



Exceptional News

A PUBLICATION OF THE KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

SPRING 2010

Larry Taylor Wins National CASE Award

by: Terry Ray, KYCASE President

arry Taylor received the CASE Outstanding Administrator of Special Education Award at the CEC Convention in Nashville on April 21. This award recognizes leadership in the field of special education, innovation and contribution to CEC and CASE, preparation of special education administrators and service to the educational community. Larry excels in all aspects of school and community leadership. He has served students, families and educators in various leadership positions including Special Education Teacher, Elementary School Counselor, Special **Education Director, State Director** of Exceptional Children Services and currently as Interim Associate Commissioner for the Office of Special Instructional Services at the Kentucky Department of Education.



Larry Taylor, CASE Award Winner

Larry is a strong supporter of KYCASE and KYCEC. He attends each KYCASE executive board meeting and provides briefings on upcoming initiatives and events. He seeks input from KYCASE members on a variety of issues including potential policy changes. Larry and his KDE colleagues are standing speakers at KYCASE spring and summer

seminars providing information on broad educational topics and special education issues. During the first KYCASE Legislative Seminar held in January, 2010, he briefed participants on numerous bills potentially impacting special education. He provided historical information about each bill and emphasized the importance of educators taking an active role in policy making, including contacting legislators and providing accurate, timely information.

Surrounded by Kentucky special education directors attending the conference, Larry received the national award with cheers from the crowd. Laurie VanderPloeg, President Elect of CASE and Awards Chairperson, praised Larry's longstanding partnership with KYCEC and KYCASE... which prompted more cheers. Congratulations Larry.

"The Experience of a Lifetime"

by: Mandy Munke and Lisa Mansfield

As juniors at WKU, we were given the opportunity to attend the National CEC Conference in Nashville, along with over 6000 other teachers and soon to be teachers. We attended several sessions, learning about teaching strategies, current research and best practices. Lisa worked as a volunteer at the registration desk and got to meet lots of other

teachers from around the country and the world. We cruised the exhibition center, talked to venders and received lots of "freebies" that we will use in our teaching. The highlight of the trip was a toss up – either it was going on the General Jackson dinner cruise or watching some of our professors from WKU present. It was a great experience and one we will never forget.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE







Message from the President: by: Shelly Weatherford

Put the books away... It's time to kick up (or off) your heels, give yourself a pat on the back, and shout hooray! Go out for a swim, take in a few games of golf,

or maybe even a trip to Disney. Whatever your plans, relax and enjoy it. The school year has ended, you've work hard, and you deserve a little R&R!

This year went by so quickly it was almost a blur and it is only through the hard work, support, and help of others, that the goals I set for KYCEC were met. My sincere appreciation to my entire board and especially to Jennifer Eckler, Jennifer Green, and Arden Goodman

Jen Eckler spent endless hours learning how to start up YES I CAN for KYCEC. She developed the program from the ground up and just recently published the nomination form on the KYCEC website located at www.kycec.us. You can now spotlight your students with special talents and give them the recognition they deserve! Nominate them in any of the nine categories awarded through KYCEC YES I CAN!

Through the efforts of Jennifer Green, the KYCEC newsletter will be "going digital!" There are still a few kinks to be worked out, but it will not be long before we will begin digital publication of our newsletter. Through Jennifer's efforts, additional funding will be available and budgeted towards mini grants for you and your students!

With Arden's dedication, we are now part of a growing family on Facebook. Arden continually posts

information there to help keep you informed with what is going on within CEC, not only locally, but nationally as well! She is also the person to contact to share your success stories with us. If you have achieved something significant or a special story to share, pass it along.

In looking ahead... Summer Leadership is just around the corner and this year our guest speaker will be Mr. Dan Ratner, Assistant Director for Membership with CEC National Headquarters. Mr. Ratner will share information about what we can do to provide even more value to your membership!

Serving as President of KYCEC has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences of my educational career and I sincerely thank you. My term will soon be over and Leslie Brauer will move into the position. Leslie joined KYCEC's Executive Board over nine years ago and has served in the positions of member-at-large, secretary, vice president, and president elect. She works as an FMD teacher at Glasgow Middle School and her knowledge of special education is admirable.

