



Welcome to *Board Brief*, a summary of recent decisions of the [CEC Board of Directors](#). Following are key actions taken since the March 12, 2025, Board of Directors meetings, as well as highlights from committee interim/year-end reports submitted to the board for its July meeting.

### **Components (Units & Divisions)**

Approved a Components Five-Year Strategic Plan, to:

1. Expand and strengthen a diverse component volunteer pipeline
2. Support component organizational and membership growth
3. Enhance membership engagement to foster community connection and participation
4. Strengthen connections and collaboration between CEC and components.

Approved the request of the [Council for Educational Diagnostic Services](#) (CEDS) for a name change to the Division of Evaluation and Assessment for Learning, to be abbreviated DEAL. Updates to the CEC and CEDS website are forthcoming.

### **Policy & Advocacy**

Approved the position statement on The Federal Role in IDEA, which is available [here](#).

### **Fundraising**

Approved a gift acceptance policy to provide clear guidelines to evaluate and manage incoming donations, ensure alignment with CEC's mission and values, mitigate risks, and maintain transparency with donors. Such a policy helps to avoid accepting unsuitable gifts and facilitates efficient handling of donations, including those with restrictions or complexities. It will be available [here](#) in the coming weeks.

### **Governance**

Appointed [Adam Moore](#), Ph.D., Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator of Special Education University of Rhode Island, as the recipient of the highest number of votes in the election for 2025 board members after those who were elected to fill the available positions, to a 4.5-year term to fill a mid-term vacancy on the Board of Directors.

Approved the request from the [Professional Standards and Practice Committee](#) (PSPC) to add three additional members, effective January 1, 2026.

## **Committee Updates**

Learn about [CEC's committees](#).

### **Diversity Committee**

- New members appointed for 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2025, are LaSheba Hillard, Ed.D., Assistant Professor of Teaching, University of Memphis, and Maling Marino, Ed.D., K12 Special Education Teacher – MOID, Gwinnett County (GA) Public Schools.
- Created programming for, and implemented, the [Diversity Leadership Academy](#) (DLA), including program objectives, criteria, application, rubric, quarterly sessions, and inviting and training mentors. As of June 2025, there are two cohorts of participants.
- The committee will complete the selection process for a third cohort in September 2025.

### **Division Relations Committee**

- New members appointed for 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2025, are Alfred Daviso, Ph.D., Professor, University of Akron (DCDT; large division representative) and Dana Kan, Ph.D., NCBT, Assistant Professor, Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (DCD; small division representative).
- Updated the [Interdivisional Grant Program](#) application to Strengthen areas previously impacted in the submission process.
- Held two opportunities for division leadership to come together; the first provided an opportunity for leaders to share what their expectations and desired outcomes were for such meetings; the second addressed membership-related items.

### **Finance and Audit Standing Committee**

- New member appointed for 3-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2025 is Bradley Mills, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator for Special Education, Fayetteville (NC) State University.
- Reviewed financials monthly.
- Reviewed and discussed CEC's risk and liability and insurance coverage.
- Reviewed, discussed and approved the 2024 Annual Audit, which received the highest rating of an unmodified opinion.

### **Fundraising and Development Committee**

- Susan Fowler, Retired Professor and Consultant (IL) was appointed to a second three-year term, effective Jan 1, 2025.
- Strategic fundraising plan in place for 2025.
- Improving [donor engagement](#) infrastructure (updated forms, acknowledgment letters, and policies).
- Implemented data-driven approach to donor identification and engagement.
- Strengthened foundation fundraising pipeline with clear next steps.

### **Honors Committee**

- New members appointed for 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2025, are Nicholas Newton, M.A.T., Special Education Consultant, Hardin County (KY) Schools, and Samantha Scott, Ph.D., Lecturer in Special Education, Department of Education and Human Development, Clemson University (SC).
- The Call for Nominations for CEC's [Professional Awards](#) went out prior to the CEC 2025 Convention & Expo. The deadline for nominations is September 1, 2025.
- New review rubrics are being developed for each of the seven awards.

