

36th Annual Super Conference on Special Education To the Classroom and Beyond!

Thanks to our Keynote Speakers!



DR. CHRISTINE BRIGGS
Topic: Twice Exceptional Students



DR. NATHAN ROBERTS
Topic: Updates on Special Education Law

Thanks to our Special Guest Presenters!



**Mrs. Donna Edwards,
First Lady of Louisiana
and
Mrs. Bambi Poltzoła,
Executive Director of Governor's
Office of Disabilities Affairs**

Congratulations to Melissa Chastant-Huval, La-CEC President-Elect Recipient of the Governor's Educator of the Year Award



Melissa Chastant-Huval, who teaches special education at North Lewis Elementary School, received her award at the Old Governor's Mansion in Downtown Baton Rouge. Chastant-Huval teaches 13 students. She said they were very excited to hear about her award - especially when the parish Superintendent and

Assistant Superintendent came to the class to congratulate her.

Chastant-Huval has several degrees, but ended up in Special Education because she was a special ed student herself. She had a speech impairment, a hearing impairment and learning disabilities.

"I hope one day to become an advocate and speak on behalf of these children and these families. Every parent wants to help their child,

but a lot of times they don't know how," Chastant-Huval said. "It was hard for my parents to advocate for me. But after living that life, having so many angels open doors for me and believe in me, I want to do those things for other children."

Chastant-Huval says she tries to do that for her student every day at school, because "we are normal." She says teaching special education is "exhausting but rewarding." "It's one of those jobs where, at the end of the day, a lot of the time I'm the one who learned something. They teach me," she said. The most rewarding day is the one during which she finds the key that unlocks a child's potential. She tells of one autistic student who wasn't performing well by writing. She got him on a computer, and suddenly he was able to express his knowledge, and his behavior issues diminished.

"It's such a joy to find that one thing that will show what a child can do," she said. During this morning's event, Chastant-Huval received her award and met with the Governor and the First Lady. The event was filmed by Louisiana Public Broadcasting and will be aired at a later date, she said

Professional Award Winners

Parent Advocate of the Year KATIE CORKERN

Katie is described as a “Strong Spirit, Devout Christian, Beautiful Soul.” She is a devoted wife, teacher, blogger and mother of three little boys-Aaron, Conner and Cooper and an adorable pooch Annie. Her middle son, Connor, was diagnosed with Bilateral Open Lipped Schizencephaly, Congenital Panhypopituitarism, Septo Optic Dysplasia, Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum, along with other specialties. She strives every day to help families like hers and fights for the best and most up to date treatments for her son. During the Summer of 2016, she petitioned advocating for Cannabis Legislation. Her efforts were successful.



Higher Educational Professional DEREK D. BARDELL

He is a professor at Delgado Community College. A colleague describes Mr. Bardell, “In a word, Professor Bardell is quite simply awesome in his undaunted quest to provide high quality educational services to underprivileged and disabled children in the Greater New Orleans Metropolitan area. He has been lauded by such major organizations as the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), Louisiana Association of Student Assistance Programs (LASAP), Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary, the Council for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA), the Children’s Defense Fund and the League for innovation in the Community College for achieving outstanding results in education and program development on the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels.”



Teacher of the Year CHRISTIE GONZALES

Christie is an Early Interventionist and an inclusion Pre-K Teacher at the Chitimacha Tribal School. She teaches at a private school which encompasses a Native American population. This year is her 22nd year of teaching in the classroom. During her 22 years she has presented in numerous professional settings such as conferences, professional development trainings, parent trainings, online webinars and an educational talk radio program. In addition, Ms. Gonzales serves as Louisiana’s District 4 representative for the past 9 years and has served as Louisiana’s Early Childhood Association State Board (LAECA) as the Member at Large of the South for 2 years. She utilizes a multisensory approach to teaching her students. “All students learn in various ways; so, I must teach according to each child’s learning style. I also believe that accommodating and differentiating for each student brings about success and achievement.”



Para Educator of the Year STACIE REED

Stacie has over 12 years of experience as a Paraeducator in Louisiana. She is Paraeducator at Louisiana Connections Academy. Stacie is described as “energetic, positive, pleasant and a valuable resource with our special education team”. She works tirelessly to meet students at their academic need and provide day to day instructional support as well as providing the motivation for individual goals. In addition to her normal responsibilities for student support, Stacie also volunteers for activities outside of the academic day and was selected by administrators within Livingston Parish to participate in a program to develop effective practices between Paraeducators and teachers to improve instruction of special needs students.



Yes, I Can Award Winners

Academics - ISAIAH JOHNSON

He is a 5th Grade student at Freshwater Elementary School.

