

Spring 2021 Newsletter



Council for
Exceptional
Children

KENTUCKY

Welcome to our Spring 2021 newsletter!

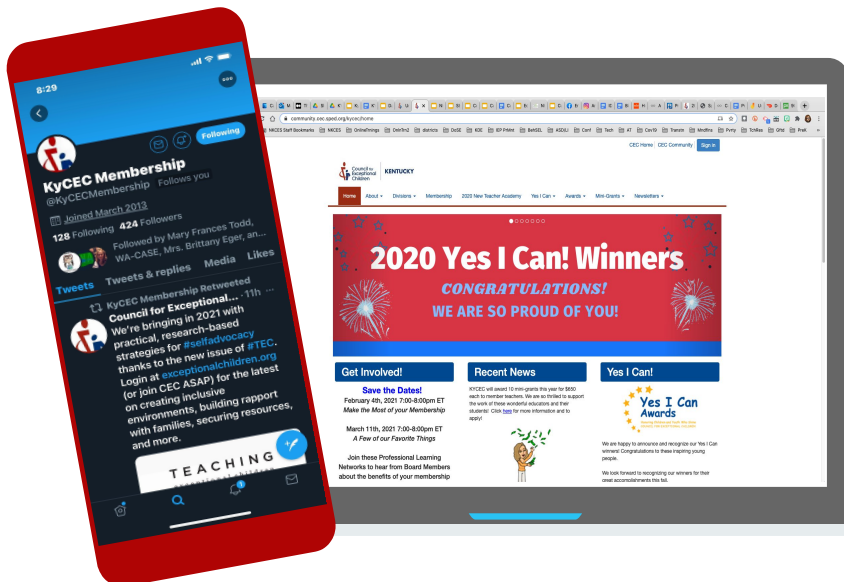
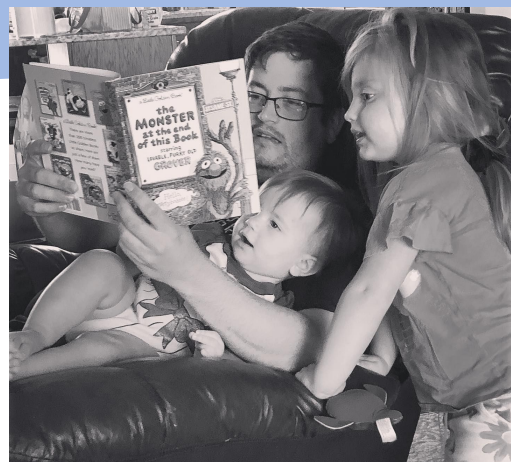
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A YEAR FULL OF PROMISE...

Who could possibly have imagined that this is what the world would have looked like in 2021? But where there has been plenty of apprehension, frustration, fear, and stress there has also been something more and better: opportunity. This year has brought us opportunities to learn new technology, new adaptive skills, new ways of connecting with students, new ways to problem solve how to grow students.

As a state CEC unit, we have been working on your behalf. Many of us participated in the Legislative Summit, meeting with our Congressional delegation. Although we were not able to have our conference, we hosted a New Teacher Academy for almost twice as many people as we expected. Many thanks to Dr. Merissa Waddey (Past President) for setting it up. We followed up with two Professional Learning Network meetings to help new people make the most of their membership. Finally, we are starting to build our capacity to advocate at the state level. With our CAN coordinator, we are developing a central message that we as KYCEC members can advocate for consistently.

I look forward to all that the next year has to offer. Thank you for being a member and go tell a friend about the great work and resources of KYCEC! -

Nicholas A. Newton, President



JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

We'd love to chat and tweet with you on social media - you can find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). We share favorite resources, trainings, and conference information on our social media accounts and would love to hear from you - please check us out and like, share, and retweet any news that catches your eye! ¹

LOOKING FOR A NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?

Want to connect with great colleagues from around the state?

The KY CEC Board of Directors has several positions open for the upcoming year. No experience in being on a board is needed - you just have to love supporting teachers of students with disabilities across Kentucky.

