

Welcome to *Board Brief*, a summary of recent decisions of the CEC Board of Directors, as well as updates on the work of CEC's committees from their required reports to the board (not including any actions taken by the board based on a motion from a committee and noted below).

Following is a summary of key outcomes from online votes from April – June and the July 6-7, 2023, Board of Directors meeting. (Committee updates appear after approved motions.)

Interdivisional Grant Program

Approved \$20,000 in funding to support a minimum of two grants (up to \$10,000 each) for the 2024 fiscal year, as recommended by the Division Relations Committee for a new Interdivisional Grant Program. This program is intended to foster collaboration among, and engagement within, divisions to enhance their viability and, potentially, attract and retain members. Also, the creation of resources for CEC to share with the entire community will strengthen CEC's ability to support members.

Standards

Approved the revised Initial Practice-Based Professional Preparation Standards for Gifted Educators for submission to CAEP and, pending CAEP acceptance, for adoption as CEC's new professional preparation standards, effective July 1, 2023, as recommended by the Professional Standards and Practice Committee.

Awards

Approved establishing a Paraeducator Award as recommended by the Honors Committee. The criteria for the award will be outlined by six standards identified from the National Resource Center for Paraprofessionals, and include assisting teachers with:

1. building and maintaining effective instructional teams,
2. maintaining learner-centered supportive environments,
3. planning and organizing learning experiences,
4. engaging students in learning,
5. instruction,
6. assessing learner needs, progress, and achievement,

as well as meeting standards of professional and ethical conduct.

The call for nominations will open in the fall of 2023.

Committees

Leadership Development Committee

Appointed the following members to serve on the Leadership Development Committee for a three-year term (Sept. 1, 2023 – Aug. 31, 2026), as recommended by the Leadership Development Committee.

Karen Akom	Secondary Transition Associate, Virginia Commonwealth University Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Transition Innovations	North Chesterfield, VA
Tammy Barron	Assistant Professor at Western Carolina University and special education administrator of the laboratory school operated by WCU	Cooleemee, NC
Marissa Kase	ESE Teacher, Palm Beach County School District (Grade levels 1st through 5th)	Boynton Beach, FL
Pam Peterson	Special Education Consultant, Souris Valley Special Services	Berthold, ND

Appointed William Hunter, Ed.D., to fill a midterm vacancy on the Leadership Development Committee, effective May 15, 2023, through August 31, 2024, as recommended by the Leadership Development Committee.

Representative Assembly Committee

Dissolved the Representative Assembly (RA) Committee, as recommended by the Representative Assembly Committee, based on the streamlining to the annual RA meeting over the past two year, as well as recent changes to the responsibilities of the RA.

The [Representative Assembly](#) itself still exists as an advisory body to the Board of Directors.

CEC Solutions

Approved the hiring of a new [Director of Professional Solutions](#) to launch CEC Solutions, which is designed to provided contracted trainings, consulting services, and a new speaker’s bureau of subject matter experts. The new Director will work to build a network of subject matter experts and expand our current offerings further into schools, districts, and states by serving as a one-stop shop for larger solutions.

Committee Reports Updates

Finance & Audit Standing Committee (Interim)

- Review financial statements each month
- Reviewed and discussed CEC’s risk and liability and insurance coverage
- Reviewed and discussed the 2022 Annual Audit; which received an unmodified opinion (top rating), and recommended approval by the Board

Leadership Development Committee (LDC)/Leadership Development Program Subcommittee (LDPS) (Quarterly)

- Initiated an annual series of Panel Discussions with Q&A for interested members to ask questions about applying for, and serving on, the Board of Directors.
- The LDPS launched the second cohort of [Leadership CEC](#), a program to strengthen the pool of individuals to serve as future unit and division leaders, with changes to the program having been made based on experience from the inaugural year.
- A subgroup of the LDPS is developing *Leadership CEC 2.0*, a voluntary second year for inaugural cohort members of *Leadership CEC* to delve deeper into specific issues of interest related to their volunteering within their unit/division or CEC.

