



**LAURAL JACKSON**  
**Special Education Teacher**  
**Delta/Greely School District**  
**Delta Junction, Alaska, USA**



**REMEMBER TO VOTE!**  
**Oct. 11 -26, 2021**

**Learn what inspired Laural to apply for the Board of Directors.**

[Watch the video.](#) [Read the transcript.](#)

### **Biographical Information:**

Laural Jackson is a career Special Educator including teaching, administration, and higher education. She has been active in both CEC and CASE, as well as many other non-profit community organizations.

As a teacher, Laural has:

- Returned to the special education classroom after retirement to fill a vacancy due to a teacher shortage
- Taught for 14 years in two different states- Wyoming and Alaska
- Taught all grade levels from Preschool through High School
- Taught nearly all disability areas
- Taught gifted students
- Taught in resource room, self-contained rooms, and inclusive settings

As an administrator, Laural has:

- Most recently been hired to be the federal programs coordinator (including Special Education) for the district from which she retired two years ago.
- Served as Special Education Director for 23 years carrying those duties with her both as Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent in Delta Junction, Alaska.

As college adjunct staff, Laural has been:

- teacher supervisor for special educators during student teaching for the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)
- internship supervisor for teachers gaining principal certification through the University of Alaska Southeast and Grand Canyon university
- internship supervisor for administrators earning Superintendent endorsement from UAA

As a long-term member of CASE, Laural has served as:

- Alaska President Elect and President for multiple terms
- Political Liaison for the AK unit
- Chairman for the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference

- National CASE Board Secretary for three terms
- Currently, serving on the National CASE budget committee

As a 30+ year-member of CEC, Laural has served:

- The International CEC Finance and Audit Standing Committee
- The International Board of Directors for two non-consecutive terms
- Numerous state and national committees and workgroups

In addition, Laural has served on:

- HS Booster Club
- board of charitable giving for the regional electric association
- board of charitable giving for Sumitoma-Tech mine
- her church council

#### Education:

**Highest Degree:** Post Master's Education Leadership: Superintendency, University of Alaska Anchorage, 2004

#### CEC Membership Information:

**Years of CEC Membership:** 30 years

**Division Membership(s):** Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)

#### Candidate Statements:

**Describe how your leadership experiences, professional or volunteer, have had an impact on fostering change.**

I have been a leader in a variety of roles-- more than 20 years as a District level administrator in public schools, volunteer for local non-profits, my church, and of course, CEC and CASE. Each of those roles fostered change in a variety of ways. For example, it was the efforts of a friend and I that spearheaded the re-establishment of a local high school boosters club more than 15 years ago. The organization is still running strong.

As a school administrator/ Superintendent, I feel my most impactful change was to foster a greater degree of trust between staff and administration as well as the community and school board/ superintendent. This trust was key to then being able to implement several changes including closing a couple of schools during a time of declining budget. The building of trust between groups is not done in isolation. My whole district level team and our school board all had to take steps to foster trust.

As a CEC board member, I have been involved in the transitioning of not one, but two Executive Directors. This was such a significant task both times. The selection of an Executive Director makes all the difference to this organization. My role in this was as part of a board, not an individual member. In all of these examples, the key to making change is to bring people along and work collaboratively. A leader working alone diminishes their chance of making lasting system change. Working collaboratively is key.

**People who apply to a Board of Directors usually stress their communication and collaboration skills. Describe up to three additional skills you would bring to the board and how you believe they would be beneficial.**

The three most important skills that I bring to the board are: 1) my leadership experience with a variety of boards. My experience as a Superintendent gives me the perspective of being the Executive Director who answers to a board and a greater understanding of the division of duties between the Executive and the Board. 2.) I have a deep understanding of budgets. Not only do I have the budget experience of running a school district, I have also served on the CEC Finance/Audit Standing Committee and I currently serve on the CASE Budget Committee. 3) I have training in the facilitation of strategic plan development and have experience in development, implementation and monitoring of strategic plans for more than twenty years across several organizations.

**Describe up to three major achievements and/or experiences that will help you be successful on the board and why.**

My service on the CEC board for two non-consecutive terms would be the most obvious experience pointing to my ability to succeed as a CEC Board Member. I am an active participant in my role. I am prepared for meeting, participate in committees and have even chaired a workgroup. In addition, I have served successfully on the CASE Board, and the boards of four local non-profit organizations. I have found my experiences rewarding and I know that I have contributed meaningfully in each of these situations. As a superintendent, I came to more fully comprehend the relationship between CEC staff and board members. Board members should not try to micromanage issues that are the responsibility of the Executive Director. It is equally important that as a board member I am aware of which issues are the responsibility of the board such as budget oversight, policy development and strategic planning.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE!**  
**Oct. 11 -26, 2021**

