

MICHIGAN

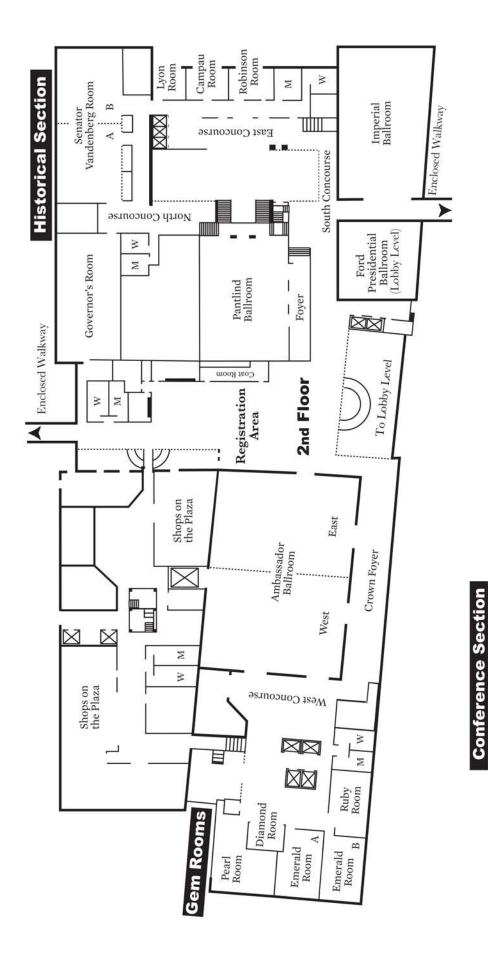
Strengthening the Field of Education to Impact the Success for Individuals with Exceptionalities



83rd Annual MCEC Conference

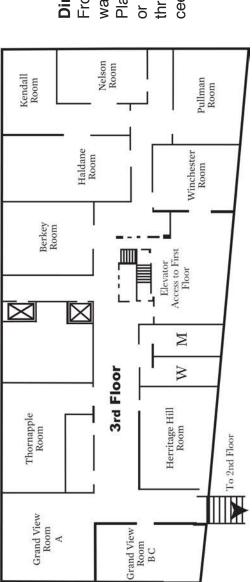
March 1-3, 2023

Amway Grand Plaza · Grand Rapids, MI



Directions to DeVos Place:

From the conference registration area, follow the hallway and sky-walk into DeVos Place. Once in DeVos Place, follow signs to your left for the double stairway or elevator to go down to the lower level. Follow signs through the ballroom foyer area, turn right and proceed to Ballroom C/D.





Welcome to the 83rd Annual MCEC Conference!



Joe DeMarsh Conference Chair @joe_mcec



Heather Martinez MCEC President @kindermart15

Welcome and thank you for joining us at the 83rd annual Michigan Council for Exceptional Children conference. We are so very excited to be back in person with all of you this year! As the field of special education underwent tremendous shifts and challenges these last few years, one thing remains the same: our passion for impacting the success of students with exceptionalities.

Our conference theme this year is, "The Power of You!". We wanted to focus on the importance of each and every individual. Throughout these last few years, we continue to learn how important it is to care for ourselves and each other. During this conference, we hope that you will think about your "why" and spend some time renewing your passion. You can do this by networking, attending outstanding sessions, listening to our keynote speaker, and having some good old-fashioned in person fun. As Gerry Brooks says, "Never underestimate the power of an unsolicited candy bar or Starbucks drink!"

As always, we will provide our members and guests with innovative and contemporary information related to the field of special education. As our partners in this valuable work, we appreciate your engagement as presenters, participants, exhibitors, colleagues, and learners. Whether you are a student who is eager to enter the educational workforce, a seasoned veteran hoping to hone your craft, or parents looking for the best support for your children, our sessions are sure to meet your needs.

You may notice that our sessions are highly focused this year on one or more of the following topics: Assistive Technology, Behavior, College Students, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Early Childhood, Parents/Families, Leadership, Low Incidence, and Transition.

We intentionally planned these topics to target the most relevant information needed right now! It is our hope that you have a productive learning experience. Additionally, we hope that you make new connections and expand your network of support for the future. Thank you for all that you do for students with exceptionalities throughout our state. MCEC would not be the organization that we are without our loyal members and conference attendees. We are always looking for people to volunteer on our committees and become board members. Visit us throughout the conference at our membership booth for more information. Please enjoy your time with us over the next three days. We hope that you continue the discussion and engagement within the conference event app and on Twitter using the hashtag #MichCEC and our conference slogan #MichCEC2023.

MCEC Mission Statement

The mission of the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children is to strengthen the field of education to impact success for individuals with exceptionalities by providing professional development, support and advocacy for children, youth, families, special and general educators.

In addition, the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children assists and provides support to the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) in all its efforts on behalf of persons with exceptionalities, and to participate in all appropriate governance activities of CEC subject to the general supervision and control of CEC.

