

Leader Appreciation Breakfast

"What's one moment when you realized leadership was harder than you expected – but worth it anyway?"

The leaders gathered here today represent **hundreds of years** of combined service to this organization.

When was the last time someone told you —
that what you do matters?

Together, you have *impacted* the lives of over **500,000 special education professionals** and **over 8 million children** with exceptionalities.

Leadership isn't about titles or spotlights. It's about choosing courage over comfort, service over recognition, and perseverance when the results aren't yet obvious. It's the conversations no one else wanted to have, the decisions no one else wanted to make, the extra time you gave when someone needed you, the leader you encouraged to grow, and the moments when you chose to keep serving because students with disabilities deserved your best. That is the legacy of servant leadership—and the kind of leadership that changes lives."

To inspire
people, don't
show them your
superpowers.

*Show them
theirs.*

Alexander Den Heijer

Stand or wave if...

- *you have ever recruited someone into CEC membership because you saw potential in them that they hadn't yet seen in themselves.*
- *you have planned an event, a conference, or a professional development opportunity that you knew would make your members better at what they do.*
- *you have held your component together through a season when the workload fell on just a few shoulders – and you carried more than your share.*

Stand or wave if...

- *you have ever personally reached out to a member who was about to let their membership lapse – because you believed the connection mattered.*
- *you have kept your Unit or Division alive and active during a time when it would have been easy to let it go quiet.*

"Because of the leader I've become, the person I'm most committed to serving is..."



“My moments of being most complete, most integrated, have come either in complete solitude or when I am being part of a body made of many people going in the same direction. A vivid example is a great symphony orchestra, where each instrument is completely necessary for the whole; a violin cannot take the place of a trombone, nor cymbals of the harp; and there are even times when the lowly triangle is the focus of the music. –Madeleine L’Engle

G.A.M.E.O.N.

Corrective Vision Goal Setting

Agenda

- Understand Why Goal Setting Is Important
- Discover the Biggest Roadblock in Attaining Goals
- Why Accountability Partners are Important
- How to Plan for Potential Setback
- The Difference Between Giving Up and Intentionally Choosing to Stop

G - WRITE DOWN YOUR GOAL

What is *YOUR* goal?

A – ASSESS/ASK/ACCOUNTABILITY



**Who
is in Your Corner?**



M – MAKE A PLAN

Break a goal down by weeks. The example below is for a goal set to be accomplished in three months. Adjust as needed to fit your goals. Fill in the blanks specific to your goal.

Week 1 – I will research about the goal I would like to attain.

Week 2 – I will _____

Week 3 – I will _____

Week 4 – I will _____

Week 5 – I will _____

E – ENVISION THE PLAN COMING TO PASS

Definition of
Vision:
the act or power
of anticipating
that which will or
may come to be.

Your eyes are
the lens to your
soul. Be careful
what you focus
on because it
will develop.



0 – OVERCOME CHALLENGES AND SELF-DOUBT



Imposter
Syndrom
e



- Cut back on spending
- Reassess the Budget
- Apply for a grant



YOU HAVE TO STEP OUT IN FAITH

N — NEVER GIVE UP!



Leader Collaboration Round Robin Action Planning

What We'll Do

- Share your single biggest priority — one minute, no interruptions
- Open conversation — find overlap, connection, and ideas
- Close by revising your action plan based on what you heard

Part 1: Round Robin

1 minute per person

Prompt:

"What's the single biggest priority for your component this year?"

- One priority, not a list
- No interruptions, no discussion — just listening
- You'll go around the table until everyone has shared

Part 2: Open Conversation

Several minutes

Talk with each other about what you just heard. Use these questions as a guide:

- Where do we overlap?
- Where can we learn from each other?
- Who should stay in touch after today?

Part 3: Closing

- Based on what you heard, write **one addition or revision** to your action plan.
- It doesn't need to be dramatic — even a small adjustment counts.

THANK YOU!

