



CEC 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION Candidate Biography

Biographical Information:

Kenyon Andrews, M.S., is a dedicated educator and visionary leader committed to fostering inclusive and thriving school communities. With a rich background in education, Kenyon has served in various roles, including Inclusion Educator and Student Support Specialist, across numerous school districts nationwide. His approach is rooted in celebrating the diverse cultural and personal assets each individual contributes to the classroom, creating an environment where everyone can succeed.

Kenyon's passion for education extends beyond the classroom, as he actively collaborates with fellow educators to explore innovative possibilities in teaching. He is a frequent speaker at national conferences, sharing insights and learning from peers at organizations such as the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) and the National Educators Association (NEA). His work is further recognized through publications that focus on developing socioculturally sustaining practices and amplifying the voices of Black male educators.

In recognition of his contributions to the field, Kenyon has been honored with the Council for Exceptional Children's 2025 Special Education Rising Star award and a 2025 Global Learning Fellowship with the NEA Foundation. As he pursues a Doctorate in Transformational Leadership at Barry University, Kenyon remains steadfast in his mission to unlock potential and foster belonging, envisioning a future where every student's story is one of success and empowerment.

Currently, Kenyon serves as a Special Education Teacher for middle and high school at Somerset Academy in Las Vegas, NV. He is also affiliated with the Division of International Special Education & Services, Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners, Autism, and Developmental Disabilities, as well as the Diversity Leadership Academy. Kenyon Andrews is poised to bring his expertise and passion to the board of directors, advocating for inclusive educational practices and empowering the next generation of learners.

Kenyon Andrews, M.S.



**Special Education Teacher
Somerset Academy
Las Vegas, NV USA**

Candidate Statements:

**What is the most important reason, or what motivated/inspired you, to apply for the Board of Directors?
(Limit 150 words)**

When considering the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors, the most important reason, the driving force behind my application, boils down to amplifying the voices and championing the needs of our most vulnerable students, particularly those who sit at the intersection of disability and racial identity.

Ultimately, my motivation stems from a profound belief in the potential of every child. I am applying for this position because I want to be a stronger advocate, a more impactful voice, and a dedicated partner in creating a more just and equitable educational landscape for all our students.

What makes CEC's mission meaningful to you? (Limit 150 words)

For me, the Council of Exceptional Children's (CEC) mission isn't just a statement; it reflects my core professional and personal commitments. CEC's dedication to improving, through excellence and advocacy, the education and quality of life for children and youth with exceptionalities and/or special needs and to enhancing their families' engagement resonates deeply with my journey in education. The focus on "Promoting diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility" within CEC's mission is also a critical aspect of its significance. My research and presentations often highlight the importance of intersectionality and creating culturally sustaining practices within special education. I believe that true educational equity can only be achieved when we acknowledge and address students' and educators' diverse needs and backgrounds.

There is such a great range of individual backgrounds and experiences that cannot be easily conveyed by answering simple demographic questions. Given [CEC's view of diversity](#), what facets of your life provide a context for the various experiences and perspectives you bring to discussions and your work? (Limit 150 words.)

My professional journey as an educator in diverse school settings, working directly with students with various abilities and backgrounds, forms a primary facet. This is complemented by my scholarly focus on disability, intersectionality, and belonging in special education, including specific research on Black male educators and Black special education teachers. These academic pursuits, coupled with formal training in cultivating organizational diversity, have provided me with frameworks to understand systemic influences on individual experiences. Furthermore, my engagement in community organizations like 100 Black Men of America and my work in policy and advocacy offer perspectives shaped by broader community needs and the drive for systemic change. These combined experiences allow me to approach discussions and my work with an appreciation for the complex interplay of individual and systemic factors in diversity.

Provide three specific examples of how your leadership experiences, including professional and volunteer, have had an impact on fostering change or moving an organization/entity forward. (Limit 300 words)

In recognition of the disproportionate impact of disciplinary actions and academic outcomes on Black students with disabilities, I undertook a research project to present evidence-based culturally responsive practices to my colleagues and school administration. In my capacity as a volunteer with 100 Black Men of America and the NAACP, I advocated for enhanced accessibility and inclusion in career opportunities, skill development, and mentorship for minority and low-income students. Lastly, through my involvement with CEC, I have played a key role in revitalizing the professional development offerings at a campus and regional level in my current and previous school districts.

Membership Information:

Years of CEC Membership: 3

Division Membership(s):

Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES)