Schedule of Events

March 1, 2023

7:30am - 7:00pm Conference Registration: Center Concourse 8:00am - 9:00am Continental Breakfast: Center Concourse

9:00am - 12:00pm One Day Workshops

12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm - 4:00pm Workshops Continue

4:30pm - 6:30pm MAASE/CASE Reception: Center Concourse

March 2, 2023

7:00am - 4:30pm Conference Registration: Center Concourse

7:30am - 9:30am Coffee Bar and Donut Wall: Ambassador Ballroom 7:30am - 4:30pm

Ambassador Ballroom:

Exhibitors/District Recruitors

Crown Fover:

Social Media Lounge Center Concourse:

CEC-Student, Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Division on Career Development and Transition, Division of Early Childhood, Entrepreneurial Classroom, MCEC Membership,

Experience Grand Rapids

Breakout Sessions 8:00am - 4:05pm

10:30am - 11:45am State of the State Address: DeVos Place: Ballroom C & D

Lunch (on your own) 11:45am - 12:45pm

Poster Sessions and Exhibitors: Ambasador Ballroom 12:45pm - 1:45pm

1:55pm - 4:05pm **Breakout Sessions**

5:00pm - 8:00pm Recognition & Scholarship Reception: DeVos Place: Ballroom C & D

March 3, 2023

7:00am - 3:30pm Conference Registration: Center Concourse Coffee and Yogurt Bar: Ambassador Ballroom 7:00am - 8:00am

8:00am - 9:30am Keynote Speaker - Gerry Brooks: DeVos Place: Ballroom C & D

7:30am - 4:30pm Ambassador Ballroom:

Exhibitors/District Recruiters

Crown Fover:

Social Media Lounge Center Concourse:

CEC-Student, Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Division on Career Development and Transition, Division of Early Childhood, Entrepreneurial Classroom, MCEC Membership.

Experience Grand Rapids

Breakout Sessions 9:45am - 11:55pm Lunch (on your own) 11:55am - 1:00pm **Breakout Sessions** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Table of Contents

Conference Highlights

State of the State	6
Keynote	
2023 Conference Highlights	
Sponsors/Recognition/Thanks	
Exhibitor Information	
Recognition and Scholarships/Entrepreneurial Classrooms	

MCEC information

MCEC Leadership and Past Presidents	23-24
84th Annual Conference/Future CEC Convention Information	
MCEC Scholarships and Camperships	
Membership Information	
MCEC Student Information	

State of the State

Thursday • 10:30am to 11:45am DeVos Place • Ballroom C/D



Teri Rink MDE Director Office of Special Education

Join Ms. Teri Rink, MDE Director of the Office of Special Education, for the 2023 State of the State Address.

Be sure to attend!

MDE Town Hall/Desserts & Discussion with the Director

Friday • 1:30pm to 3:10pm • Pantlind Ballroom

Join Teri and her staff from the Office of Special Education for a Town Hall meeting to discuss current issues and initiatives in special education.

Also, come enjoy the desserts, snacks and beverages!

Keynote Speaker - Gerry Brooks

Friday · 8:00am to 9:30am DeVos Place · Ballroom C/D

Personal Climate and Culture...It's Up to You

Gerry uses his videos to develop a strategy for making the workplace a pleasant place where faculty, administrators, and support staff all maintain mutual respect, regardless of personal differences, resulting in more efficient and fulfilled workers.

Gerry will share policies that he has incorporated that promote a healthy respectful working relationship even when opinions differ. He will also share ideas that maximize opportunities to get to know staff members and create camaraderie, taking advantage of 15 seconds here and there throughout the day.



Conference Chair Endorsed

Conference Highlights

Wednesday, March 1st

- 4:30pm-6:30pm: MAASE/CASE Reception, sponsored by MAASE - Center Concourse/Registration Area

Thursday, March 2nd

- 7:30am-9:30am: Coffee and Yogurt Bar, sponsored by Oakland University Ambassador Ballroom
- 7:30am-4:00pm: Social Media Lounge Crown Foyer
- 10:30am-11:45am: State of the State DeVos Place, Ballroom C/D
- 11:40am-12:40pm: Member Lunch & Annual Assembly Meeting, sponsored by Michigan Education Association – Pantlind Ballroom
- 12:45pm 1:45pm: Poster Sessions Ambassador Ballroom
- 2:00pm 3:00pm: Afternoon Break, sponsored by Western Michigan University Ambassador Ballroom
- 5:00pm-8:00pm: Recognition & Scholarship Reception, sponsored by McGraw Hill DeVos Place,
 Ballroom C/D

Friday, March 3rd

- 6:30am-8:00am: Coffee Bar and Donut Wall, sponsored by Michigan Transition Services Association – Ambassador Ballroom
- 7:30am-3:00pm: Social Media Lounge Crown Foyer
- 8:00am-9:30am: Keynote Speaker Gerry Brooks DeVos Place, Ballroom C/D
- 1:00pm-3:10pm: Town Hall/Desserts with the Director, sponsored by Special Education Mediation Services - Pantlind Ballroom

Thank You!

Coat Check Services - Empower U, Kent ISD

MCEC Videographer - Jim Yanna, Yanna Video Productions

MCEC Photographer - Renee Cencer, SucessABILITY, LLC.

