

Fall 2021 Newsletter

KYCEC members and colleagues,

Greetings! As president, I had the honor of welcoming you in-person to the 2021 Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference, November 21-23, 2022 in Louisville. This was an incredible opportunity to network with colleagues from across the commonwealth. At this year's conference, you had the opportunity to hear amazing speakers, experience professional development opportunities, and meet unbelievable Yes I Can! Winners. While the realities of larger caseloads, extreme variations of student needs and keeping up with current procedures and compliance are real challenges for educators in our profession, the most obvious way we can best address each of these issues is to collaborate with one another to problem solve and share ideas and best practices.

Our organization is one of the greatest exceptional children's advocacy organizations in our field. We are here to serve and provide you with quality resources and services. I hope you took the opportunity to stop by our membership table at conference to learn more about what's happening in KYCEC and to find out how you can get involved! Hopefully you took advantage of the incredible discount available to renew your membership. In addition, several new/renewing members were awarded fantastic door prizes during our annual membership meeting on Tuesday morning.

As a reminder, KYCEC members are eligible to apply for a mini-grant to provide funding for programs in your classroom. Ten members will be awarded \$650 each. Previous awards have included curriculum materials, specialized programs, technology, or other innovative ideas which can be used to support students with disabilities. Details for applying will be located on the website, www.kycec.org, in January.

Please continue to check our website for additional information as well as upcoming opportunities and celebrations. Mark your calendars for the 100th Anniversary 2022 National CEC Conference in Orlando, Florida, January 16-19, 2022. KYCEC will proudly have 2 National Yes I Can! Winners honored at this conference.

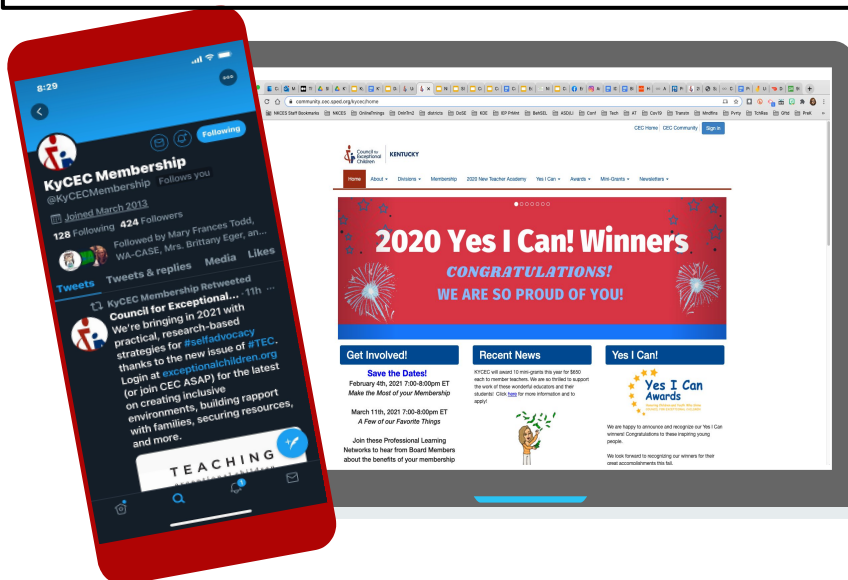
I want to personally thank each of you for all you do for students every day. I realize each day is filled with challenges, but you continue to make a difference in the lives of exceptional students.

Cindy Green
KYCEC President



JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

We'd love to chat and tweet with you on social media - you can find us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KYCECMembership) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KYCECMembership). 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.

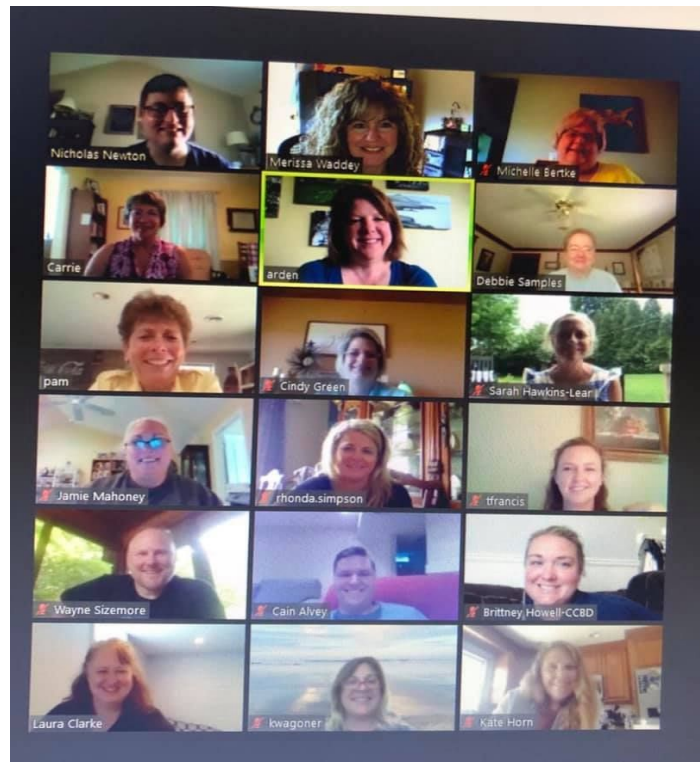
This year, our board meetings were held online, and it was a great time to learn more about work happening around the state to support students with disabilities.

