

Coming Together in 2018: Supporting All Learners as a Team

37th Annual Super Conference on Special Education Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

Keynote Speakers

JEFF ARSENEAUX
Self-Advocate and
Inspirational Speaker

He made us think about how to achieve goals in the classroom.



SONYA KING

Author, Comedian, Speaker,
Parent Surviving Autism

She spoke about her son Josh and the struggles and triumphs that come with Autism. Follow her blog 'Clearly Muddled' and her podcast 'Josh has Autism.'



Snap Shots from Super Conference 37



Membership Fun



LATI Hands-On Showcase

**(See more Conference Snapshots
on page 6)**

Louisiana CEC 2018 Award Winners

Parent Advocate of the Year Bonnie Buckelew



Bonnie has worked in the field of Special Education for thirty years. She advocates for individuals with disabilities spending countless hours working with parents, teachers and students with exceptionalities to ensure they have support in every aspect

of their lives. She strives to help parents with questions and concerns and works cooperatively with Family Helping Families to ensure students have needed supports. She is a proponent of inclusion and strives consistently to help others see the benefit of the environment.

Bonnie has expanded her dedication to advocating for individuals with disabilities to the state and national level. She has served on the Special Education Advisory Panel, The Developmental Disabilities Council, National CEC Yes I Can Committee and the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children.

Business of the Year Award The Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center (OWLS), Dubach, LA



The Outdoor Wilderness Learning (OWL) Center is a program of the Louisiana Methodist Children's Home, a non-profit dedicated to providing care to children and families across Louisiana. They offer many programs

that foster teamwork, character development, education, and of course, fun. It serves churches, schools, businesses, community groups and families.

Last year the OWL's therapeutic horseback riding program provided over 3000 hours of equine therapy to children and adults with special needs, as well as at risk youth. Students with significant disabilities at Jonesboro-Hodge Middle School in Jackson Parish participated in the riding program.

The students in Jackson Parish have benefitted tremendously from this program and are so thankful for such a wonderful OWL staff that is able to see their students' potential and not their limitations.

Para-Professional of the Year Award Bonny Tigner-Evans Live Oak Junior High Livingston Parish



Bonnie has been a paraeducator for more than 15 years. She has dedicated her career to the betterment of Special Education. She creates a positive learning environment that encourages students and supports them academically and emotionally.

Bonnie actively serves on school and local committees that support students with disabilities. Committees she serves on are: Stars and Twinkles Prom Committee, REACH Club, Local Special Olympics and MPACT. The REACH Club is a student organization that emphasizes the importance of connecting students with and without disabilities. The MPACT Club emphasizes female confidence. Bonny is an excellent role model to these young women as she is a fighter, confident and a genuinely great person.

Higher Education Professional of the Year Award – Dr. Nathan Roberts Dean, College of Education University of Louisiana of Lafayette



Dr. Nathan Roberts, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Louisiana Lafayette is an educator, educational attorney and advocate. He advocates for the expansion of special

education programs and enhances the understanding of educational leaders of teachers' and students' needs in exceptional learning programs for both ends of the continuum. He readily provides guidance to parents, students, teachers, teacher candidates and faculty on special education law and policy. Dr. Roberts is always willing to share his knowledge and guidance by presenting current Special Education Law and Policy at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Super Conference. The guidance and knowledge he gives is well received by all.

Dr. Roberts has assisted in the creation of two valuable programs at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. First, he assisted in the creation of the LIFE program, which is an acronym for Learning is for Everyone, for students with intellectual disabilities which has been in existence for almost 4 years. Second, he supported faculty in the creation of a concentration in exceptional learning within the educational leadership doctoral program and advocated for its approval with the administration.

Louisiana CEC 2018 Award Winners

Special Education Leadership Professional of the Year – Mike Beck Principal, Jonesboro-Hodge High School Jackson Parish



Mike Beck is the principal and educational leader of Jonesboro-Hodge High School. He has developed a schoolwide standard for high quality education for students with exceptionalities

by demonstrating excellence in the areas of collaboration, academic achievement and school climate. He has been a “change agent” and true educational leader who has fostered a team approach regarding students with special needs. He pays careful attention to concerns, recommendations, and accomplishments of all stakeholders, and works with them to provide optimal learning opportunities.