Music at Recognition & Scholarship Ceremony - Jonathon Muir-Cotton

Heather Martinez, MCEC President - Conference Convener, Conference Planning, MAASE/CASE Reception

Joe DeMarsh, MCEC President Elect - Conference Chairperson, Conference Planning, Coat Check, Honorable Mention Sponsor

Precios Armstrong, MCEC Vice President - Wednesday Workshops, Conference Planning, Volunteers

Joni Vernia, MCEC Student Chapter Advisor; Ashley Hollenbeck, MCEC Student Chapter President; and Katy Pluimer, MCEC Student Chapter Liaison - Student Activities

Cheryl Borowski, Cheryl Brown, Wendy Minor, Co-Chairs Recognition & Scholarship Committee - Recognition and Scholarship Ceremony

Ann Walton, MCEC Executive Director - Conference Facilitator, Conference Planning, Exhibitors

Denise Smith, MCEC Executive Associate - Conference Planning, Conference Program, On-site Registration

Jennifer Smith, MCEC Executive Associate Trainee - Conference Planning, Conference App, On-site Registration

Exhibitors

Thursday · 7:30am to 5:00pm Friday • 7:30am to 2:00pm

3e Love

Alt+Shift

AT Playground

Calhoun ISD

Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects

Discovery Toys

Eagle Strategies, LLC

Grand Rapids Public Schools

Grand Valley State University

Ingham Intermediate School District

Institute for Multi-Sensory Education

Jackson ISD

Jackson Public Schools

Let's Go Learn

MAASE

McGraw Hill Education

Michigan Association of School Nurses

Michigan Education Association

Michigan Transition Services Association, Inc.

MITTIN

n2v

Oakland University

Pearson

Project Search

RoboKind

Special Education Mediation Services

Special Olympics Michigan

State of Michigan Department of Education - Low Incidence Outreach

TeachTown

Usborne Books & More

Western Michigan University

Please Join Us!

Drawings for items donated by Exhibitors will take place throughout the day on Thursday and Friday

Thursday

Coffee and Yogurt Bar 7:30am to 9:30am



Sponsored by Oakland University

Thursday

Ice Cream Bar 1:00pm to 3:00pm



Sponsored by WMU

Friday

Coffee Bar/Donut Wall 6:30am to 8:00am



Sponsored by MTSA

Get Your Puzzle Pieces Stamped – Win Prizes!

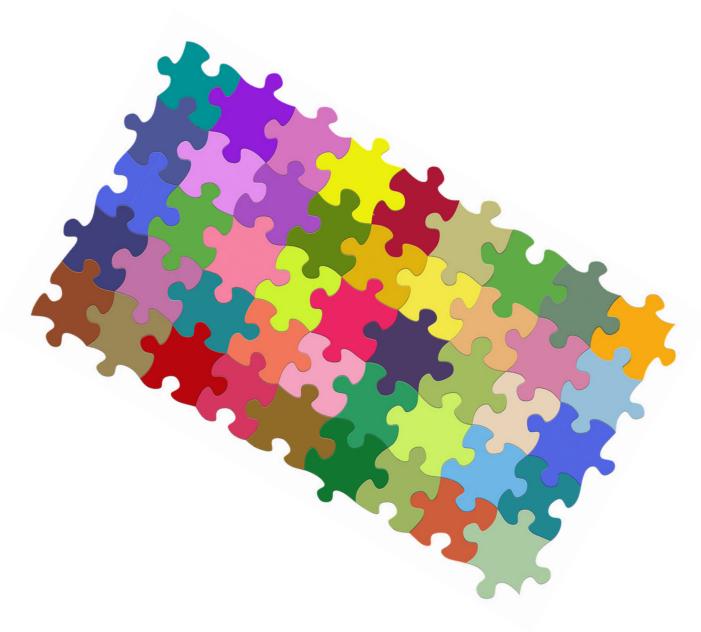
Thursday • 7:30am to 5:00pm Friday • 7:30am to 2:00pm

Conference participants are encouraged to visit the exhibitors in the Ambassador Ballroom.

All conference participants will receive a puzzle handout in the conference materials. If you have at least 20 pieces of the puzzle stamped, you are eligible to win prizes donated by the exhibitors. Get stamps on all exhibitor spaces and you have TWO chances to win! Drawings will be held Thursday afternoon and Friday morning – watch the Drawing Board in the Registration Area for winners!

When you have collected your stamps, be sure to put your name on the puzzle and turn it into the CEC Student Booth located in the Center Concourse near the Registration Area.

Good Luck!!



Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available



Wendy Minor 2022 Dr. William Cruickshank Professional Service

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) is pleased to award this year's Dr. William Cruikshank Award to Wendy Minor. This is MCEC's highest award, and it is awarded to "an individual who has made significant contributions to the education of children with exceptionalities." Wendy is certainly deserving of this honor. The following information was provided by several of Wendy's colleagues.

Wendy has had many roles in the field of special education, including:

- a teacher for students with cognitive impairments,
- an infant/toddler educator,
- · an Early On/Child Find coordinator and
- a Special Education Supervisor and Monitor,
- currently serves as the Director of Program Improvement at Allegan Area ESA and the Administrator of Program Accountability at Van Buren ISD

Through all these roles, Wendy has shown many admirable qualities. First, and foremost, Wendy is an advocate for students with disabilities and their families. She facilitates family involvement in the IEP process and also supports family and educator collaboration when planning and providing special education programs and services. Wendy's goal and focus is always on meeting each student's unique educational needs and increasing positive student outcomes.