On behalf of KYCEC, thank you for giving of yourselves each and every day and for all you do for your students. I hope that whatever you do this summer, you will come back next year refreshed, enthusiastic, and confident in knowing that you do make a difference in the lives of students with exceptionalities.

Have a wonderful summer!

Editor's Note: Some members, especially teachers, have asked for information on topics such as seclusion and restraint. While there are many sources of good information, below are three which you may find helpful on a variety of "hot topics" and current issues in the field.

http://www.ccbd.net/advocacy/index.cfm?categoryID=668947C8-C09F-1D6F-F9375EDC805102B3
CCBD Position Papers and White Papers

http://capwiz.com/cek/home/
National CEC Legislative Action site for Policy and Advocacy

http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/ KDE site for Administrative Resource links





KYCEC 2009-2010 Chapter/Subdivision Mini-Grants Awarded!

Kentucky CEC awarded one mini-grant this year. Congratulations go to Chapter #193- Murray State University and Miranda Barnett, FMD Teacher at Graves County High School. Her proposal addressed the priority area of development and implementation of a model program. Her classroom was awarded \$650 for the purchase of a Wii Gaming System to promote collaborative participation among high school students with moderate to severe disabilities and their peer tutors. The Wii is also used to promote health and wellness activities in collaboration with physical and occupational therapists.

Kentucky CEC wholeheartedly endorses this and other opportunities to promote high quality teaching and training for members and their students or clients. To learn more about how your chapter or division can receive a mini-grant, *please contact*:

Barbara Washington

3201 Alexander Hall, Murray State University Murray, KY 42071

E-mail: barbara.washington@coe.murraystate.edu Phone: (270) 809-2262

KYCEC Mini-Grant Opportunities in Action!

by: Miranda Barnett, Graves County High School

The Wii has been a great addition to my classroom. Most would probably ask how a Wii could be used for educational purposes? It has made learning so much fun! The Wii has encouraged my students to become active participants with instruction like I have seldom seen before.

In my classroom I utilize peer tutors to work with my students on social and academic goals. The Wii has been a great tool in developing friendships and lasting bonds between my students and peer tutors. The Wii is a common interest and allows equal play time for students with and without disabilities.

The Wii has helped my students increase their abilities in the areas of range of motion, exercise, and hand eye coordination. All of my students look forward to using the Wii in class.

I am very thankful for the mini-grant because it has increased the impact of educational and social opportunities (and fun) in my classroom.

New Experiences Await You at KYCEC's Fall Conference 2010 KALIGHTOSCOPE!

KYCEC never fails to offer a Fall Conference that offers educational and networking experiences. However, this year your senses will also be delighted by the magical display of KaLightoscope Christmas. This display is a landscape of holiday lighted sculptures never before seen in the United States and it is making its first appearance in Louisville! There will be

multi-media displays of color, lights, motion, music, and aromas. Join us at KYCEC's 2010 Fall Conference at the Galt House in Louisville and experience KaLightoscope for yourself. More information about the display can be found at: http://kalightoscope.com/.

Special rates are offered for conference participants. (See page 7 for conference information.)





KYCEC DIVISION NEWS



Editor's Note: If you are not involved with your division, you can see from the articles below that you should be. If you do not belong to one of our divisions, you are missing some wonderful opportunities.



KYCASE

by: Jill Griffiths, President Elect

108 participants attended the KYCASE SPRING INSTITUTE held March 11-12 at the RIVUE Tower – Galt House, Louisville, KY. The institute focus was Dispute Resolution in Special Education.

The institute began on Thursday afternoon by spotlighting Preventing Disputes in Special Education. The concurrent sessions were "The Elements of Communication"; "Exploring & Understanding Conflict – Joint Problem Solving; and "Informal Strategies to Prevent Disputes: Before, During and After Meetings". Presenters were Marti Ginter, Beverly Henderson, and Greta Stanfield.

