

Let Education Shine at Super Conference 39

39th Annual Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Super Conference on Special Education

JANUARY 12-13, 2020 • LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

“Yes, I Can” Award Winners



Joshua Duffy, Logan Ruckman, Kayla Ordes, Katy Altazan, Camilla Rios, Rocco Siracusa

Keynote Speaker **WILLIAM ROMERO**

**Self-advocate and Local and
State Award Winner**

William told about his experience as a child with challenges. He spoke about how he continues to Let His Light Shine!



Highlights from the Conference



News 15 interviewed our hard working President, Ashlie Abercrombie Allardyce.



William with members of SCEC

“Yes, I Can” Award Winners

The Yes, I Can honors achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities; encourage individuals to seek their highest potential; and increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities. Nominations are made by themselves, teachers, principals, related service providers, friends, and parents.

ACADEMICS

Katy Altazan

Katy is a nine-year-old student who attends South Fork Elementary. Katy is currently serviced in a self-contained special education classroom where her needs can best be met through small group and/or individual instruction with modifications and accommodations at her instructional level. Katy attends PE, lunch, recess, and science with her peers with support. She receives occupational therapy, adapted P.E., physical therapy, and speech therapy.



Ms. Guidry, stated, during the two years that I have taught Katy, she has flourished academically. Last year, she was introduced to push-groups for socialization opportunities with her peers. However, this year she is attending a regular education science classroom with her peers and showing excellent progress maintaining and applying the knowledge she has learned. She enjoys participating in discussions with her peers about various content areas.

Katy continues to maintain honor roll status and is a hard worker at school

Ms. Kristy Guidry, Katy’s teacher/ Special Olympics coach said, “It is with great honor that I nominate Katy Altazan in the area of academics. I am privileged to have the opportunity to watch Katy flourish academically and socially at school.”



ARTS

Rocco Siracusa

Rocco is an 11-year-old male who currently attends Southside Jr. High, with the exceptionality of Autism.

Rocco has utilized art as a way to decompress from the tasks which frustrated him. Often times he would ask to draw or create things to soothe and/or calm down. He began to connect with another student in the area of art.

Each enjoyed creating things with clay and began to form a friendship.



Recently, Rocco moved his creativity into creating various comic books. His comic books are not the traditional square blocks instead he has used a variety of dimensions to express his thoughts and emotions through his drawings. He has taken his love for the arts from home into the school setting to show those around him his creativity. By beginning to open up at school about his passion to draw and create, he has begun to connect with his peers within the general education setting. He is able to use those skills to assist in classroom projects with his peers.

Rocco has recently decided that he wants to share his art with others in the community. He would like to begin to donate his drawings to silent auctions to help non-profit organizations raise funds. He is actively involved in Special Olympics and continues to flourish with his involvement in a variety of sports. During those practices and meets, he continues to show others his drawings.

Ms. Kristy Guidry, Rocco’s teacher stated, “It is such an honor to nominate Rocco Siracusa in the category of Art.”

Save the Date

NOVEMBER 7-9, 2021

40th Annual

**Super Conference on
Special Education**

Presented by LACEC

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

“Yes, I Can” Award Winners (continued)

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Joshua Duffy



Joshua is a 13-year-old 7th grader at Holden High. He has a mild intellectual disability. As a student, Josh does all his work without having to be asked twice, and as an athlete he participates in the same work outs and drills as the other players. He is a good spirited, kind, helpful, and courageous young man

Last year Joshua began working with the Rocket Breakfast Club. He socially interacts with peers and school staff members receiving and delivering orders and assists with collecting money and making change. Through his participation in school activities, Joshua is making progress towards his communication goals and social goals that will help him in becoming a successful citizen in the community.

Mr. Rusty Hutchison said, “It doesn’t matter if I’m cooking, working, or arguing with a softball umpire, Joshua has my back and is my right-hand-man. He is always eager to assist while I’m cooking at ballgames or for staff members at school.”



Mr. Aaron Carlton, stated, “I have had the absolute pleasure of having Josh as a as a player on the school’s junior high basketball team as his coach. Josh lights up any room he walks into and is always willing to lend out a high five and a smile. He is a hard worker and has learned how to joke around with other students. He has an infectious personality and easily makes new friends. Josh sets out to do anything the rest of his friends do, and always puts forth 100% effort in his endeavors.