Wendy is also described as a collaborator. Over the years she has collaborated with a large number of Intermediate School Districts and member district teams, and with many agencies and organizations, including:

- the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education,
- the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC),
- the State Education Advisory Committee (SEAC),
- the Council of Administrators of Special Education,
- the Region Three Special Education Monitors and
- the MCEC Honors and Awards Committee

Within these organizations Wendy has had several leadership roles, including:

- Served on the Executive Board of MCEC for four years,
- · Was president of MCEC for one year,
- · Served on the MCEC Board for thirteen years,
- Was vice-chairperson of the MCEC Scholarship Foundation,
- Has been the chair of the MCEC Honors and Awards Committee and currently serves on the MCEC Recognition and Scholarship Committee,
- Was MCEC's representative to SEAC,
- Finally, she has collaborated with regional districts to develop systems for functional behavioral assessments as well as positive behavioral interventions and supports,

David Manson, Superintendent of Van Buren Intermediate School District and Katy Holverstott, Director of Special Education summarize her leadership skills as follows. "Wendy has an innate ability to not only listen, but to make others feel heard."

Wendy's peers noted several other qualities that further define her as an exemplary special educator. These include: kindness, patience, availability, professionalism, expertise, honesty and integrity.

Through her involvement and leadership, Wendy has made a tremendous impact on the education and success of students with disabilities.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available



Brittany & Jessica Miller 2022 Exceptional Parents of the Year

Brittany and Jessica Miller are the parents of Carver, a student that is in the K-2nd MiCI classroom at Garfield Elementary in Port Huron Area Schools. Carver had a rough start in life until he was fostered and adopted by Brittany and Jessica. He has made tremendous growth in every aspect of his life due to the dedication of Brittany and Jessica. Carver's parents have worked closely and diligently with the school team to help them understand and provide the best supports for their son. Due to the Millers supporting both Carver and his school team for the last five years, Carver is now in a less restrictive classroom.

What really sticks out about these parents is their positive involvement in the team collaboration process. They are happy to assist in any way to support Carver. Brittany and Jessica go above and beyond to ensure effective communication between the school and home. Carvers' parents not only emphasize the importance of his academic success, but they also assist with any life skill development. Carver's continued growth and success

at school and home is due, in large part, to the great commitment of his parents. Through their support of the school, collaboration with professionals and initiative to involve Carver socially, Brittany and Jessica Miller are truly exceptional parents and deserving of this great honor and award.







Erica Folino has worked with a wide range of students from Kindergarten through 5th grade with significant needs including learning, cognitive, emotional, autism, ADHA, and other impairments.

Erica is a Certified START Coach and has trained many staff to effectively support students with significant disabilities. Erica is a dynamic teacher who exemplifies excellence in education on all standards.

Erica goes above and beyond for students, she purchased an outfit for a student that had a high interest in pilots & planes, and modified this student's work around planes so he could complete work that was meaningful for him.



Erica Folino 2022 Teacher of the Year

Erica treats each student with great dignity and respect. She creates a positive environment that is very childoriented and focuses on building positive self-esteem through high standards and well-designed instruction. She is always looking for strategies to help her students succeed and does not stop until she finds something that works.

Erica has the ability to communicate with and engage families and has created a team environment atmosphere within the workplace and a great colleague.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available



Stephanie Brown-Boyer 2022 Dr. Dawn R. Gallup Honor Recipient

Stephanie Brown-Boyer is a Social Worker at Kalamazoo RESA where she serves as a pillar and strong advocate for all educational stakeholders. She is a consummate professional with personal traits of approachability that has opened paths of communication that would otherwise be closed in interactions with students and their families.

Her professional character and integrity are unmatched, from her experiences as a START (Statewide Autism Resources and Training) trainer, participation on the Anti-Bias Anti-Racism (ABAR) leadership team, volunteer with youth in her community, participant on a county-wide crisis team, to her collaborations with outside agencies to build connections for families, she has also supported aspiring social workers by acting as a mentor for interns and practicum students from our local university and within our own service agency.

Stephanie's ability to provide services to students with Individualized Education Plans and facilitate growth amongst her colleagues, students and their families are exceptional. Her vast experiences make her an invaluable asset as she is able to implement evidence-based systems and practices that align across educational settings, thus creating least restrictive opportunities for students.

Stephanie's incredible abilities and skills are truly remarkable, she is a true leader who serves as an ambassador to many.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available



Katy Pluimer Central Michigan University 2022 Dr. Charles Van Riper Outstanding College Student

Since High School, Katy has worked with students with disabilities, and was able to experience many different aspects of special education through volunteering, classroom internships, and from following a Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist to determine her specific area of special education focus in college. Growing up with a learning disability pushed her to pursue a career as a special educator and has presented her with opportunities to educate her general education peers on her personal experiences as a student with a disability.