Having received foundational information for avoiding disputes the participants were provided information related to Dispute Resolution Processes in Special

Education during the second day of the institute. Large group was the format for the second day sessions. Corlia Logsdon and Renee Scott from DECS presented "District Self-Investigation of Formal Complaints" and included an invigorating and entertaining Jeopardy activity. Sharon Davis and Mildred Payne, Jefferson County Schools, followed with their experiences and processes for investigating complaints in their school district. "Do's and Don'ts and Lessons Learned from Mediation" was presented by Jan Fritz, a KY Mediator and professor at the University of Cincinnati. Teresa Combs, KSBA, completed the dispute resolution portion of the program with "Format and Practical Considerations for Successful Resolution Meetings".

After a buffet luncheon of traditional Kentucky fare the

participants received KDE-DECS Updates. Felicia Cummings-Smith, Associate Commissioner from KDE, discussed the deployment of Senate Bill 1 and the impact on special education. Larry Taylor, Interim Associate Commissioner and Director of DECS, provided updates on national, state, and regional issues of interest to the members of KY CASE.

The evaluation responses indicate the Spring Institute program content and session format was a success with the participants. The KYCASE Program Committee has the Summer KYCASE SPECIAL EDUCATION LAW INSTITUTE program planned and ready. The Institute features nationally known attorneys Perry Zirkel and Melinda Baird Jacobs and is scheduled for July 12 & 13, 2010 at the Embassy Suites, Lexington, KY.

Kentucky TED

At the November, 2009 meeting of Kentucky TED, Dr. Patti Whetstone was elected as the new state president. Dr. Whetstone is completing her second year as an Assistant Professor at Western Kentucky University. She came to Kentucky after 27 years in public education. Her experience includes state director of special education, educational diagnostician, consulting teacher, general education teacher and special education teacher. Dr. Whetstone completed her doctorate at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado.

Plan on attending the 33rd Annual Teacher Education Division Conference, November 2-6, 2010 in St. Louis. It should be a great conference! Also, mark your calendars for the Kentucky state conference, held in Louisville, November 21-23, 2010. Watch the conference agenda for the planned TED meeting.

If you have any questions or suggestions for the future of Kentucky TED, please e-mail Dr. Whetstone at patti.whetstone@wku.edu.





KENTUCKY YES I CAN! AWARDS



Announcing the...

Kentucky Yes I Can! Awards 2010

Applications will be available starting May 10th, 2010 Deadline August 16th, 2010

Applications can be downloaded from the KYCEC web site or the KYCEC facebook page starting May 10th, 2010.

If you have any additional questions you can contact Jennifer W. Eckler at jennifer.eckler@nkces.org

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest international professional organization for special educators, works to improve the educational success of individuals with disabilities and gifts and talents.

The Yes I Can! Awards honor students with disabilities who excel. These awards celebrate the achievements of children and youth with disabilities; encourage these individuals to seek their highest potential; and increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities.

Nominations may be made by teachers, principals, related service providers, friends, and parents. The nominator does not need to be a KYCEC member.

This is the first time in several years that we will once again be honoring a **Yes I Can!** recipient for the state of Kentucky for the Kentucky **Yes I Can!** Awards. The Committee will select 1 winner in the following categories:

Academics, Arts, Athletics, Community Service, Employment, Extracurricular Activities, Independent Living Skills, Self-Advocacy, Technology

Award Benefits

Each Kentucky Yes I Can! Award winner will:

- Be invited to attend a special awards ceremony and celebration at the KYCEC 2010 Convention & Expo and to participate in a special field trip in the convention's host city, Louisville, Kentucky.
- Receive a night accommodations at the hotel in which the awards ceremony will be held.
- Receive a plaque of congratulations
- Receive a letter of congratulations from the KYCEC President
- Be featured in KYCEC Today, CEC's member e-newsletter
- & Be featured on KYCEC's Web site
- 👺 Be entered in the National CEC Yes I Can!