TRANSITION

Logan Ruckman

Logan is an 18-year-old, 11th grader at Walker High with a specific learning disability. He entered Walker High School in 2017 with many elective credits but no core credits. He was a enrolled in Walker High School Marine JROTC, where he earned FEMA certification and the rank of Sergeant. In October of 2018, he began working at Papa John’s Pizza located on Walker High School’s campus.

Mr. L. Stephen Dupré, Logan’s NCCER Electrical class instructor, describes Logan as a very diligent young man who is always prepared for the class and is the first to step up to complete the performance task required for the NCCER classes. Logan has shown his willingness to assist others as well as to be a student that I may rely and trust within the classroom. Furthermore, Mr. Dupré states it is a pleasure and joy to with Logan.

Logan has on the job experience in Papa John’s with a possible future in management. He will have certifications in NCCER Electrical, which may lead to an entry level electrical position. The Marine JROTC program provided him with discipline and focus that will serve him well. Logan has achieved much success. He is a leader, and good decision maker. Logan’s accomplishments serve as a role-model for many struggling students.



SELF ADVOCACY

Camilla Rios

Camilla is a 2nd grade student at Freshwater Elementary. Camilla has the exceptionality of orthopedic impairments. The challenges Camilla has faced through physical, psychological and social challenges due to her orthopedic impairments have been tough, but she does not let it bring her down. She accepts her limitations but does not allow them to define or hinder her. She understands that she may not get to do everything exactly like others are able to, but she will give it her best.

Ms. Melissa Johnson, physical therapist, stated, I am grateful to be Camilla’s therapist and get to be a part of her journey to independence. She inspires not only myself, but every person she comes into contact with to keep trying and never give up. Despite her physical limitations, Camilla is one of the most determined and independent little girls I have met.



“Yes, I Can” Award Winners (continued)



TECHNOLOGY

Kayla Ordes

Kayla Ordes is a remarkable sixteen-year-old 11th grade student attending Live Oak High School. She has received special education services for the past 10 years. She is currently being served through a self-contained and inclusion setting with support addressing her cognitive and physical needs due to her exceptionality of Orthopedic Impairment. Kayla also receives adaptive physical education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy services.

Using her assistive technology supports, Kayla is able to access her curriculum and be included in activities with her non-disabled peers. She is a member of Live Oak High’s inclusion club called R.E.A.C.H. (Respect Everyone And Create Harmony) and was voted “Outstanding Sophomore” for the club during the 2018-2019 school year.

Ms. Allison Richardson, Speech Pathologist, stated, Kayla works hard every day and is dedicated to remaining as independent as possible overcoming many obstacles that could easily impend her overall success, communication, and education.

2020 Professional Award Winners

PARENT ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Tessa Walters



Tessa has spent countless hours advocating awareness for her own child, and other children and parents to help expand their knowledge for self-advocacy.

In 2016 and 2018, Tessa spoke with the House Appropriation Committee on behalf of a Pediatric Day Health Center, which was possibly losing funds. She discussed the importance of this service and advocated to keep funding. Ultimately, it was funded.

Recently, she was interviewed by Exceptional Lives, the Louisiana Chapter, on the IEP process and how to educate and empower parents of children with exceptionalities. She reviewed the chapter’s web page content before publication and is a contributor for upcoming newsletters.

Sherry Wentzel stated, “After teaching 19 years, I have never seen a parent more involved. She advocates for inclusion and for others to see that her daughter and other children with disabilities are “beautiful and powerful.”

PARAEDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Michelle McClain



Mrs. McClain has worked with the students of French Settlement High for 9 years and had served at other schools in Livingston Parish. Mrs. Brandi Ouber-Alphonso, assistant- principal states, “Ms. McClain is an exemplary employee and goes out of her way to aid and assist all students.” She has served special education students in the general education classroom through inclusion, in the resource setting, in the SD/A setting, and in the community-based setting.

Special Thanks to the supporting businesses and organizations.



HIGHER EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Dr. Paula Calderon

Dr. Paula Summers Calderon is the dean of the College of Education at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA. She is president of the Louisiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (LACTE) and a site team chair for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP).

“As the Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Calderon has been a significant advocate for the Lions Connected program, a inclusive, comprehension post-secondary transition program for students with intellectual disabilities. She has gone above and beyond to help LC become the outstanding program that it is for college students with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Calderon, never says, “No!” she says, we will find a way!” Dr. Gerlinde Beckers, Director of Lions Connected.