Katy has been a part of many organizations throughout her time at Central Michigan University and has been able to use her special education background to help advance her fellow peers' knowledge about students with IEPs. She has volunteered at the Winter Special Olympic games for two years and was a volunteer for a group at CMU called Connections that Count, which is a service-learning group that provides support to

individuals with disabilities and their families. Katy has been part of Kappa Delta PI, an international honor society for educators for four years and has served as the president and treasurer of the organization. She is also actively involved with 4-H and supports children and youth with disabilities in showing their animals. These experiences have strengthened Katy's ability to work collaboratively with families.

In addition, Katy has been involved in the MCEC community for the past three years, and has presented and created a poster for the poster session at the annual MCEC conference. She currently serves on the MCEC Student Board as President and was previously the student representative. Katy attended the National CEC Convention in Orlando this past winter to represent the Student Board in Michigan.

One of Katy's professors describes her as a stellar student who is talented, dedicated and professional, and who stands out as the only student she's instructed who's assumed leadership at such high levels on campus. Because of COVID restrictions Katy was required to complete all classes and practicums virtually. Despite this format, she was actively engaged in class and demonstrated academic excellence in all aspects of class. Katy excelled during her virtual practicum, and was able to develop positive relationships with her students and host teacher. She was creative in using technology and thoughtful in designing materials to support student engagement. Katy is extremely collaborative and willing to share materials and strategies to support her peers in special education. There is no doubt that she will continue to carry this forward in her professional career and will be a special education teacher who supports students and colleagues alike.

Katy's peers describe her as always going above and beyond, with an enthusiasm for learning and teaching that is astounding. She is an invaluable asset to the teaching profession who creates engaging and educational lessons for her students on her own time in addition to supporting her coordinating teacher outside of school hours. Katy is described as kind, enjoyable to work with, hardworking and compassionate. She is a student who pursues her passions in supporting children and youth outside of her degree program and who seeks leadership opportunities in the field. Katy is described as the perfect recipient for the 2022 Dr. Charles Van Riper Outstanding College Student.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available

Congratulations 2022 Yes I Can! Award Winners



Nicholas Donovan Self-Advocacy Belleville High School Belleville Public Schools

When Nick was very young, he was diagnosed with a rare vision condition known as Coloboma. He began to receive special education services for students with severe visual impairments. Nick was unsure if the little vision he had was ever going to worsen. He was taught Orientation and Mobility skills including how to use a white cane, Braille, Assistive Technology and how to use Low Vision devices. One of the largest challenges Nick faced was building his self-confidence.

After years in the classroom for the visually impaired, Nick increased his skills needed to accommodate for his vision loss and was able to return to his home district.

Nick's accomplishment occurred not only in his school but in all aspects of his life. He was able to attend camps and programs for students with visual impairments that allowed him to have experiences he may never have had. He was chosen to participate in a leadership training to become a camp counselor.

He never let his vision stop him from doing well in school and accomplishing his dream of going to a 4-year University. He participated in extracurricular events on the Belleville Track and Cross-Country teams and a part time job while maintaining high grades in high school.

Nick says that the biggest reason why he has been able to overcome his challenges is because of the support of his family. They have always pushed him to be the best that he can be. They have never let him blame his visual impairment for why he couldn't accomplish something. His vision is one of the reasons why he is always striving to be a leader.

Despite the struggles Nick faced, he never let his vision get in the way of his success. He graduated from Belleville High School, with a 3.88 GPA. He is now attending Michigan State University.







Jaiden is a student with Autism who attends special education classes for his core academics and general education classes for his electives. He's currently enrolled in an art class and attends art club.

Jaiden uses his art talent to cope with how he is feeling; he draws the characters that represent his feelings. Jaiden is very aware of his disability; he says that "He's silly like Mario, sweet like Mickey, and Autistic like Sponge Bob."

He is a young man who works so hard to grow his abilities and does not let anything get in his way. He is an incredibly talented and dedicated student who is willing to continue to push himself and learn new things.

Jaiden is incredibly proud of his drawings and uses them to explain his disability. He also uses his talent to get involved in school activities such as helping the sophomore class paint the windows for spirit week! Jaiden's ultimate goal is to use his artwork in films.



Jaiden Lutes
Arts
Thurston High School
South Redford School District

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available

Congratulations 2022 Entrepreneurial Classroom

One of the highlights of the MCEC Conference is the inclusion of the Entrepreneurial Classroom. This honor is awarded to a classroom that prepares students to enter the community not only in their ability to make and sell a product, but also in the development of their skills.

MCEC would like to congratulate Charlevoix Public Schools, "The Daily Boost" on winning the 2022 Entrepreneurial Classroom Award! Be sure to stop by their booth located in the Center Concourse in the Registration Area.



Every Wednesday, students in Courtney Kretovic's morning class tend to their "Daily Boost" stations. When Courtney proposed the idea of a coffee cart to her students, they were very excited. They had a lot of questions and great ideas. Students came up with name ideas and ultimately decided on The Daily Boost. The students decided to sell several beverages including coffee, tea

and soft drinks. They also researched different syrup "add ins" for the coffee/tea.