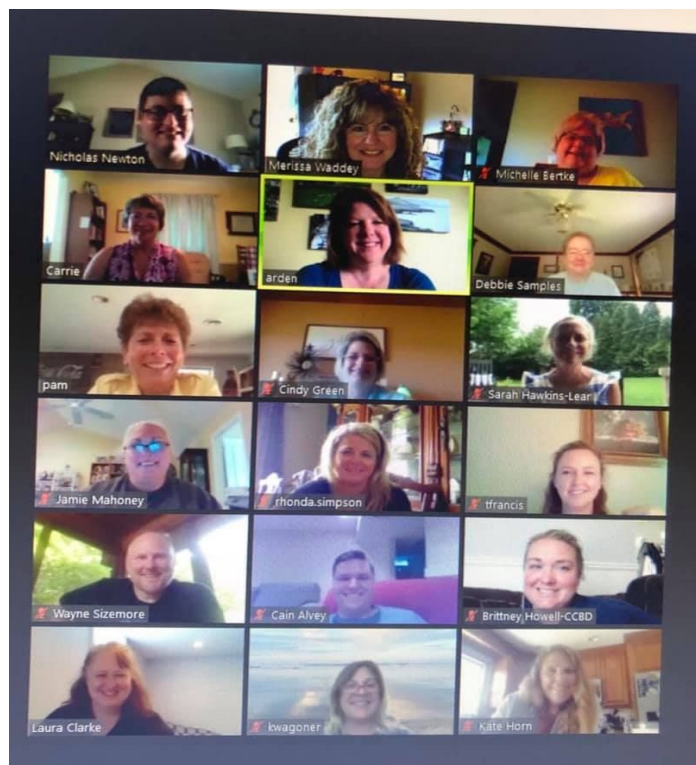
This year, our board meetings were held online, and it was a great time to learn more about work happening around the state to support students with disabilities.

The following positions are open:

Vice-President (3 year term)

Secretary (2 year term)

To learn more, email KY CEC President Nick Newton by April 15 at newt2606@gmail.com



Get involved!

There are lots of leadership opportunities just for you.



Many of our KY CEC divisions have open positions! If you would like to get involved, contact the following people:

- To learn more about positions with KY TED (the Teacher Education Division), email jeremy.whitney@louisville.edu
- To learn more about positions with KY Pioneers, email Arden.goodman@gmail.com
- To get involved with KY CEC's Student group, email shawkins12@uky.edu
- To get involved with KYCCBD (the Council for Children with Behavior Disorders), email tracey.francis@woodford.kyschools.us
- To learn more about positions with KY DEC (Division of Early Childhood), contact mailto:shawkins12@uky.edu ...

DIVISION UPDATES

The Kentucky Council for Children with Behavior Disorders (KYCCBD) group is hard at work planning an upcoming Mini 2021 Virtual Behavior Institute demanded by KYCCBD as *Education Tuesdays*. *Education Tuesdays* will occur on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings of the month from 6:30-8:00 PM EST (February 9th - June 22nd).

The Kentucky Council for Children with Behavior Disorders has heard the need and is reaching out to provide Kentucky education professionals with FREE monthly sessions to promote resilience, increase equity, support a growth mindset, and to build academic and behavioral skills for student success.

Some national speakers lined up for this exciting opportunity are Dr. Isaiah Pickens, Principal Kafele, Will Hunter, Dwight Bain, Ginny Sprang, Amy Cunningham, and Matthew Portell.

This is FREE to Kentucky Education Professionals* For session information and updates, visit us at www.kyccbd.org!

(*Teachers, School Counselors, Paraprofessionals, Administrators, Social Workers, School Psychologists, FRYSCs, Community Mental Health Professionals, SROs, etc.)

SPONSORED BY:



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your **KYCEC Board** shared our favorite member benefits through a members only Professional Learning Network meeting on Feb. 4th, 2021. If you missed it, don't worry! You can view the recording here! Learn about 💰 for your classroom, easy ways to advocate, and more!!!