2020 Professional Award Winners

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

DeeDee Homes

Not Pictured

She has always been more than a businesswoman, educational program salesperson, and exhibitor. LA-CEC has come to appreciate Mrs. Holmes loyalty to our annual conference and our organization. Through the years Mrs. Holmes has also been constant in her support of the conference and LACEC through donation of door prizes, making presentations, recruiting other exhibitors, and providing feedback from the vendors to the board. This type of support is what helps conferences like this happen.

Mrs. Holmes continually advocates and is a voice for people with exceptionalities in the community as well as their families.

SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Dr. Steve Horton



Dr. Steve Horton is in his fourth year as Executive Director of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts. Dr. Horton is a “silent” leader that leads by example and does not like the spotlight.

Dr. Horton has worked with the Natchitoches Parish School System in order to foster great relationships between all schools in the district, as well as with other school systems around the state. He has worked closely with legislators and state agencies to get the maximum amount of support possible for LSMSA, its students, and alumni.

Program Cover Art Winners



Abigail Woodard, First Place and Bernard Campbell, Runner-Up

FREE MEMBERSHIP

CEC is opening its doors to the special education community in need of resources. Nonmembers of CEC can receive a free basic membership from now through May 31 by using the promotional code **CECED60**. This will give you access to all of our journal articles, member discounts on publications and events, and our online membership community where you can ask questions and receive support from special educators, administrators and support personnel. Go to the website <https://www.cec.sped.org/Membership> click Join As a New Member -and select basic membership.

Snapshots of Conference 39



Make and Take Sessions



Vendors



Presenters



Board Members Hard at Work!



Non Profit Organizations



Scholarship and Mini Grant Winners



Graduate Recipient, Tammy Tassin; Undergraduate Recipient, Brice Larson; Post-Secondary Recipient, Mary Frances Avera
 Mini Grants- Rebecca Huff, Lori Bramlette, MaLatecia Zaporteza, Kimberly Davis (not pictured), Haley Decker (not pictured), Kara Lemoine, Mary
 Andermann, Tammy Tassin, Monica Trahan, Emily Williams (not pictured)

Voting Time - LACEC 2020 Election

Vote for LACEC Vice President and Treasurer. Please vote for one of the nominations or write in your own CEC member. Remember all nominations must have previous board experience.



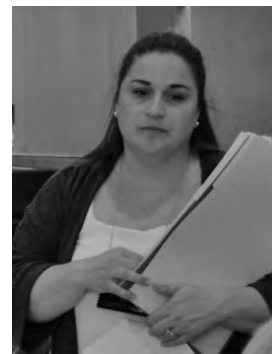
Candidate for Treasurer- Jade Viator

Jade Viator is the academic specialist for the LIFE Program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, which is a post secondary program for students with intellectual disabilities. She is a graduate of the University of Louisiana MAT Program in special education and is currently pursuing her doctoral in educational leadership and exceptional learning. Jade has served this past year on the LA CEC board as a member of the technology/social media committee. She has also given several presentations at Super Conference in previous years. Jade has experience working with and training university students to become mentors as well as teaching classes and overseeing curriculum for the LIFE Program. She is originally from New Iberia, LA.

- o Jade Viator
- o Write In

Candidate for Vice President- Sarah Dubois Lemaire

Sarah Dubois Lemaire is currently a special education teacher in Lafayette Parish Schools. Sarah has served the LA CEC Executive Board in several capacities. Her first official time was as President of the UL Lafayette Student Council for Exceptional Children Chapter while she was pursuing her undergraduate degree in special education. Since that time she has volunteered with Super Conference registration and made presentations at Super Conference regarding her experiences as a teacher of students with autism and other disabilities. She is currently the secretary for LA CEC. Sarah was awarded the LA CEC Teacher of the Year in 2016 and has won Teacher of the Year at the school level in 2010 and 2019. Sarah has also been involved in the past with the Louisiana Autism and Related Disabilities Project (LASARD) and Special Olympics.



- o Sarah Dubois Lemarie
- o Write In

LA-CEC current members should receive their ballots through email address with National CEC.

If there are any questions, contact CEC lacecinfo@gmail.com Please complete the form as soon as possible. Voting will close on April 30th.

La. Council for Exceptional Children
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ANY NEWS?
If you have division,
chapter, or special
education news you
would like to submit for
publications,
please submit it to
Newsletter Chair,
Mandy Roy at
roymep5@gmail.com

See You Next Year!!!



2020 LACEC Board Members