Isaiah has an exceptional ability of Specific Learning Disability, with a diagnosed condition demonstrating deficits in the area of Reading Comprehension, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Oppositional Defiance Disorder. Isaiah's impeded ability to read and comprehend grade level text and his related medical diagnosis makes it challenging for him to attend and/or persevere through academic tasks and handle moments of frustration appropriately in the classroom setting. With appropriate accommodations and modifications in place, Isaiah has achieved the level of "Mastery" in the areas of both Math and Science on each of the last two consecutive years Louisiana statewide academic assessments, in spite of his deficit in reading comprehension. In addition, he has improved his reading comprehension, showing growth in English Language Arts from "Approaching Basic" to "Basic." The significant impacts of Isaiah's accomplishments have not only been in academics, but also in the area of self-confidence and his increased ability to persevere with maturity through difficult situations both academic and personal. In September of 2015, he was the recipient of the Freshwater Elementary monthly Bucket Filler Award. The award is given to a student by a vote of his grade level peers, and indicates that he is a kind, supportive and an encouraging student to be around. In other words, he "fills" their buckets!



Arts - SARA-RACHELLE ROBINSON

She is a 1st grade student at Sacred Heart of Jesus School.

She has a diagnosis of Autism. Sarah has battled with severe social anxiety, sensory processing disorder and struggles to understand social conventions and make friends. She is in a general education class. She receives counseling from the school counselor for anxiety, has cold packs for sensory issues and wears a medical bracelet on the school campus to alert staff of her struggles.



Sara-Rachelle attends dance where she takes tap, tumbling, hip hop competition team and contemporary dance. Sara-Rachelle has been able to work through many of her sensory issues through the stretching she does at the dance studio. She has also gained confidence that has allowed her to make many friends at the studio, and she has learned to self-advocate when meeting new students that don't understand her emotions and a way to cope with overwhelming things.

Athletics - BROOKE BURNS

She is a 4th Grade Student at Quitman High School.

She is an over comer. Brooke has Down's Syndrome. She had open heart surgery when she was only 6 months old, a collapsed lung and did not walk until she was 2 1/2 years old. As of today she is a very outgoing, happy and very athletic little girl.



Brooke played T-Ball at the Jackson Parish Recreation Department for three years. As she got older she began playing Buddy Ball and has done so for the past two years. She loves to be the catcher and imitates her sister. Brooke insists she "owns" home plate. She is also involved in many other sports. She was a cheerleader for Upward for two years. She currently remains on the Quintman High School cheer squad and loves to shake her "pompoms." Brooke participates in basketball where she has finally conquered shooting and makes many baskets with the regular size basketball goal. No more little baby goals for her! In addition, she enjoys tetherball with her mom, running events at the Special Olympics at Louisiana Tech University and pretend hunting with her wooden gun her daddy made for her. Brooke is the "Town Celebrity." It is amazing to watch her classmates and friends help her and cheer her on during her sports games.

Self-Advocacy - CHANCE LEBLANC

He is an 11th grade student at Weston High School.

Chance was born with a rare vision disorder and currently has a visual acuity of 20/400 and an inability to refocus his eyes. He is considered legally blind. Chance has used his creativity, strong work ethic and ability to be an advocate for himself and others to make amazing achievements and accomplishments in his school. By communicating with his teachers, classmates, and administrators, Chance created working relationships that meet all of his needs and provide for greater opportunities for other students. He has researched updated technology components and made requests for items that he needs, including digital magnifiers, large screen monitors, e-mailed documents/notes and a variety of Braille/large print materials.



Chance's accomplishments have allowed him to feel success in real-world situations. He has learned that he can work with others in a variety of situations to provide needed resources for his school and society, while at the same time demonstrating self-advocacy skills. It has allowed him to increase his feelings of self-worth, motivation, and independency. It has also given him the chance to be a positive role model for other students who may be facing similar challenges.

Cover Art Winners



First Place
XAVIER CARTER



Second Place
TAVARIOUS WILLIAMS

Scholarship Winners



JON DOWNS



KELLY PHILLIPS



MADELEINE ORTTE

Mini-Grants



Mary Andermann, Connie Bowen, Sally-Rose Cragin, Tonda Collett, Michelle Frederick, Karen Henson, Rebecca Lee-Poklemba, Ted Turlock (not pictured)

Business of the Year XPETFLO



XPERTFLO OILFIELD SERVICES

Xpertflo is an oilfield service company operating out of Abbeville, Louisiana. They provide labor and construction crews for drilling, completion and production applications. Each school year Xpertflo donates supplies to students whose family are unable to buy school supplies. They support students at Eaton Park Elementary. They help support both regular and special education students.

CEC Member Spotlights

Name: Sandra Broussard

Years Teaching: 11 years

Grades: 6th, 7th and 8th graders who have classifications of mild/moderate intellectual disability, other health impairment, and specific learning disability

School/Parish: Erath Middle School, Vermillion Parish

"My philosophy of Education is that all students can learn when led by a highly effective teacher. The higher the quality of instruction impacts student's success and learning. Each student is different and students do not learn in one particular way. It is my responsibility to determine the particular learning styles and address them. Through a variety of assessments, learning strategies and data collecting, I can make a difference in a student's learning process and achievement."