MINI-GRANTS: SUPPORTING CLASSROOMS ACROSS KY

Are you looking for some extra funding for those great ideas you have for your classroom? If so, look no further than the KYCEC Mini-Grant application! Kentucky CEC has budgeted \$650 for each mini-grant award. There will be a total of ten mini-grants available. **Questions?** Contact ramona.karsner@ckec.org



1. The following priority areas have been designated: 1) teacher training; 2) membership; and 3) development and implementation of model programs. The priority area for the student chapters is membership.
2. The proposal must address an identified need, rationale, description of proposed project & budget
3. A copy of the form for submitting a proposal is attached at the link below. Deadline for submitting the proposal is April 1st, 2021. Written notice of approval or disapproval will be sent to the contact person upon review of the proposal. Please note the proposals will be considered on a first come, first awarded basis.
4. Grant proposals will be competitive. Therefore, close adherence to the format, written communication skills and the specifics of the content will be factors considered by the review committee.
5. **Award recipients must agree to the following:**
 - a. Submit an article for the spring newsletter which summarizes and evaluates the mini-grant activity.
 - b. Attend the fall conference (if possible) with a report of the mini-grant award.
 - c. Award recipients must receive approval from their special education director (teachers) or other supervisor.
 - d. Award funds must be used for the intended purpose only, no indirect costs are allowed.

[Click here to access the KYCEC 20-21 Mini-Grant Application](#)

Advocacy: we can make a difference!

You're already an expert in what you do, and sharing your expertise can make a difference in legislation. How can educators become public policy advocates? Just think: you educate and motivate students every day. That's what advocacy is: educating and motivating lawmakers.

Get involved in advocating for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with exceptionalities, and the professionals who support them:

1. Check out our [Educate. Motivate. Advocate videos](#), where CEC's Senior Policy & Advocacy Advisor will get you started on the basics of advocacy.
2. Sign up for the [Special Education TODAY newsletter](#) and get relevant policy information in your inbox every Friday.
3. Contact your elected officials through the [Legislative Action Center](#).
4. Discover what you can do at the [Special Education Legislative Summit](#) in July.



You educate. You motivate. Now, you can advocate.

Nominate a colleague or student for a KY CEC Award!



We have lots of wonderful recognitions! All applications are due by May 30, 2021. To learn more about each award, and to nominate a colleague or student, click on the links below:

Outstanding Special Education Administrator of the Year - [click here for nomination form](#)

This award is to be given to a school administrator whose primary responsibility is special education. The award is for distinguished leadership and support for special education and/or gifted and talented programs in Kentucky. The nominee must be a special education administrator in Kentucky and a CEC member.

2021 KYCEC Business Award - [click here for nomination form](#)

This award recognizes businesses that have provided for the enhancement, awareness, and employment of individuals with exceptionalities in order to promote and support their full participation within the community.

2021 Carl Perkins Contributor to Special Education - [click here for nomination form](#)

This award is to be given to individuals for their distinguished leadership and service in the interest of children with exceptionalities. The nominee needs not be working in the field of special education nor be a member of the Kentucky CEC.

2021 KY Student CEC Member of the Year - [click here for nomination form](#)

This prestigious award is given to an outstanding student CEC member by the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children. The student must be an active CEC member in a Kentucky student chapter or state unit.

2021 Special Education Teacher of the Year - [click here for nomination form](#)

The purpose of this award is to recognize / honor an outstanding teacher in the field of special education. This nomination form must be completed by the nominee. By submitting this application, you agree to be present at the Annual Conference on Programs for Exceptional Children (Fall Special Education Conference) in November 2020 should you be chosen an award winner and/or finalist. No more than THREE letters of recommendation need to be uploaded with your nomination. One letter needs to be from your principal/supervisor, and one letter needs to come from your Director of Special Education (DOSE).

Finalists will be asked to put together a short video to be used at the Exceptional Children's Conference. Details will be sent to the finalists. The top three finalists will be awarded a one year CEC Membership, Registration for the Exceptional Children's Conference in November, and a monetary prize.

2021 Mary May Wyman Outstanding KYCEC Member of the Year - [click here for nomination form](#)

The purpose of this award is to allow the Kentucky Council to honor the member who has shown consistently unselfish service in promoting the education and welfare of children with exceptionalities in Kentucky. This member has provided leadership to our organization over an extensive period of time. The nominee must be a Kentucky CEC member in good standing with a minimum tenure of continued membership for the previous three years.

YES I CAN! NOMINATION TIME!

The Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children has established the Yes I Can (YIC) awards program to acknowledge and celebrate the accomplishments of children and youth with exceptional needs. This award honors children and youth with exceptionalities that shine. Nominees must be 3-21 in age at the time of the nomination and a resident of Kentucky. Each nominee may be nominated in ONE category only. Applications must be complete and contain ALL required information in order to be considered.

One winner in each category will be selected: Academics, Arts, Transition, Technology, School and Community Activities, and Self-Advocacy.

