Welcome to *Board Brief*, a summary of recent decisions of the CEC Board of Directors. Following are key actions taken at its July 2026 meeting.

Governance

CEC President Tillotson and CEO Rummel facilitated a comprehensive discussion to review and update the **CEC strategic plan** set to expire at the end of 2026. The board reviewed notes from CEC member focus groups to identify current and upcoming strategic priorities and emerging issues to emphasize.

Approved the official board slate of six candidates for the election of two new members-at-large to the CEC Board of Directors for terms lasting from 2027 to 2030. The slating for this election round was the first done by the Board Nominations Subcommittee, after the Board voted in November to move the slating process over from the Leadership Development Committee.

Engaged in conversation with committee representatives of the **Student and Early Career Committee and the Divisions Relations Committee about the rechartering of their committees**. All committees are reviewed periodically. The purpose of the review is to determine whether there is a genuine need for the committee and, if so, determine if the committee is effectively performing to meet that need, not to terminate those committees which are sufficiently meeting a recognized organizational need and which are accountable and responsive to the interests or CEC and/or its members.

CEC Past President Bill Bogdan, who is serving as a consultant for CEC, lead a discussion on reformatting the **Leadership Development Committee**. Bogdan presented on the history and chronology of the committee and the Leadership Development Program Subcommittee. After slating the Board of Directors was removed from the Committee's charge in November, there was a need to reimagine the purpose of the Committee. Bogdan also presented on the results of a Leadership Development Resources and Support Audit conducted in late 2025. Associated Executive Director Laurie Vanderploedg shared upcoming plans as a new version of the LDC is reimagined and how staff will support leadership development withing the PD framework, with advice from a new Leadership Development Advisory Committee. The Broad approved the LDAC framework and asked Vanderploeg and Bogdan to bring a formal motion forward at the November meeting to move the LDC from a standing committee to an advisory committee.

Policy

Adopted a **position statement on Caseload vs. Workload**, as recommended by the Policy Steering Committee. The Caseload vs. Workload Position Statement was requested by the Board following a Mega Issue conversation in 2024. The position was drafted by the Policy Steering Committee and circulated to content experts and CEC staff before being shared with the membership. There was an open call for feedback in which 154 members commented on the position statement (in which 89% Agreed or Strongly Agreed that the statement would "Allows for forward-thinking and courageous decision-making dedicated to excellence and influence").

Strategic & Programmatic Initiatives

Approved creation of a **National Special Education Paraeducator Certification**. Multiple organizations and agencies have called upon the development of support and resources to develop and retain paraeducators, including a Senate bill last month to create a study on the needs of paraeducators. In addition, data has shown that strong paraeducators support the retention of licensed educators and that many paraeducators are being called into the profession to become licensed educators. As CEC has partnered with DCDT this year to create a certification for transition specialists, adding another certification would not only fall in line with that work, it would add additional revenue.

Development

Heard a report from CEC Director of Development, Claire Jagla, on 2025 fundraising, endowment growth, 2026 plans, and the results of a donor survey sent out to CEC donors to get feedback on why they are giving.

Questions? Contact Executive Director Chad Rummel.