Name: Megan Prejean

Years Teaching: 10 years

Grades: students who have visual impairments in kindergarten through high school

School/Parish: Jefferson Davis Parish

"One of the best parts of my job is working with the regular education and special education teachers to come up with strategies to help the student to be successful in the classroom. My overall goal with each student is to build on their strengths and help them become as independent as possible. My philosophy has always been that there's nothing that my students can't do and their disability will not limit their possibilities."

Super Conference Raffle Winners

The LACEC Membership Committee donated four Memberships at the 2017 Louisiana Super Conference. Congratulations to our winners! Welcome to the LACEC!

Sandra Broussard of Youngsville, LA

Megan Prejean of Roanoke, LA

Tonette Celestine of Lafayette, LA

Jenny Fontenot of Mamou, LA

Check Out Our Board Member Nominations
**** All nominations must have required previous board experience**
to serve as Vice President or Secretary. **

Candidate for LaCEC Vice President



My name is Reneisha Singleton. I enjoy learning, working, and teaching in the area of Special Education. I received a Baccalaureate Degree as well as a Master’s Degree in Special Education from Southeastern Louisiana University. I am currently the Program Coordinator for the Lions Connected Program at Southeastern Louisiana University. Through our program, students with Intellectual Disabilities are admitted into the University to have the “College Experience.” I also teach two Special Education courses at Southeastern. I really enjoy having the opportunity to help prepare teacher candidates for the world of teaching. Prior to working at Southeastern Louisiana University, I was a classroom teacher in St. Tammany Parish. During my 5 years in the classroom, I taught 4th and 5th graders in an Inclusive Setting and I LOVED every minute of it. I am currently a member of the Council for Exceptional Children and have been since 2009. I have attended and presented at several National Conferences as well as State Conferences. Each time I have attended a CEC Conference, I have walked away with a plethora of information to use in many different settings to help enhance classroom lessons as well as Life Skills lessons. As a CEC member, I have had the pleasure of serving on the Executive Board for the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children for quite a while. While serving on the board, I have held several positions such as Student Governor and President-Elect. I would love the opportunity to serve as your Vice President.

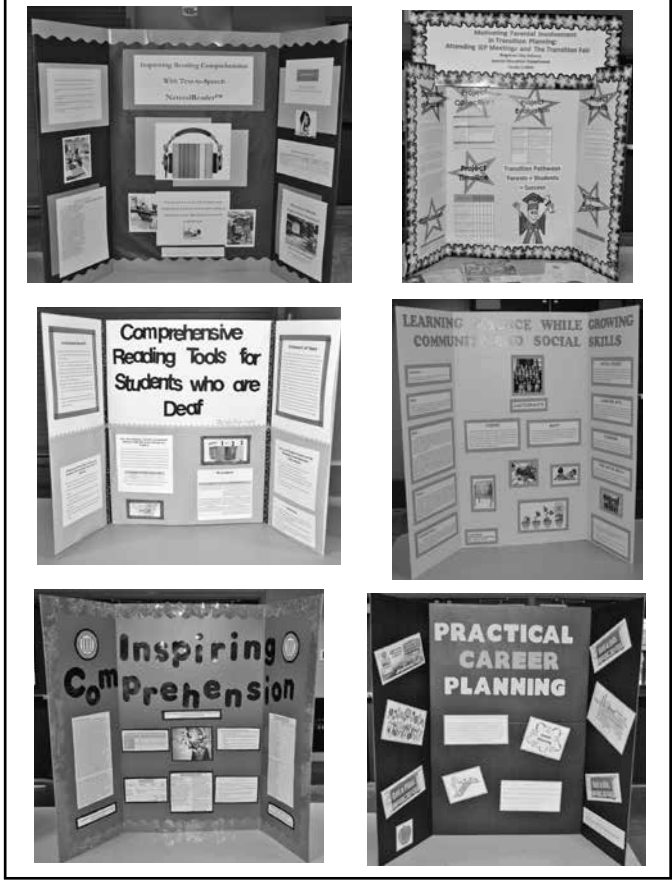
Voting Ballots will be emailed to current CEC members in the near future.

CEC 2017 Board Elections SAMPLE Ballot	
Vice President:	<input type="checkbox"/> Reneisha Singleton
	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in Candidate
Secretary:	<input type="checkbox"/> Write-in Candidate

**Snap Shots of Learning and Beyond
 Great Attendance, Great Vendors,
 Lots of Learning**



Grant Display Boards



La. Council for Exceptional Children

c/o P. O. Box 44904

Lafayette, LA 70504

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New Membership Benefit

CEC members are now eligible for up to 80% savings on thousands of products, including copy paper and ink, at Office Depot. Savings are available both online and in-store.

Visit <http://www.cec.sped.org/Membership/Member-Savings> to register.

**Thanks to
our CEC Board Members
for your time and dedication,
and our friends at**



and



**for a Successful
Super Conference 36!**

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

Save the Date!
**37th Annual
Super Conference
on Special Education**

Presented by
Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children

January 22-23, 2018
Join Us in Lafayette!