

Welcome to *Board Brief*, a summary of recent key decisions of the CEC Board of Directors. Following is a summary from the November 4-5, 2023, meeting, and a December online vote.

Interdivisional Grants

In July 2023, the board approved \$20,000 in funding to support a minimum of two grants (up to \$10,000 each) for the 2024 fiscal year. This program is intended to:

- foster collaboration among, and engagement within, divisions to enhance their viability.
- potentially attract and retain members.
- create resources for CEC to share with the entire community to strengthen CEC’s ability to support members.

The Division Relations Committee received and reviewed five proposals that were submitted by a combined total of 12 divisions. The board approved the following grants:

Proposal	Divisions	Grant Amount
Critical Global Conversations: Supporting Youth, Families, & Educators in Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Practices	DISES, DCDT, DARTS, DEC	\$8,000
Policy to Practice: A Web Based Repository of Individuals, Strategies and Resources Focused Upon the Prevention of & Response to the Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities	DLL, DR, CCC	\$3,000
Leading the Way: AI in Special Education Teacher Education	ISSET, TED, TAG	\$9,000
TOTALS	10 Divisions	\$20,000

Update to the State of the Profession Survey

Approved convening a workgroup to update the [2019 State of the Profession Survey](#) in time to release at the 2025 CEC Convention and designated \$15,000 in the 2024 budget to be used to contract support for building the survey, getting IRB approval, and analyzing the data.

New Workgroups

Building Level Administrators

Approved establishing a Building Level Administrators Workgroup to explore how CEC can support and engage with building level administrators working within special education. CEC’s [2019 State of the Profession Survey](#) revealed that there is a need to better engage with and support principals who are working with special education teachers. Teachers overwhelmingly share that they need administrators who support their professional efforts, and the workgroup will explore how to help those administrators support teachers.

Fellows Program

Approved establishing a workgroup to explore establishing a CEC Fellows Program. Fellow status is an honor bestowed upon CEC members who have shown evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in supporting special education. Fellow status requires that a person's work has had a national impact on the field beyond a local, state, or regional level. Being named a Fellow is not only an individual honor, but also commitment to further sustaining and supporting CEC and the field of special education. Unlike other awards, Fellows are not ranked and selected above other Fellows. Earning Fellow status comes from pre-determined criteria and rubric.

Family Partnerships

Approved establishing a “Centering Families” Workgroup to explore how to support CEC members to effectively engage/partner with “all” families across diverse communities and lived experiences in schools, research, and policy work.

Diversity Leadership Academy

Approved the launch of a new CEC professional development program established for special education professionals who share a commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in the field of special education. Recipients will enter a 2-year program with quarterly training, be paired with a mentor, be given access to CEC Membership and DDEL Membership, and have their travel paid for the 2025 convention.

Purposes

- Support racial/ethnic minorities that have been historically under-represented in the professions of special education
- Focused educational programming and activities to build and enhance leadership skills
- Opportunity for program participants to interact with mentors in the professions of special education

Fiduciary Duty Items

Approved the 2024 budget, a new audit firm, and a new financial guardrails policy, all as recommended by the Finance and Audit Standing Committee. The guardrails are the rules or requirements that have been recommended to ensure the integrity of CEC’s financial operations and management.

Approved an updated Executive Director Succession Plan. This plan lays out a course of action in the event that the Executive Director were to leave CEC or become unable to perform their duties. The updated version reflects new staff since the last plan was approved in November 2022.

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