LACEC Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award – Christina McKay Albany Middle School Livingston Parish



Christina McKay is a Significant Disabilities and Autism teacher and Peer Mentor at Albany Middle School. She has been teaching in the classroom for 21 years. She advocates for her, fighting for their rights, empowering them, encouraging them and providing them with a positive classroom environment.

Christina has helped many students achieve their goals. She helped one of her students go from reading 3 words to 497 words in her first year of being in her class. The student graduated last year with her High School Diploma and was a former LACEC ‘Yes I Can’ Winner. There are other examples of students achieving their goals and becoming National, State and Parish ‘Yes I Can’ Winners.

Yes, I Can Award Winners

Academics – COLIN SCHULTZ Live Oak High School • Livingston Parish

Colin Schultz is a 12th grade student at Live Oak High School.

He has an exceptionality of Speech or Language Impairment in the area of voice. Colin has excelled in academics. He has maintained honor roll every year of his school career. Colin’s AP Chemistry/Physics



Teacher states, “Colin shines in the class discussions with insightful observations and the ability to articulate difficult concepts with a sense of humor. He always walks into the room with a smile on his face ready for a challenge or to proudly demonstrate what he learned. His attitude is contagious to those around him.”

In Colin’s words: ‘For me, I feel as if the achievements that I have accomplished have made me who I am today. They have inspired me to work hard for what I want and never give up. Early in my life with my disability, I could have chosen to give up and accept being labeled as a disabled person. Although I technically am, the achievements that I have accomplished have allowed me to look past the term disabled, and prove that I am as normal as every one of my peers.’

Arts – LA’JUANE NASH Jonesboro-Hodge High School • Jackson Parish

La’Juane Nash is an 11th grade student at Jonesboro-Hodge High School. He has the exceptionality of Specific Learning Disability: Mathematics Calculations, Written Expression, Reading Fluency and Mathematics Problem Solving.

La’Juane has to work



twice as hard as most students to succeed in his regular subjects, but he is able to successfully juggle his classwork, artwork, sports teams and home commitments.

La’Juane’s principal, Mr. Beck, states, “La’Juane is an excellent example of a young person overcoming some academic barriers and doing the necessary things to become a solid student representing his school and community. La’Juane does not make excuses for his limitations but works exceptionally hard to overcome anything that takes away from the goals of academic excellence.”

La’Juane is an exceptional young artist. He begins each project with enthusiasm and always chooses a project that will challenge his abilities. La’Juane has found the path that gives him the drive to try harder.

Yes, I Can Award Winners, continued

Self-Advocacy – SOLOMAN TONEY
Albany Middle School, Livingston

Soloman Toney is an 8th grade student at Albany Middle School. Soloman's exceptionality is Orthopedic Impairments. He was told he would never be able to run. Soloman is one of the fastest kids in the school, even on two crutches. Soloman wants to be treated like everyone else. He always has a smile on his face, he talks to adults and peers and always has an encouraging word for them.



Soloman's special education teacher states, "not once will you ever ever ever hear I can't do it. It is always I can do that, or I got this. He is an inspiration to everyone he meets, if you are having a bad day he will cheer you up and show you there is always a way to succeed."

Transition – BRADY SMITH
Louisiana National Guard Youth Challenge Program, Pineville, La

Brady Smith has an exceptionality of high functioning autism with attention deficit disorder. Like many with these diagnoses, he has trouble staying focused on tasks and communicating properly with his teachers, peers, and other adults.



Brady's accomplishments within the past year primarily lie within those set forth by YCP. Academically, he has jumped five grade levels and has learned other life skills that would have been difficult to master in most other settings. Brady's success and accomplishments will not end at YCP, but will continue during the post-residential phase. During his post-residential phase he is expected to maintain monthly updates and contact the post-residential team. His mentor is assisting him in preparing for the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) and GED. Upon completion of the HiSET, Brady will work with his mentor transitioning into college, applying to LSU and/or enlisting in the National Guard.