Nominations may be made by parents, teachers, friends, paraprofessionals, etc.. In the event of a tie, preference will be given to nominators that are CEC members.

Winners will be recognized at the Exceptional Children's Conference at the Galt House in November. KYCEC YIC winners will be nominated to CEC for consideration of their national awards.

Applications with ALL supporting documentation may be submitted between March 1 and May 1st. No late applications or supporting documentation will be accepted.

Required Components:

Statement of Achievement: In 500 words or less, describe why the nominee deserves to receive this award. Include information such as:

- challenges the student encountered prior to his or her accomplishments;
- his or her exceptionality/exceptionalities;
- the type of special education services provided to the nominee;
- the student's achievements in his or her category of nomination;
- the setting in which these accomplishments occurred; and
- the impact these accomplishments have had on the student or others.

****Please note that if the nominee is selected as a recipient, the responses may be used by KYCEC for the awards and publicity purposes. Please make sure that you provide the most accurate information possible. [Click here for application form.](#)**

In addition, please be prepared to share the following documentation:

- **Signed parent consent** (Required). Permission granted by the parent is for consideration of state and national YIC awards, including all publicity associated with this award. [Click here for parent consent form.](#)
- **Headshot - (Required)** A quality photo of the student only for use in publication, programs, and the awards ceremony.
- **Video - (Required)** Must be less than 2 minutes in length. Videos should support the Statement of Achievement indicating why the nominee deserves this award. This video should highlight the nominee's work/achievements, his or her daily life, or a statement from the nominee about the impact that his/her accomplishments have had. [Example video and link](#) Videos should be uploaded to YouTube or another video sharing service and must be made public so that the review committee can view.
- **Supporting Evidence** - 2 additional forms of documentation may be included. No more than 2 will be considered. Examples of documentation: Essay written by the nominee (may be something he or she has written in the past or written specifically for this award; Must support the Statement of Achievement, highlighting the nominee's work/achievements, daily life, or statement about the impact his/her accomplishments have had; no longer than 300 words); Copy of transcript; student artwork; Awards; Record of activities or technology used; Employment history, etc.

NEW TEACHER ACADEMY 2020-2021

This year's [New Teacher Academy](#) went virtual, and we loved every minute of it! We added 135 amazing new teachers to KYCEC, and they rocked out their sessions and swag!

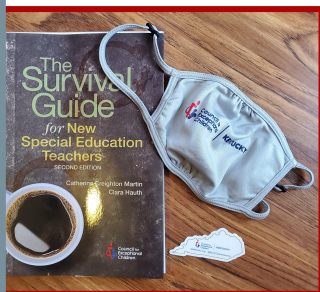
KYCEC SWAG!



PRIZE WINNERS:

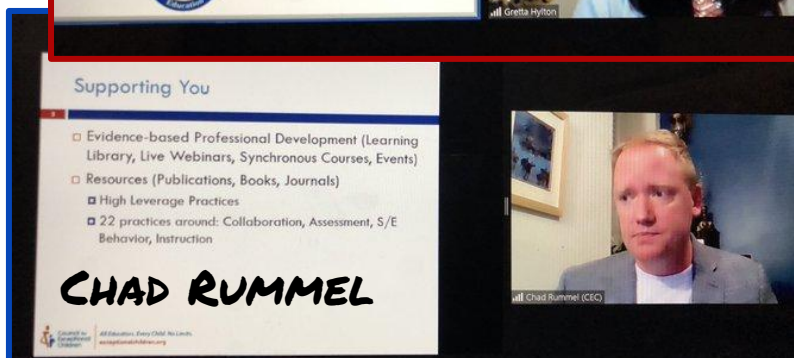
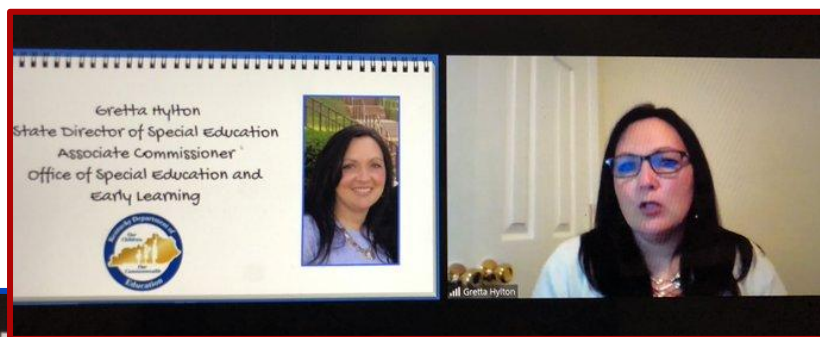
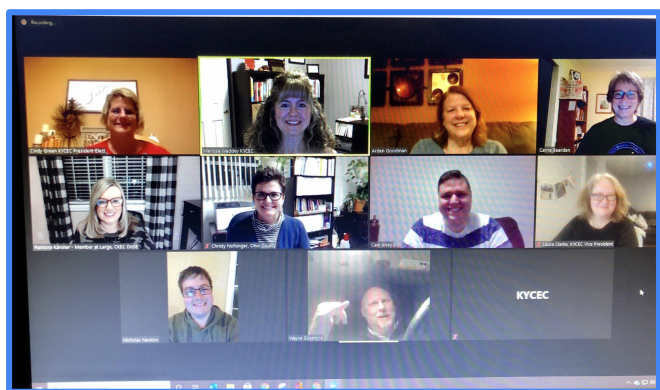
These teachers embraced every challenge and won these amazing prizes for submitting their covered token boards:

