

KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN



CEC Mission Statement

The Council for Exceptional Children is a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities. We accomplish our mission through advocacy, standards, and professional development.

Register Now

Join us for the 54th Annual
Kentucky Exceptional
Children's Conference!

November 24-26, 2019

Galt House Hotel, Louisville,
KY

Registration Link:

<https://pheedloop.com/kecc19/site/home/>

Don't Forget to Vote...

November 5th!

Every vote counts!



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.





Featured Speakers

Dr. Mary Brownell is the Director of the CEEDAR Center and a Professor of Special Education at the University of Florida. She has spent much of her research specializing in issues relating to teachers who work with students with disabilities. Recently, she has studied how school districts can prepare, develop, and retain high quality special education teachers. Her recent research efforts focus on improving the reading instruction of both general and special education teachers and improving the induction of beginning special education teachers into the classroom. In collaboration with her colleagues from UF, she has received over \$11,000,000 in funding from OSEP and IES.

Stephen W. Smith is a Professor in the Special Education program at the University of Florida (UF). Dr. Smith teaches graduate level courses in special education research, emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD), and principles of prevention science in education. His research focuses on effective behavioral prevention strategies in educational settings, executive function, and the self-regulation of behavior (goal directed effortful control of thought, action, emotion), issues related to aggression and violence in schools, and understanding verbal aggression of students with EBD.

KEYNOTE

John O'Connor has led school improvement initiatives at the state and local level during his almost 30 years in public education. He started his career as a special education teacher serving students with orthopedic impairments in elementary and middle schools. Since that time, he has held a variety of administrative positions. For nine years while working at the Georgia Department of Education, he led state-wide initiatives to improve the achievement of students with disabilities. He has also served in local districts as an Assistant Director for Special Education, Executive Director for Special Services, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Director for Interventions. John has written four books, including his most recent *Great Instruction Great Achievement for Students with Disabilities: A Road Map for Special Education Administrators*. He has also co-written a textbook chapter, a desk guide and numerous articles.



Conference Highlights

Professional Development offerings:

- Teachers can receive up to 6 hours of Professional Development credit for attending all the sessions on Sunday. PD forms will be provided at the Registration Desk.
- Emergency/Probationary Teachers can receive up to 6 hours of PD credit when they attend 6 hours of sessions on Sunday. The forms will be provided at the Registration Desk.

Sunday's Special Sessions:

- *New Teacher Institute.* This is our 4th year offering the New Teacher Institute! First- and Second-year teachers may pre-register to attend this 6-hour institute on Sunday, focusing on IEP development, start to finish, and structuring your classroom for success; including a make & take! Six hours of Emergency/Probationary credit is given to these participants.
- *Using Systematic Instruction to Teach Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities.* This 6-hour interactive session provides participants time to practice procedures and develop plans for their students, with connections to High-Level Practices. Join Sally Miracle and Mark Helton for this session on Sunday from 1:00 – 7:15 pm
- *Morphological Awareness: The Missing Link in Literacy Instruction.* Dr. Mary Brownell will provide this session on Sunday from 4:15 – 5:45 pm.
- *Self-Regulation and Student Behavior Problems: Helping Students Manage Emotions, Set Goals, & Solve Social Problems.* Dr. Stephen W. Smith will provide this session on Sunday from 4:15–5:45 pm.

Monday's Special Sessions:

- Celebrate the accomplishments of your colleagues during the General Session, Monday at 9:45 am. We will meet the award winners, including the Teacher of the Year nominees and winner!
- John O'Connor will provide his session "*Great Instruction, Great Achievement*" during the General Session at 9:45 am.
- Pick up your lunch and join us from noon- 1:00 pm to celebrate our *Yes I Can* Award Winners! You will be *inspired* as we celebrate these young people!
- John O'Connor will provide a follow-up session at 1:15 on great specially designed instructional practice for your students.

Tuesday's Sessions:

These are 3-hour workshops that provide in-depth study. Attendees may choose from 12 sessions!

- Make & Take workshops
- In-depth workshops
- Team-based workshops

Don't forget to stop by the Exhibit Hall to mingle with the exhibitors and learn about their products. It will be open Sunday 1 PM - 6 PM and Monday 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

For more information, visit: www.kycec.org and look under Annual Conference!



Make plans to attend the annual KYCEC Membership Meeting Tuesday, November 26th, at 7:30 AM in Room 546! Breakfast will be provided! Door Prizes will be given away! Don't miss out!

We hope to see you in November!



Make plans now to attend the 2020 National CEC Convention in Portland, Oregon February 5-8, 2020.



Kentucky's 2019 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 Nick Newton was the 2019 Kentucky Yes I Can! Coordinator.



Anthony Gannone –Academics Nominated by Frankfort Independent



Anthony excels academically. He masters skills at his grade level and tests above. Anthony is considered twice exceptional, qualifying for Gifted and Talented as well as Special Education Services. At the end of his 5th grade year, Anthony was expected to come up with a culminating project for his Living Literature class that would be presented during the Student Showcase at school. He chose to recreate a scene from his favorite book 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix'. Dressed as Harry himself, Anthony presented his diorama of the Room of Requirement. He blew the audience away with his very detailed representation and explanation of the scene. Anthony surpassed his peers with his exceptional project, even making the front page of the local paper. Congratulations, Anthony!