School and Community – JAMES WEEDMAN
Albany Middle School, Living Parish

James Weedman is an 8th grade student at Albany Middle School. He has an exceptionality of Intellectual Disability and a medical diagnosis of Downs Syndrome.



James is active in every setting, school, church and community. He leads others in prayer and he enjoys singing at his church. James advocated for himself to go to regular Social Studies where he learned to start writing words instead of using picture cards. He pushes himself to be better than he was. He is a social butterfly who shines in all settings. He feels it is his job to help anyone who needs anything and to make them smile. The more he tries the more he shines.

**Special Thanks to the
Supporting Businesses
and Organizations
Who Helped Sponsor This
Year's Super Conference!**

DETEL

**LOUISIANA
ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS**

Lafayette
Convention & Visitors Commission
(800) 346-1958 · www.LafayetteTravel.com

LOWRY'S
PRINTING & SIGNS
Thinking Ink Since 1981

CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS:

LA CEC has the following two positions open to begin May 2018:

Treasurer (2 year position) 2018- 2020 • Vice-President (4 year position) 2018 – 2022

Both positions require LA CEC prior Board Experience. Send nominations to: Colleen.Klein-Ezell@selu.edu

Please include a short bio and picture and current CEC membership #.

Deadline for nominations midnight, March 9 2018.

Cover Art Winners



First Place
MITCHELL HEAD
Lions Connected
Southeastern
Louisiana University



Runner-Up
ROSEMBERG GONZALES
Albany Middle School
Livingston Parish
Accepted by Christina McKay

Scholarship Winner



NICOLE NAVARRE
Southeastern Louisiana University

Mini-Grants

Congratulations to all the Mini-Grant Winners!



Mary Andermann, D'Amber Gilbert, Janelle Grant,
Jessica Guidry, Samantha Lemoine, Emma Maddox,
Angela Pastor, Tammy Schatteles, Brandon Trahan,
and Simone Voinche

Special Thanks to Bambi Polotzola

**Director of Governor's Office of
Disabilities Affairs**



Membership Winners

Every year at Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Super Conference we give away a one year free Council for Exceptional Children Membership. This year, we had four winners.

The Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children wants to congratulate winners:

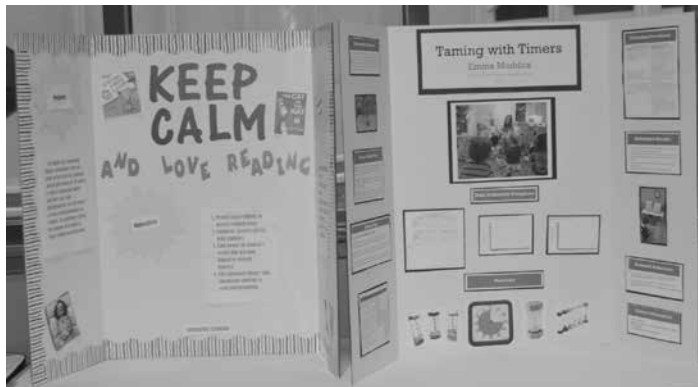
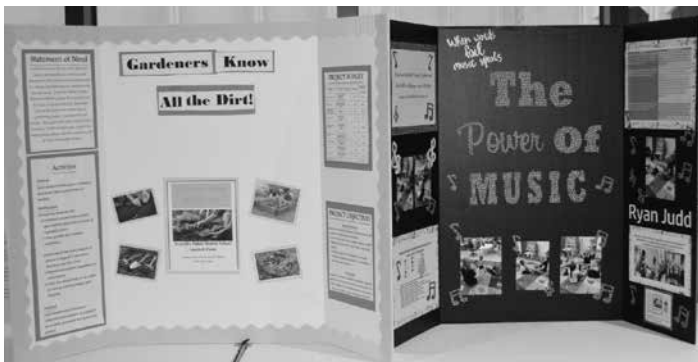
- TAMARA CHAVIS, Sunset**
- COLLETTE JOSEY-CORLEY, Lake Charles**
- LINDA LEE, Natchitoches**
- JESSICA MONTGOMERY, Prairieville**

I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you at next year's Super Conference 38 and remember to enter for your chance to win a free one year membership, too.

