

Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children

Join us for the 52nd Annual Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference!

Every Child. No Limits.

#kycecNoLimits



The Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference is the only state-wide professional development opportunity for special education practitioners. We want this conference to provide everything a special education you need to have a wonderful and successful school year in meeting the needs of your students.

Participate in the many rich opportunities to learn and engage in dialogue about the field's most important topics. We have strands on:

- Autism
- Behavioral Health
- CCR
- Co-Teaching
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Early Childhood
- Language Arts
- Leadership
- Math
- New Teachers
- Low Incidence
- Progress Monitoring
- Research to Practice
- Universal Design
- Visual Impairment

Special Points of Interest:

- ⇒ Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference Yes I Can! Recipients
- ⇒ CAN Updates

Don't Forget to Join KYCEC on Facebook and Twitter!

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CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Fall 2017



College Fair!! On Monday we will have a College Fair! Come and meet the people from the disability offices of several Kentucky colleges/universities! Learn about the supports available for your students!

The **Exhibit Hall** is open Sunday 2:00 – 7:00 pm and Monday 7:00 – 5:00 pm. We have dedicated time to visit the exhibits on Monday at 7:00 am for breakfast; 9:30-10:00 am before General Session; noon-1:15 pm during lunch; and at 2:45 for snacks! Be sure to mingle with the exhibitors and learn about their products!



Monday, the **General Session** will feature [Bruce Christopher](#) as our Keynote speaker.

The **2017 Teacher of the Year** nominees will be presented and the winner will be announced during the General Session!

Be sure to join the Community and connect with people to network! Find people who share your interests and have like-jobs in our field! Network and find collaborative ways to stay connected and trouble-shoot your issues!

The Annual Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference is November 19 – November 21, 2017, at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville! Visit our website to get more information www.kycec.org Annual Conference

We hope to see you in November!

Kentucky's 2017 Yes I Can! Winners will be celebrated at the November Exceptional Children's Conference. Six awardees, chosen from nominations received throughout the state, will be recognized for their exceptional talents. All of these amazing students will be featured at a session in which their individual stories will be highlighted. The Yes I Can! Awards are supported by KYCEC, KYCASE, and the Pioneers. The winners were all submitted for National CEC awards, as well. KYCEC President-Elect Debbie Samples was the 2017 Kentucky Yes I Can! Coordinator.

2017 KENTUCKY YES I CAN! WINNERS



Nicholas Madrigal – Academics *Nominated by Montgomery County*

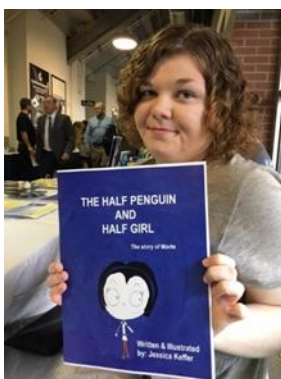
Nicholas is excelling in the resource settings and transferring those skills into the general education setting. Science is his favorite subject and he is a leader in that classroom. Nick has made tremendous academic progress in these last two years.

Jordan Guill – Self-Advocacy *Nominated by Paducah Independent School District*

Jordan does not let her disability define her, but she lets her strengths and her will to succeed guide her way. Jordan advocates for herself by participating in community activities. Jiu Jitsu is an activity that she enjoys and benefits from greatly. Jordan is consistently optimistic in every situation. She chooses to continue to improve her communication skills by actively engaging and initiating conversations.



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Jessica Keffer - Arts *Nominated by Breathitt County*

Miss Keffer has incredible artistic talents. Her passion for drawing unique characters, combined with her love of books, inspired her to write her first book, *The Half Penguin and Half Girl*. With the assistance of the Breathitt County School District and support from other agencies, Jessica was introduced to local artist Christopher Epling who helped her through the publishing process. This year, she has incorporated her own production company called "Story Life Books".

