but not more than four (4).

All nominations and materials must be received by January 31, 2011.

Submit the nominations packet to: Michael Weinroth, CEC-PD Awards Chair  
335 Hunting View Ct. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30328-2779  
W- 404-870-1630 email: mweinroth@thebreman.org

**Preserving CEC History and Linking to the Future Important CEC-PD Activity**

The June Jordan Fund was established in 1994, by the Pioneers Division in honor of June Jordan who was a former CEC staff member. June was instrumental in providing the leadership and support for establishing the Pioneers Division. In addition, she led CEC in the collection of documents and other types of information of historical significance to CEC and the field of special education. The official title of the fund is "The June Jordan 'I have a Dream' Memorial Fund". The purpose of the fund is to support The Council for Exceptional Children in maintaining the Archives and history of the Council. The Archives are maintained by a CEC Archivist who has a non-voting position on the CEC-PD Board. The Fund is financed through direct contributions to the Fund. These funds are then allocated for expenditures to support the expansion and maintenance of the CEC Archives. In the past, the support for the CEC Archives has consisted of providing dollars from the June Jordan Fund to purchase supplies needed by the CEC Archivist, and to provide assistance to the Archivist by other members of the Pioneers Division in preparing and in placing materials in the CEC Archives from time to time. It is hoped that the plan developed by the History Initiative Work Group will provide additional opportunities to share, as well as, preserve the history of CEC and CEC-PD. Please consider donating to the June Jordan Fund using the form below to assist with this important activity.

.....

**THE JUNE JORDAN "I HAVE A DREAM" MEMORIAL FUND CONTRIBUTION FORM**

Mail contributions to: Michael D. Thew, 4524 Valley Acres Road., York, PA 17406

My contribution to the June Jordan Fund is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State/Province Zip/Postal Code

Indicate if in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide name and address for acknowledgment card:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State/Province Zip/Postal

Please make checks payable to the Pioneers Division of the Council for Exceptional Children and attach to this form. Thank You!

## ROBERT EUGENE ABBOTT



It is with deep regret that the CEC Pioneers Executive Board reports the death of Robert E. Abbott after a most courageous two year battle with cancer. Bob was an inspiration to all that knew and worked with him.

Bob's career as a special education administrator resulted in the development of many exemplary special education programs for the Waukegan Public Schools (IL) including one of the first special education early childhood programs in Illinois and a multi faceted bilingual special education program. The West Plan was an inclusion setting prior to "inclusion" being a goal within the special education delivery system.

In CEC, Robert served on the CEC Executive Committee as governor-at-large, as well as chairing the CEC Governance Standing Committee. He was president of the Division for Learning Disabilities and served continuously as a delegate of representative for Illinois and the Pioneers Division to both the CEC Delegate Assembly and the CEC Representative Assembly.

Bob certainly left his mark on the Pioneers Division through his work as the historian for the Division and in the service of treasurer.

Since the early 1960's Bob has **continuously** served on the boards of the Illinois State CEC Unit and the Lake County CEC Chapter in either an elected or appointed capacity. He served as president of both units. Bob was very much a supporter of the subdivision concept and was the president of both the Illinois DLD and the Illinois CEC Pioneers Subdivisions.

He also was very active in another special education organization, the Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) and its Illinois chapter.

In 1992, upon Bob's retirement as the Associate Superintendent of the Waukegan Public Schools, one of the middle schools was named in his honor. The West School was renamed the Robert Abbott Middle School. Soon after, Bob began a scholarship fund for the school.

Bob was also very active in community affairs through the Little Fort Lions Club of America serving as its secretary for thirty five years and as the host of an annual Christmas party for the children living in the Lake County area who had visual and hearing disabilities.

Among the many honors and awards bestowed upon Bob were: The CEC Outstanding Leadership Award; the LDA Pioneer Award; the CEC Pioneers Division's Romaine Mackie Award; DLD Outstanding Contributor Award; ICEC Meritorious Service Award; and the Illinois State University Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Through Bob's professional presentations; his mentoring; his work as an adjunct professor; and his service to many professional organizations, he has indeed positively affected many educators and made a difference in the lives of many exceptional children and youth. Robert Abbott will indeed be missed.