KYSCEC NEWS



"Day At The Races" with KYSCEC

by: Dr. Bruce Battles, KYSCEC Advisor

As state coordinator of the KYSCEC, I have been in contact with the Sam Schmidt racing organization and have secured an agreement for the KYSCEC to assist the organization in their "Day at the Races" event at the Kentucky Speedway in September 2010. The Sam Schmidt Organization sponsors the "Day at the Races" for those who have suffered a spinal cord injury and their families. This event allows families to experience a day at the race track, a behind the scenes view of the race cars and pits, meet the drivers, and have lunch with the drivers and crews. Each family meets and has a chance to talk to Sam about their and his experiences in coping with their injuries. I have been to this event before and can assure all that it is a life changing event.

Sam Schmidt was an Indy car driver until he

sustained a spinal cord injury during a practice lap in 1999. Upon completing his rehabilitation, he developed his own racing team and the Sam Schmidt Paralysis Organization. One of the first personnel hired to head up this organization was Ida Cahill. Ms. Cahill has had previous experience in spinal injury rehab as Christopher Reeves personal assistant. More information on the Sam Schmidt Organization can be found at SamSchmidt.org.

I look forward to the event and know that the KYSCEC and the students who attend this event will come away with a better understanding of spinal cord injuries and how these affect not only the person but also their families.

Email: andrew.battles@wku.edu

Quiz Bowl 2010

by: Danon Camic, Quiz Bowl Chairperson/Coordinator

Western Kentucky University's Student Council for Exceptional Children hosted its 21st annual Quiz Bowl on February 19, 2010 in the Downing University Center on WKU's campus. Quiz Bowl is an academic competition for high school students with an Individualized Education Plan. Regional area high schools participated in the event. Those schools included: Allen County, Barren County, Bowling Green, Daviess County, Greenwood, Metcalfe County, Monroe County, Warren Central, Warren East, and Webster County. The competition began with an opening welcome by President Gary Ransdall. President Ransdall provided the students with an inspiring speech to do their best and got the competition rolling. The schools were divided into two divisions, Red and Black. There were four rounds of tournament action. Each round consisted of two, fifteen minute halves or fifty questions. At the end of the tournament, scores were tallied and averaged to determine winners. For the Red Division: 3rd place went to Warren Central, 2nd place was given to Webster County, and 1st place was awarded to Bowling Green. For the Black Division: 3rd place went to Barren County, 2nd place was given to Daviess County, and 1st place was awarded to Allen County. The overall winner was given to the school that

averaged the most points of the whole tournament and that award was given to Allen County.

This year at Quiz Bowl we wanted to encourage a very positive environment. To reinforce this idea, we awarded Daviess County with the Spirit Award and Warren East with the Sportsmanship Award. Both schools showed excellent disposition and attitude throughout the competition and proved to everyone that they were winners.

A new award given at Quiz Bowl this year was a Coaches Award called the "Fergy Award." This award was in honor of the founder of Quiz Bowl, Dr. Janice Ferguson. The award was given to the coach who "embodied the mind and spirit" of our founder. Throughout the competition, participants were able to write why they thought their coach deserved the award. Based upon those responses and the Quiz Bowl coordinator's vote, the award went to Mrs. Catherine Burden from Daviess County High School.

Overall, Quiz Bowl was a huge success for those who participated and volunteered. It was a rewarding feeling for everyone to be part of a competition that allows for everyone to be given an opportunity at success.





45TH ANNUAL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE

THE GALT HOUSE • LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY NOVEMBER 21-23, 2010 after the keynote

Keynote Presentation on November 22

PLUS - Over 150 Breakout Sessions, Workshops and Institutes

- ❖ Topics will cover a variety of the major issues of the time. Over 50 exhibitors have expressed interest. A \$105.00 conference registration fee will cover your attendance and access to exhibits.
- Special hotel rates are available at the Galt House until October 23. Rates in the SUITE Tower are \$157 single/double; \$167 Triple; \$177 quad. Rates in the RIVUE Tower are \$127 single/double; 137 triple; 147 quad. Parking is
- \$12 per day. For hotel reservations contact the Galt House at 800-THE-GALT or 502-589-5200, mention "KYCEC". You may also reserve your room online - resweb.passkey.com/Resweb. do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=2424917.
- Six hours of training will be offered on Sunday, November 21 as an opportunity for emergency/ probationary teachers who need to get all their hours in one day, or for any others who choose to participate.