2017 KENTUCKY YES I CAN! WINNERS

Damon Maines – School and Community *Nominated by Carroll County Schools*

Damon is a very happy young man who meets no stranger. Damon attends a local church, and he participates in Special Olympics; he does field and track, snowshoeing, basketball and bowling. However, what is very important to know, is that Damon led his team out on the field at every game. He would also lead his team in prayer at the games. He is a shining example of how a person can overcome their disabilities and be successful in their communities.



Joseph Matney – Technology *Nominated by Green County*

Even though Joe has encountered a number of challenges during his life, the use of technology has allowed him to excel academically. Joe uses the Kindle every day. At school, Joe is able to access Star Fall on the Kindle and access YouTube and Star Fall on the touch screen computer independently. Joe locates websites using bookmarks. He utilizes the Smart table, as well. His verbal communication continues to improve due to his technology usage.



Ella Wright – Transition *Nominated by Bracken County*

Ella has climbed mountains in her development. Through her work with a vision teacher, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and special education staff, Ella has consistently achieved her goals. Miss Ella Wright is active in her local Family and Consumer Science courses and club. Miss Ella has won at the regional and state levels of FCCLA by showcasing her interview skills related to her future goal of being employed as a secretary.





Student CEC Spotlight



Meet Katelyn Harvey of Morehead State University

Katelyn serves as President for Kentucky SCEC and is a student at Morehead State University pursuing a teaching career in Moderate to Severe disabilities grades K through 12. She is also president of a non-profit organization called Special Needs Camp of Ky, Inc. This organization provides a week long summer day camp for any individuals with intellectual disabilities. In addition, she coaches for the Gateway Eagles Special Olympics cheerleading team. She has an amazing 26 year old sister who was born with Down Syndrome, and Katelyn spends most of her free time doing whatever she can to make her life the best it can be. They go to the movies, out to eat, or just spend time swinging on the front porch. Katelyn is very passionate about people with disabilities and tries to eliminate the stigma associated with them. She also participates in the Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky Buddy Walk every year.

We are so proud to have Katelyn leading our Kentucky Student Council for Exceptional Children this year! For information on how you can be a part of SCEC, contact Katelyn at kaharvey@moreheadstate.edu.

CAN QUICKIES

Graham-Cassidy ACA Repeal: Senate Vote - A No Go!

On September 26, Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) pulled the Graham-Cassidy bill, the most recent attempt by Senate Republicans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) were leading the charge on the repeal bill. The vote on this bill was originally scheduled for Wednesday, September 27.

Three Republican Senators declared that they would vote no on the bill: Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME).

Supporters of the bill hoped that it would pass as part of the budget reconciliation process for fiscal year 2017, which would have allowed the bill to pass with a simple majority (51 votes or more – Vice President Pence is able to cast a tie of a 50/50 outcome). The budget reconciliation process expires on September 30.

This bill would have been devastating for children and youth with disabilities as it would:

- Cap and block grant Medicaid (the equivalent of Medicaid cuts)
- Cut funding for Medicaid expansion
- Allow insurers to charge individuals with pre-existing conditions more money for health coverage

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) rushed to score this bill and reported that “millions fewer people would have comprehensive health insurance over the next ten years under Graham-Cassidy.”

Thank you for contacting your Senators and encouraging them to vote no on Graham-Cassidy and for speaking up for children and youth with disabilities who rely on Medicaid coverage. Your actions made a difference

House and Senate Pass Bipartisan EHDI Bill

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Act of 2017 has passed in both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. The legislation reauthorizes newborn hearing screening programs for five years, through fiscal year 2022.

The House bill, [H.R. 1539](#), was introduced on March 15, 2017 and sponsored by Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-KY). The bill has 25 cosponsors. The Senate bill, [S. 652](#), was also introduced on March 15, 2017 and sponsored by Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH). This bill has 13 cosponsors.

In a [statement from Sen. Rob Portman's office](#): “This bill will reauthorize current research and improve public health programs for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss in newborns, infants, and young children.”