- 🏆 Joshua McDonald: Amazon gift card & CEC backpack
- 🏆 Christina Fultz: CEC backpack
- 🏆 Lowanda Slone: Registration for KY's 2021 Exceptional Children's Conference
- 🏆 Audiene Nance: All Access Pass to CEC's LIVE Convention!



GRETTA HYLTON

★ KICKOFF STARS! ★



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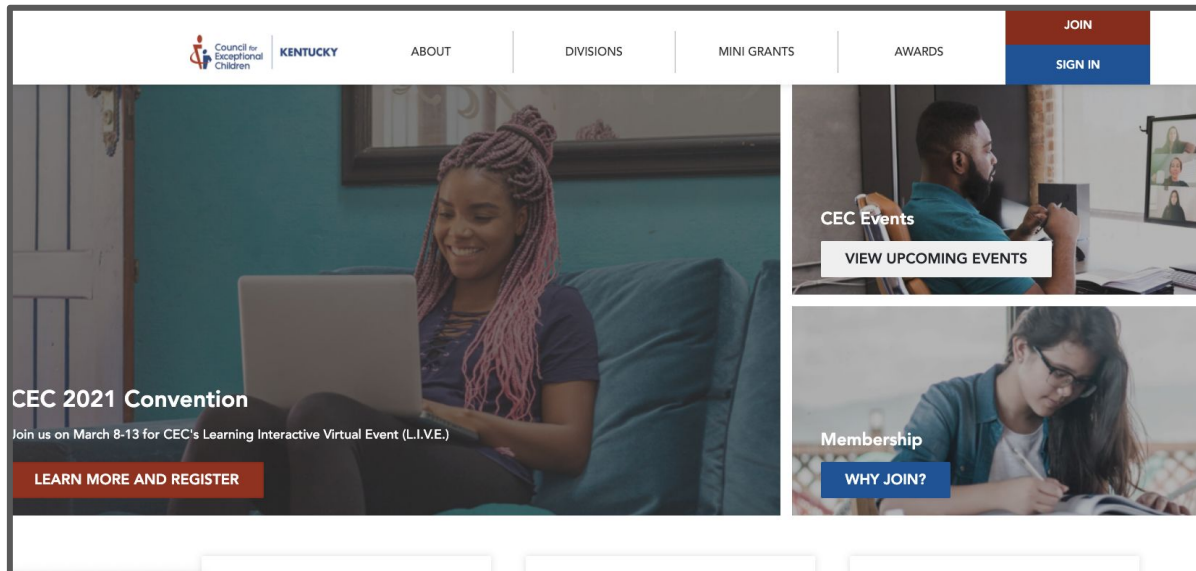


KENTUCKY

NEW SITE UNDER DEVELOPMENT FOR KY CEC!

We have a new site under development for KY CEC! Please bookmark

<https://kentucky.exceptionalchildren.org/> and check back often for the latest updates!



Save the Date!
June 16-18, 2021 - **Virtual** Behavior Institute



Registration
Opens April 1

Pull up a chair!
Wherever you are, Virtual BI can be there!