REGISTRATION FORMS WITHOUT PAYMENT OR (P.O.) ENCLOSED WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

45th ANNUAL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'S CONFERENCE • Galt House East • Louisville, Kentucky November 21-23, 2010

The Following Information is Used for Mailing Your CONFERENCE CONFIRMATION and RECEIPT, So Please Print Legibly. - One Form Per Participant.

Name					
City	S	tate		Zip	
Phone: Home	Work	E	mail:		
Conference Registrati	on until November 1				\$105.00
	and Retired Educators (currently not	t working) until No	vember 1		\$50.00
•	r ANY registration received AFTER				add \$15.00
_	until November 1 Circle day		Tues.		\$70.00
		our.	1		\$20.00
Tuesday Awards Luncheon (KDE Report) KaLightoscope attraction tickets (for more info go to KaLightoscope.com)					\$14.00
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Advisor's signature required	for student registration			_ Check or P.O. #	
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 $\sim\!\!\sim$ attention cec members \smallfrown Stop by the CEC BOOTH at the Conference for your Gift for Registering for the Conference!

- ► MAKE CHECK OR P.O. PAYABLE TO KYCEC (or Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children)
- ▶ BE SURE YOUR CHECK OR P.O. ACCOMPANIES YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.
- ▶ DO NOT SEND REGISTRATION FORM WITHOUT PAYMENT.
- ► MAIL or FAX THIS FORM AND YOUR PAYMENT TO: Fall Conference, Attn. Bill Porter, P.O. Box 991, Franklin, KY 42135; Fax: 270-586-2809



Jennifer Green

321 Old Porter Pike Bowling Green, KY 42101 PRSRT STD U.S. Postage PAID Permit #1042 Lexington, KY



KYCEC EXECUTIVE BOARD — 2009-2010

Shelly Weatherford,

President
2290 SR 121 North
Mayfield, KY 42066
W: 270-328-4817
shelly.weatherford@graves.kyschools.us

Leslie Brauer, President Elect 104 Fox Hollow Rd. Glasgow, KY 42141 W: 270-651-2256 leslie.brauer@glasgow.kyschools.us

Arlene Hall, Past President 699 Sand Lick Road Farmington, KY 42040 W: 270-809-6847 arlene.hall@coe.murraystate.edu

Jennifer Green, Vice President 321 Old Porter Pike Bowling Green, KY 42101 H: 270-842-1364 jennifer.green@warren.kyschools.us Peggy Williams, Treasurer 5406 Pavilion Way Louisville, KY 40291 H: 502-239-1487 peg79@msn.com

Cindy Dawson, Co-Teasurer 610 Wakefield Street Bowling Green, KY 42103 H: 270-746-9132 cynthia.dawson@bgreen.kyschools.us

Don Cross, CAN Coordinator 3418 Greentree Road Lexington, KY 40517 H: 859-272-2675 ddpcross@insightbb.com

Pam Matlock, Secretary 890 Steamboat Road Gilbertsville, KY 42044 H: 270-362-3051 pam.matlock@coe.murraystate.edu Arden Goodman, Membership Chair 116 Green Lane Georgetown, KY 40324 W: 502-542-0582 Arden.Goodman@Scott.kyschools. us

Barbara Washington, Mini Grants
3201 Alexander Hall
Murray State University
Murray, Ky 42071
W: 270-809-2262
barbara.washington@coe.murraystate.edu

Bruce Battles, KYSCEC Advisor 117 Tate Page Hall Bowling Green, KY 42101-1030 W: 270-745-2723 andrew.battles@wku.edu Mary White, Parliamentarian 4567 Briar Hill Road Lexington, KY 40516-9712 H: 859-299-9660 lindenfarm@windstream.net

Bill Porter, Conference Coordinator 521 Vonda View Blvd. Franklin, KY 42134 W: 270-586-7890 bill.porter@simpson.kyschools.us

Betty Muntz, Executive Secretary 953 Star Gaze Drive Lexington, KY 40509 H: 859-263-0309 specialbdm@aol.com

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November 21-23, 2010

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