Students practiced and trained in different roles and positions including: accountant, barista, delivery, stock person, and custodial/cleanup. They all have the opportunity to work in different roles throughout the school year.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available



Laura Dern 2023 Exceptional Parent of the Year

Laura Dern is a parent of a child from Bay Arenac Intermediate School District. She is a strong advocate for her daughter both within the school as well as outside of the district. Her friendly demeanor, willingness to open her home to providers, and problem-solving attitude make her an active and essential member of her daughter's planning team. Her openness has allowed staff to embed AAC within her child's routine not only at school but also at home. Laura has been active in every element of her child's IEP from choosing devices, recommending new communication choice/vocabulary boards, and just being involved in her care at home and her education at school. This collaboration allowed us to get an eye gauze communication device when her daughter was in Early On, which carried directly into her classroom setting. Parent participation in this device selection was crucial and has led to a largely expanded vocabulary and means of communication for her child. Laura is positive, thoughtful, kind, and committed. She takes the time to send emails

to staff and administration about how the program is supporting her child. She never hesitates to remind staff of the difference they are making. This empowers her team to do more and supports a team of educators who often can feel that their work goes unnoticed.

In her community, Laura advocates for connecting outpatient providers with the school team. She assists with making those connections, participates in all team meetings, and makes sure that her voice and her daughter's voice are heard. While Laura often recognizes others, she is humble about her own contributions. She often seems unaware of her superpowers, and that the love she gives to her children is what has made all the difference. As a mother, she inspires me and as a professional she motivates me to learn more, continue to fight for inclusion, and to insist on the highest standards of practice in our early childhood settings. Laura Dern is a truly exceptional parent and deserving of this great honor and award.







Carly Gedra-Kaloper is a preschool teacher at Woodcliff Early Childhood Center at East Grand Rapids Public School District. Carly's classroom motto is "Come as you are." Carly works tirelessly to meet each child where they are at, observe them, try techniques and fail and try again. The environment she's built is welcoming, comforting and familiar. Children are never made to feel like they are doing something wrong, the wrong way or that they are incapable. Carly uses her professional career as a way to impact her students on a personal level. No matter how her education and experience develops, the foundation she stands upon is rock solid and the ability to care for each student individually impacts them at a time in their lives when it matters the most.



Carly Gedra Kaloper 2023 Teacher of the Year

Not only does Carly shine in the classroom, she was also featured as a part of the Council for Exceptional Children's 100 Stories in 2022 for her inspiring work with children with exceptionalities. We could not think of a more deserving, dedicated, and hardworking special educator for the 2023 Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Dr. William C. Morse Teacher of the Year, Carly Gedra-Kaloper.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available



Ashley Hollenbeck Central Michigan University 2023 Dr. Charles Van Riper College Student of the Year

Ashley is a dedicated and distinguished student at Central Michigan University, pursuing an elementary teaching certification with a special education major in cognitive impairment. Ashley is described as kind, enjoyable to work with, hardworking, professional, and compassionate. She demonstrates academic excellence, while showing great commitment to the field of special education. Ashley is involved in multiple professional and community organizations, including MCEC, Special Olympics, and CMU Leadership Council Academic Advisory Board.

During the height of the pandemic related school closures, Ashley was required to complete a virtual pre-student teaching practicum. Ashley worked incredibly hard to develop specific instructional lessons for her mentor teacher that directly addressed student IEP goals. According to her supervising professor "Ashley was able to creatively meet the needs of her students. Ashley approached the challenges of virtual learning with a positive attitude and worked extremely hard to make the best of challenging circumstances."

Her strong passion for working with children and adults with special needs is not only represented in her educational experiences. Ashley has served as a behavior technician with Central Michigan Care in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan and as a direct care worker for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities at Mastrofrancesco in Monroe, Michigan

Ashley is known for her high level of professionalism and her commitment to the field of special education. Her peers and professors hold her in the highest regards. Ashley's passion and dedication to the field of special education differentiates her from her fellow peers, making her the perfect candidate for the 2023 Dr. Charles Van Riper Outstanding College Student.







This year our Dr. Dawn Gallup Honor Recipient is the special education team at Bryant Elementary in the Ann Arbor Public Schools. The team consists of Amy Satchwell, Charlene Mangi, Cayte Moutard, Melissa Vella, Kathy Gaines, and Kristen Baryo.

The Bryant elementary special education team has used the strategies of Universal Design for Learning on a school wide level to ensure that all students in their kindergarten-2nd grade building have access to accommodations and environmental modifications; which include: implementing building-wide sensory support boxes for every classroom with staff training to use the supports proactively, and providing modeling and coaching of evidence-based practices to improve student engagement.



Bryant Elementary Team 2023 Dr. Dawn R. Gallup Honor Recipient

Additionally, the Bryant team has gone above and beyond in their support of one particular student who had a high level of complex needs by: creating a personal learning environment with embedded supports for the student to go to when needed, teaming three days per week regarding individualized academics, communication systems, and behavior management/ social emotional learning needs to make sure all staff are on the same page. The team at Bryant Elementary has a collaborative team approach for all the students who walk into their doors to make sure they can participate in all aspects of education, and will go to any length to see their students succeed.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available

Congratulations 2023 Yes I Can Award Winners



Rose'Ja "Jazzie" Hardy Self-Advocacy Craig Campus Muskegon Area ISD

Rose'Ja "Jazzi" Hardy currently participates in the Muskegon Area ISD's Transition Program at the Craig Campus. Jazzi has overcome significant challenges posed by her impaired vision, physical challenges, and difficulties in producing intelligible speech, and uses her exceptional self-advocacy skills to meet her needs as well as improve the lives of the people and community around her. Jazzi also receives services from the Muskegon Area ISD's Assistive Technology team and the Teacher Consultant for the Visually Impaired. She also partners with students at the Biotech Engineering Program at the ISD's Career Tech Center to co-design adaptive equipment to increase her independence and expand her job responsibilities in her current place of employment.