### **Leadership Development Committee (LDC) / Leadership Development Program Subcommittee (LDPS)**

- New LDC members board-appointed in April for 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2025, are Nicole DeClouette, Ph.D., Professor of Special Education, Georgia College & State University, Ashley Enz, Ed.D. (ABD), Special Education Administrator, Blue Valley (KS) School District Robert Pennington, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Professor, University of Kentucky, and Natasha Veale, Ph.D., Professor of Special Education; Dean, School of Social Sciences and Education, Greensboro (NC) College.
- Met with the board officers regarding development of leadership competencies.
- Completed the slating process for the election for 2026 positions on the Board of Directors, which will take place October 1-21, 2025.
- The LDPS held the first two sessions for the fourth cohort (2025-26) of [Leadership CEC](#), a program designed to develop knowledge and leadership skills in CEC members who are new or emerging leaders and have been nominated for participation by a CEC unit or division.

### **Policy Steering Committee**

- New members appointed for 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2025, are Gary F. Puhl III, Ed.D., Supervisor of Special Services, Walled Lake (MI) Consolidated Schools, and David F. Bateman, Ph.D., Principal Researcher, American Institutes for Research (VA).
- Multiple [position statements](#) are in the process of being revised or developed maximum member input to reflect the position of the CEC organization as a whole.
- Committee co-chair Lisa Goran participated in weekly Policy Response Team calls to monitor ongoing legislative activities and discuss policy and advocacy updates. Co-chair Angelica Ramirez participated on the [Special Education Legislative Summit](#) (SELS) Planning Committee.

### **Professional Standards & Practice Committee**

- New members appointed for 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2025, are Ashley Barkel, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Practice, Disability and Psychoeducational Studies, University of Arizona, and Alex Keesling, M.A.T., Director of Special Services, Flushing (MI) Community Schools (reappointment).
- Provided feedback and support to the [Advanced Special Educator Standards](#) Workgroup to submit to the Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP) in February 2025.
- Provided feedback and support to the Knowledge and Skills Committee for revision of Initial Common Specialty Items.

### **Publications Committee**

- New members appointed for 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2025, are Patricia Hampshire, Associate Professor, Graduate Coordinator for Special Education Programs, Department of Teacher Education and Leadership, Mississippi State University, Ph.D., Tracie Salgado, Ed.D., Director of Special Education, Lutheran Special Education Ministries, and Brittany Stovall, Ph.D., Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel, Kentucky Virtual Academy.
- Put [book proposal](#) and review process that aligns with CEC's strategic plan on a quarterly submission and review schedule.
- Set up a collaborative process to present with CEC's [journal](#) editorial teams about CEC publication opportunities, hosted an editor summit, and held a meet and greet with the Publication Committee to solicit publications and reviewers for publications at all the CEC 2025 Convention and Expo.

### **Student and Early Career Committee (Year-End Report)**

- New members appointed for 3-year terms beginning July 1, 2024, are Anna Ballard, M.Ed., Special Education Teacher, Lone Grove (OK) Public Schools and Graduate Student, Southeastern

Oklahoma State University, and Emily Ellis, Undergraduate Special Education Student, Winthrop University (SC).

- In Fall 2024, the virtual Town Halls were relaunched after two years. The first, aimed at [preservice teachers](#) and chapter advisors, showcased CEC resources, attracted high attendance, and fostered engagement among [student chapter](#) leaders and advisors. The second in Winter 2024, featured a panel of student chapter advisor leaders.
- Collaboratively planned and executed the Student and Early Career Mentoring Breakfast, held during the 2025 CEC Convention and Expo, which featured two one-hour sessions tailored to preservice and early-career educators and included small-group networking with experienced professionals from among the convention's presenter pool.

#### **Yes I Can Committee**

- New members appointed for 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 2025, are Keishana Barnes, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Special Education, University of Memphis, and Rene Salyer, Graduate Student, The Pennsylvania State University.
- The twelve 2025 [Yes I Can Award](#) recipients, two in each of six categories, were selected by the committee in the fall of 2024. The recipients were presented with their awards during a ceremony at 2025 CEC Convention & Expo.
- The Yes I Can Award [recipients](#) participated in the Yes I Can Families panel session. This session was a facilitated discussion about living life with a disability and included perspectives from the awardees and their parents/guardians.

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