The following positions are open:

Member at Large (Appointed)

Vice-President (4 year term)

To learn more, email KY CEC President Cindy Green by April 15 at cynthia.green@warren.kyschools.us



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 marissa.waddey@nkces.org
- 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 ...



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, 2022. 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 Fall 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.

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.

Kentucky Exceptional Children's Conference

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Thank you Kentucky students, teachers, and administrators for making the Exceptional Children's Conference an incredible success! Over 1,000 Kentucky educators joined together to learn, advocate, and network in an effort to make the educational experiences of our students more meaningful and lead to greater success and independence in life.

Kentucky CEC would like to thank Governor Andy Beshear, Keynote Speaker Ricky Robertson, KYCEC Board of Directors, The Kentucky Department of Education, and our university partners for their cooperation to make an achievement towards the growth of our colleagues. Most of all, KYCEC would like to thank the attendees for making this conference a fantastic event! There were many grand reviews of the conference and we gladly take those and will use those to ensure that the Exceptional Children's Conference continues to provide learning opportunities to meet the needs of teachers, administrators, students, and parents in future events.

Congratulations to the 2020 and 2021 Yes I Can! winners who were recognized during the general session and in their own session. The students came from across the Commonwealth to show their amazing achievements in their respective categories. Governor Beshear was also able to take part in this celebration and provided fantastic words to promote the successes of special education through our Yes I Can! winners.



HIGH LEVERAGE PRACTICES

HLP 3: Collaborate with Families to Support Student Learning and Secure Needed Services

Effectively Collaborate with Families:

- Communicate with families openly and honestly
- Demonstrate a high level of knowledge in the area they are working in.
- Treat families with dignity, honor cultural diversity, and affirm strengths
- Recognize the strengths of every member of the team, share power with families, and focus on working together with families.
- Be reliable and act in the best interest of the student, sharing their vision and actions with families.

For School Leaders to Support Teachers:

- Evaluate teachers' skill and comfort with respect to working with families from various cultural backgrounds
- Provide instruction around cultural sensitivity
- Provide feedback on their performance
- Provide opportunities for those who may feel uncomfortable

Effective Practices for Communicating with Families

- Communicating in a language and format accessible to the family
- Make phone calls to families as needed to build on students' strengths and discuss supports or resources.
- Seek knowledge of students' cultural backgrounds and/or history both educationally and personally.

CEC LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Kentucky CEC participated in the CEC Leadership Summit in July this year. This was a fantastic opportunity for us to learn more about how to bring out Commonwealth together and create an organization that is service minded, both to our members and the students we serve.

Kentucky CEC was highlighted for our New Teacher Academy which is offered every year at the Exceptional Children's Conference. Further, the Exceptional Children's Conference was highlighted for the partnership between CEC and the Kentucky Department of Education.

Kentucky ranks high in the nation regarding statewide active membership.

Discussions focused on creating a system of volunteers and truly active members. The Kentucky Board of Directors through strategic planning will work on creating more volunteer opportunities for members.

If you would like to increase your involvement in Kentucky CEC please contact Arden Goodman at arden.goodman@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER



Fall 2021 Newsletter



KENTUCKY

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE THROUGH CEC

We are continuously working to update our website with the latest information regarding KY CEC, please take time to visit us at <https://kentucky.exceptionalchildren.org/>



KENTUCKY

ABOUT

CONFERENCE

DIVISIONS

MINI GRANTS

AWARDS

JOIN

SIGN IN

CEC 2022 Convention

Join us January 16-19, 2022 for CEC's 100th Anniversary Celebration!

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

2021 Mini-Grant Winners

VIEW RECIPIENTS

Membership

WHY JOIN?



KY-CCBD Behavior Institute 2022 will be “Live” at the Galt House in Louisville, KY

KY-CCBD Behavior Institute 2022
June 16-17, 2022
Galt House, Louisville, KY



**Save the
Date!**