Bentley Shriner –Arts Nominated by Montgomery County



Art is truly Bentley's passion. Through his love of art, Bentley has become very independent. Engaging in art has taught him how to self-regulate and to calm himself when he becomes frustrated and anxious. He is very creative in all mediums, but his true passion is working with clay or Play-doh. He can create amazing art from both his imagination and from looking at pictures. His dinosaurs are so realistic that one would think they were real! Bentley entered the local Arts Council Contest for students and won first place in his division for sculpting. Way to go, Bentley!

Emily Lush - School & Community Nominated by Grayson County



Emily truly makes her school and community better places with her positive social skills. She has a wonderful sense of humor and often jokes with her peers and teachers. Performing is a love for her, and she has sung with the Chorus for several years. She is also a member of the Pep Club and assists with the recycling program at school. Emily was nominated and selected as the 2019 Basketball Homecoming Queen for her high school. Outside of school, Emily is active in her church and a member of her church choir. Emily takes piano lessons and participates in a program which allows students with disabilities to ride horses therapeutically. Emily also served as a Senate Page for the most recent General Assembly in Kentucky, a role she took very seriously. To top it off, she works two days a week at a local restaurant, Farmer's Feedmill. Great job, Emily!



Zander Mack - Self Advocacy Nominated by Hardin County



Zander is a person who definitely impacts lives. He has grown from a student who would get frustrated and shut down to an incredible young man who is willing to ask for what he needs in order to be successful. Zander is a role model for other students. He gave an amazing, encouraging speech to his classmates encouraging them to never give up, even when life is hard. He explained how he works at home to improve his skills and asks teachers for additional help when needed. Zander spoke up and expressed a desire to move into advanced classes during his annual ARC meeting. Zander also anchors the Monday morning news at his school. He plans to pursue a career as a TV anchorman. In addition, Zander participates on the cross country team. His skills in self-advocacy are exemplified in his daily living. Great job, Zander!

Jayden Puckett - Technology Nominated by Hart County



Technology is a vital component of Jayden's daily life, and he excels with it. Today, Jayden is still considered nonverbal, but he speaks volumes with his AAC device. With his consistent device utilization, Jayden has started some verbalization. He can identify all letters, show recognition of the first 50 pre-primer sight words, and write 3 word simple sentences. Jayden knows most numbers and is beginning to add and subtract. In addition to his AAC device, Jayden also loves a wide variety of other technology such as the ActiveBoard, phones, tablets, iPad, watches, and any devices he can get his hands on. He actively learns, watches videos, listens to books, and plays games just like his peers. Jayden frequently uses his iPad to find new characters to dress like. Using a cell phone, he has learned numbers and can dial his mom's number - a very important life skill! Jayden's use of technology is inspiring. Keep it up, Jayden!



Maciah Young - Transition Nominated by Jefferson County



Maciah works hard and is very friendly and helpful with her coworkers, peers and supervisors. When she talks to people, she makes them feel good. Maciah walks almost a mile to her bus stop every morning and catches a city bus to school. She has also learned to navigate other bus routes too. She assists other students on her bus when problems arise. Maciah has developed exceptional leadership skills by training and volunteering at Norton Hospital, the Louisville Zoo, and James Graham Brown Cancer Center. Her Independent living skills, willingness to help others, and dedication to volunteering in the community make her our Yes I Can Award winner for transition. Nicely done, Maciah!



Thirteen special education and early intervention professionals from across Kentucky volunteered their time to storm Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and advocate on behalf of children and youth with exceptionalities and the professionals who work on their behalf. Organized by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE), over 270 special and gifted education and early intervention advocates participated in the 2019 Special Education Legislative Summit from July 7-10, 2019.



The Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children is committed to advocating for children and youth with exceptionalities. This summer, Board members from KYCEC and KYCASE were joined by educators across Kentucky to meet with Congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. to educate our Nation's policymakers about:

- Protecting and increasing IDEA funding for its intended purpose.
- Ensuring no policy restricts public education's ability to deliver a free appropriate education and early intervention services.
- Safeguarding the rights of children and youth with exceptionalities.

Your voice matters! Reaching out to your Congressional Leaders may seem a bit scary and overwhelming, but CEC has you covered. Visit CEC's Legislative Action Center website at <http://cqrcengage.com/cek/?o>. By clicking the "Take Action" button and entering your contact information, you can immediately voice the need to support individuals with exceptional needs. By constitutional law, every time you submit a letter or email through CEC's Legislative Action Center, Congress must be alerted. What a perfect platform to make your voice heard!

You have the power to make a difference. Take the first step and be a champion for children and youth with diverse learning needs.

Let's Make a Difference



President's Message

Greetings, fellow KYCEC members and colleagues!

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall season in our amazing Commonwealth. While autumn is always my favorite season, it is also a very busy season for us in this field. I want to thank you for the dedication and passion you demonstrate each day in your classrooms and communities – you ARE making a difference!

Our organization exists to serve and equip you, so please know that you have our commitment to advocating and providing quality supports and services for you. Some upcoming opportunities include the annual Exceptional Children's Conference in November in Louisville; mini-grant awards to support member classrooms; and advocacy efforts happening at the state and national levels. Please keep checking our website for additional information about these opportunities!

I look forward to seeing you November 24th-26th at the Galt House! You do NOT want to miss the incredible speakers, our unbelievable Yes I Can! winners, and the amazing networking opportunities. Please visit us at the KYCEC Membership table to learn more about what's happening in KYCEC and to find out how you can get involved!

Dr. Merissa Waddey

KYCEC President