Closing



THANK YOU!!!!



designedToLead



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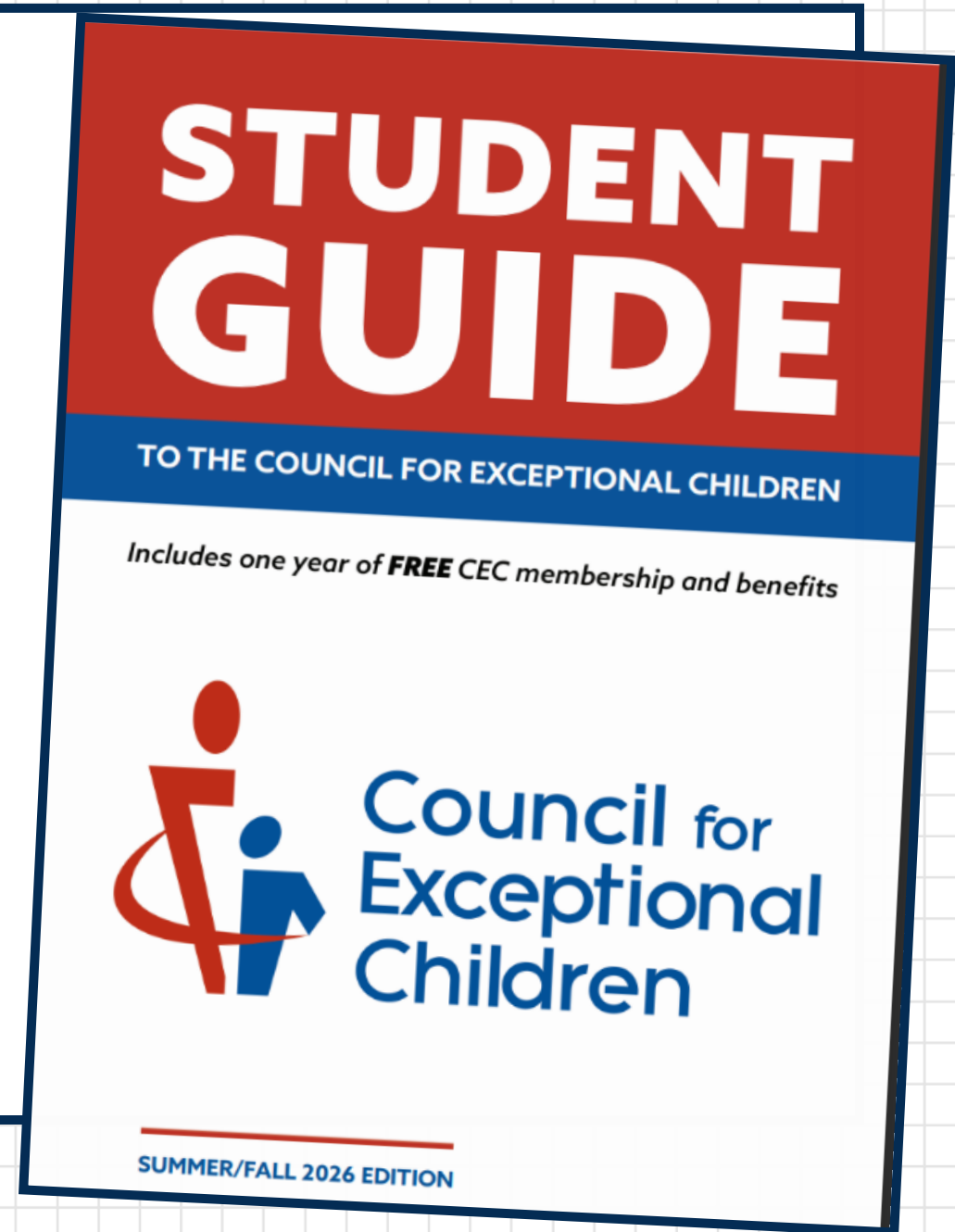
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16-page handbook with topics like:

- Access to Information & Research
- Professional Development Resources
- Advocacy Initiatives, and more!

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JOIN US AGAIN NEXT YEAR! SAVE THE DATE:

July 14-16, 2027