Jazzi's unyielding determination to engage in meaningful learning and access the support she requires was evident at a very young age. Her accomplishments to date have spanned each environment she has entered; her home, school, community and now her workplace.

Jazzi has demonstrated a prodigious work ethic and excellent interpersonal skills at her place of employment. Her supervisor has shared that Jazzi embodies the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities.

Jazzi exemplifies the power of self-advocacy in improving the lives of individuals with disabilities, recently coordinating communication between service providers to ensure a funding request was successfully submitted for the acquisition of a new communication device. In order to complete activities of daily living, Jazzi also connected with a representative from the Muskegon Area Transit System (MATS) to report her concerns about an unsupportive interaction she recently had with a MATS bus driver. Unfortunately the driver was dismissive of Jazzie's attempts to communicate with him using her communication supports, and was unable to effectively share her message about her needed stop. Following her report to a Transit representative about this interaction, instruction regarding supportive communication strategies has been provided to all MATS bus drivers.

Jazzi is currently employed in the food services department of Muskegon High School, a job she obtained just after the pandemic after filling out several applications with repeated follow up calls to numerous employers. Jazzi continues to show the drive and skills to communicate with others in her community so that she can achieve the goals she sets for herself. Jazzi's valuable contributions are not simply limited to productivity, she enhances her workplace's culture.







Donovan Robinson is an eighth grade student at Garden City Middle School. Donovan has autism but does not allow for this to define him. All the students in his school call him Donny. The key to Donny's success is his willingness to engage in the school community around him. He strives to learn the names of everyone he comes across, even the mailman that picks up the school mail. He will stop and ask you your name, fist bump and say hello. Everyday he greets the students and staff with that great big smile and fist bump. He brightens everyone's day, especially if you are having a hard one.

Donny won the Shining Star in November 2022 from the Garden City Board of Education for making a difference in the lives of so many in his school. He was named Student of the Month by his peers. Donny gives the true meaning of why inclusive settings benefit students with autism.



Donovan Robinson School & Community Service Garden City Middle School Garden City Public Schools

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available

Congratulations 2023 Yes I Can Award Winners



Benjamin Prince
Arts
Clinton County RESA
Transition Program

Benjamin currently attends the Clinton County RESA Transition Program after graduating from Pewamo-Westphalia Community High School. As a student with Autism, Benjamin has faced social barriers and has had difficulty managing anxiety throughout his day. However, despite his struggles Benjamin continues to have a positive impact wherever he goes. He is always willing to try things that are outside of his comfort zone with a positive attitude.

Benjamin's love for art has been a significant part of his school life for many years, and his exceptional artistic skills have helped him to build confidence and have also served as an avenue to escape from his stressors. During Benjamin's senior year of high school he created illustrations for a book his mother, Debbie Prince wrote, entitled Trenton the Turtle. He took his time on every detail of the illustrations, including the cover for the book which he finished after graduation. The book is now in publication and is sold at

Barnes and Noble, Amazon and other sources. The story of Trenton the Turtle is about a turtle exploring the world at his own pace. Trenton's slower pace allows him to see and appreciate things others overlook, and Benjamin's detailed illustrations make the story come to life. Benjamin has been interviewed by the news and has had the opportunity to share his book with multiple school audiences, sharing his talents and inspiring others in the community.

Throughout the years, Benjamin has consistently displayed excellence in both talent and character. Aside from his incredible giftedness and attention to detail in art, what stands out most about him is his kindness, politeness and conscientiousness. Benjamin's friendly and caring personality has earned him the respect of not only the students and staff at Pewamo-Westphalia Schools, but the entire community.







Noah Weitzel is a college freshman at Northwestern Michigan College who is nothing shy of a medical miracle, to say the least. He was born at 24 weeks gestation, as a twin, and weighed just about a pound. Noah's parents were asked to sign a DNR on him as the hospital felt there was not anything more they could do to save his life. But, Noah had other plans. He beat the odds and that has been his life's pattern to date.

Noah has had to work extra hard to accomplish the things his twin brother was doing, but he did not take no for an answer. He wanted a job, so he utilized MRS to support that, and got a job. He wanted his drivers license like his peers and got his license.

Noah graduated high school with big goals for himself. He wants to give back to the medical field by becoming a nurse. Noah took a Certified Nurses Aide course directly after graduation. He recently passed his state exam, while working at Ace Hardware and attending college classes, where he earned a 3.0, at NMC.