Development and Fundraising Committee (Interim)

CEC Development Committee Action Plan (Fiscal Year 24) current actions underway:

<https://exceptionalchildren.org/give>

- Establish CEC's **annual giving/stewardship campaign** focused on CEC's annual membership renewal program and promotion of CEC's five endowment programs; direct appeal strategy through partnerships with CEC divisions and units; **convention-based strategy** promoting CEC giving program; enhance the already successful "**Giving Tuesday**" campaign.
- Promote the growth of [The Elizabeth Farrell Society](#), building on the legacy of CEC founder, Elizabeth E. Farrell.
- **Establish CEC's external major donors program**, engaging potential external individuals and organizations in a unique giving program and potential membership in The Elizabeth Farrell Society.

Division Relations Committee (DRC) (Interim)

- A Division Annual Report form was developed to help the Division Relations Committee and CEC identify new division projects and initiatives and monitor division needs.
- Developed a communication flowchart and DRC Division Contact list to enhance communication between divisions, DRC, CEC staff, and the Board of Directors.
- Held a Town Hall webinar for divisions in May 2023 to discuss role of the DRC; share feedback from Annual Division Reports; identify support divisions would like from the DRC; and identify topics for future virtual town hall meetings.

Honors Committee (Interim)

- Two awards and related rubrics have been, or will be, reviewed by the committee during each of the first three quarters of the year prior to the call for nominations for the 2024 professional awards.

Policy Steering Committee (Interim)

- The following position statements are currently being developed:
 - CEC's Position Statement on Promoting Positive and Equitable Outcomes for All Children and Youth with Disabilities in Each Educational Setting
 - CEC's Position Statement on Progress Monitoring
 - CEC's Position Statement on Mental Health
 - CEC's position Statement on Caseload vs. Workload
 - CEC's Joint Position Statement with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) on Mathematics Instruction for Students with Disabilities
 - CEC's position statement on Cultural Diversity
- Created a workgroup to develop suggestions, with member input, for updates to the Section 504 regulations. Awaiting draft regulations to be issued by the Office for Civil Rights.

Professional Standards and Practice Committee (Interim)

- Reviewed the draft Initial Gifted Standards packet to provide feedback to the workgroup in preparation for submission to Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and collecting public input on revisions to the Advanced Special Educator Standard.
- Worked with the Initial Gifted Standards Workgroup to review and approve revisions to move forward to CEC's Board of Directors for final approval and submission to the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

- Continuing to develop materials to support preparation programs with the implementation of CEC Standards, such as curriculum mapping tools and crosswalks between various sets of standards and reviewing materials that have been developed between the DEC/ECPC partnership for the EI/ECSE Standards and how those can be adapted for the K12 standards.
- Supporting the Knowledge and Skills subcommittee with feedback and responding to questions about how the specialty sets are used with the 2020 CEC Standards.

Publications Committee (Interim)

- Over the course of several months, developed the process (applications, rubrics, etc.) for the selection of editors for both *Exceptional Children* and *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, which included an external committee to vet applications for feedback to the committee, and made a recommendation to the Board of Directors.
- Met with editorial team of EC to discuss contract.
- Began development of book review rubrics.

Student and Early Career Committee (Year-End)

- Revived the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Awards, with a revised the nomination process and benefits, and named the first recipient since 2019.
- Planned and hosted a Student and Early Career Mentoring Breakfast at CEC 2023, with separate times designated for pre-service and early career teachers, with volunteers to serve as mentors for attendees to network in a small group with a chosen mentor around a particular topic of interest (e.g., developing as a leader, nontraditional pathways into teaching, working with paraprofessionals)
- Working on a plan for a “Back to School” event(s) that meets the needs of students and early career members, while considering the impact of timing, scheduling, and other logistics, based on lessons learned from 2022.

Yes I Can Committee (Interim)

- Selected two recipients in each of six categories for the 2023 awards, which were presented at the annual convention and expo.

Questions? Contact Executive Director [Chad Rummel](#).