Hilary Bordelon
LACEC Membership

Check out our CEC website:
<http://www.louisianacec.com>

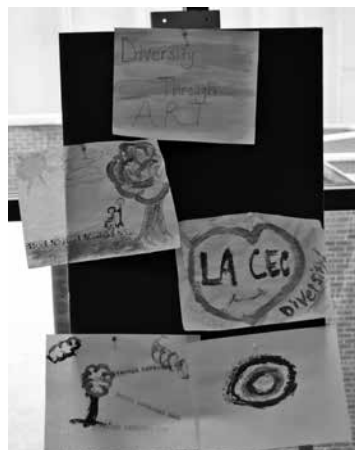
Grant Winners Display Their Boards



Great Presenters



Diversity Through Art

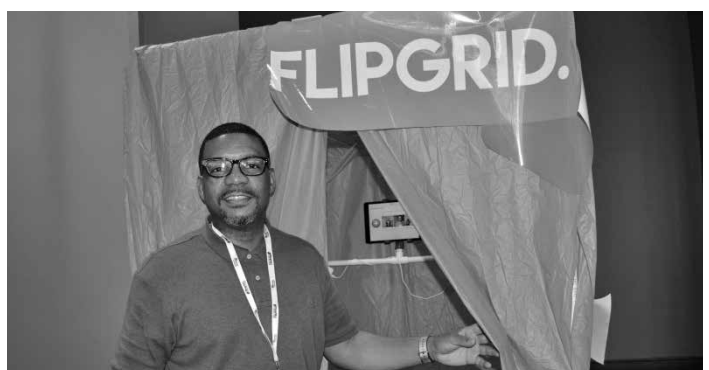


More Conference Snapshots



Diversity Crafts

Save the Date!
**38th Annual
Super Conference
on Special Education
Lafayette Cajundome
Convention Center
February 25-26, 2019
Join Us in Lafayette!**



Interacting with FlipGrid

Round Table Discussions



UL LIFE Program



Informative Vendors



Early Steps Conducts State-wide Training on DEC Recommended Practices

By Hillary Bordelon, CEC Membership Chairman

Over the last year, Early Steps, Louisiana's early intervention program, has held mandatory training sessions on the CEC's Division for Early Childhood (DEC) Recommended Practices in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education for nearly 900 participants. Participants were Early Steps providers, including special instructors, occupational therapists, speech therapists, physical therapists, and family support coordinators.

Dr. Toni Ledet, Assistant Program Manager for Early Steps and CEC member, led all 20 of the trainings, which were held in various locations across the state. As part of the training, Early Steps providers completed a Continuous Quality Improvement Action Plan focused on implementing specific DEC Recommended Practices. Early Steps providers will receive ongoing support to carry out their action plans. Use

of the DEC Recommended Practices is part of the Early Steps State Systemic Improvement Plan.

Dr. Ledet, who has a doctorate in Early Childhood Special Education, master's degrees in both Administration and Supervision and Curriculum and Instruction, and is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst, has extensive experience in early childhood and early intervention. She has worked as an early childhood special education teacher, has directed early intervention programs, and has provided early childhood professional development and technical assistance at national, state, and local levels. As an ARPY Ambassador for Louisiana, she works to provide information and resources related to the DEC Recommended Practices.

For more information on the DEC Recommended Practices, please visit, <http://ectacenter.org/decrp/>.

La. Council for Exceptional Children
c/o P. O. Box 44904
Lafayette, LA 70504

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lafayette, LA
Permit No. 176

Thanks for Attending Super Conference 37!



Your LaCEC Board Members