Noah Weitzel Transition Northwestern Michigan College

Noah is a true example of the Yes I Can! award in the area of transition as he has always lived by the Yes I Can! motto.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available

Congratulations 2023 Yes I Can Award Winners



Jaxon Martinez
Self-Advocacy
Walled Lake Northern
High School
Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

Jaxon Martinez is a senior at Walled Lake Northern High School. Jaxon is a member of the Walled Lake Northern Tech Team. For the past two years, Jaxon has been responsible for various aspects of theater sound production, including the set-up microphones and the theatrical sound effects for Walled Lake Northern's plays and musicals. Being involved with the Tech Team has helped him to better develop the interpersonal and social skills that help him to effectively communicate and interact with others with caring. As a result, Jaxon has become an advocate for other students that don't necessarily have the confidence and or the ability to do it for themselves. Jaxon has truly excelled in the area of advocacy, both for himself as well as for others.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available

Congratulations 2023 Poster Contest Winners

Ace Russell is a senior at Traverse City Central High School, in Traverse City, Michigan. Ace enjoys all kinds of art, music, video games, and hanging out with her friends. Upon graduation, she would like to attend Northwest Education Program's Transition Campus to further her independent living skills. Ace hopes to have a job as a waitress someday.



Autumn "Ace" Russell
Artist
Traverse City
Central High School
Traverse City Area Public Schools



Artwork Winner | Ace Russell Traverse City Central High School

The Unique You

It's okay to be different
We all have feelings and emotions
Some people have autism
and disorders
With a kind heart, you can
change the world

Be yourself Be kind, loyal, calm, and friendly Be everybody's sunshine

> Xiola Weidner | Prose Winner Benzie Central High School

2023 Poster | Prose Winners



MICHIGAN



Xiola Weidner
Prose
Benzie Central
High School
Benzie Central Schools

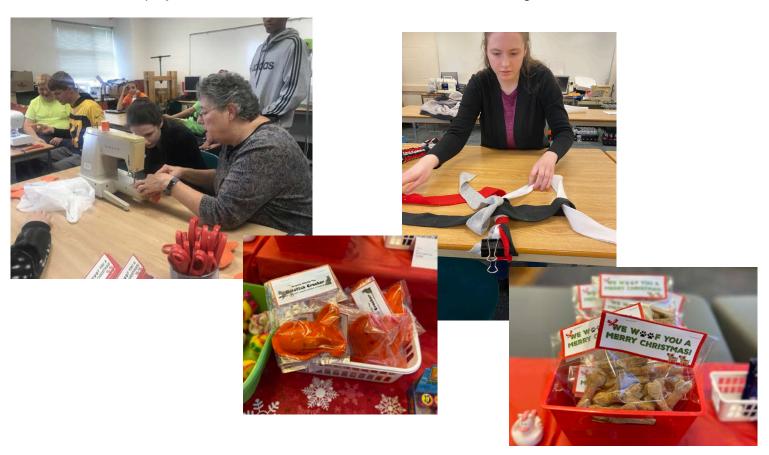
Xiola Weidner is a junior at Benzie Central High School, in Benzonia, Michigan. Xiola enjoys drawing, animals, and spending time with her family. Upon graduation, Xiola would like to be employed as a cartoonist or comic book writer.

Thursday • 5:00pm to 8:00pm • DeVos Place - Ballroom C/D Hors d'oeuvres will be served • Cashless Bar Available

Congratulations 2023 Entrepreneurial Classroom

One of the highlights of the MCEC Conference is the inclusion of the Entrepreneurial Classroom. This honor is awarded to a classroom that prepares students to enter the community not only in their ability to make and sell a product, but also in the development of their skills.

MCEC would like to congratulate Paw Paw Public Schools, "407" on winning the 2023 Entrepreneurial Classroom Award! Be sure to stop by their booth located in the Center Concourse in the Registration Area.



The students in Mrs. Raymond's Paw Paw High School class focus on career and independent living skills. This year, they focused on creating and selling pet toys and treats. The students are learning how to plan projects, budget their time and follow through on assigned tasks under a deadline. They are involved in planning materials lists and shopping for good prices on the materials they use.

The Paw Paw community has embraced this program. The program is very popular with not only other schools in the district, but also at the local pharmacy.

MCEC Leadership

Michigan CEC Board of Directors	
Heather Martinez, Wayne-Westland Community Schools	President
Joe DeMarsh, Garden City Schools	President-Elect, CEC RA Rep
Precios Armstrong, Jackson ISD	Vice President
Lydia Moore, Farmington Public Schools	
Mary Bradley, Muskegon Area ISD	Secretary, CEC RA Rep
Kim Krug, Wayne RESA	Treasurer
Nichole Zimmerman, Trenton Schools	Membership Coordinator
Jen DeWaard, Grand Valley State University	Children's Action Network (CAN) Coordinator
Joni Vernia-Hyland, Jackson County ISD	MCEC Student Chapter Advisor
Katy Pluimer, Traverse City Area Public Schools	MCEC Student Chapter Liaison
Matt Koekkoek, Oakridge Public Schools	OEAA Representative
Renee Cencer, SucessABILITY, LLC	Member at Large
Danya Stump, Oakland Schools	Member at Large
Candi Bush, Family Center for Children and Youth	Member at Large
Sue Caudell, Wayne-Westland Community Schools	Member at Large
Jessica Corliss	MDE Liaison
Lois VaughanHussain	MITTIN Project Liaison
Ann Walton	Executive Director
Denise Smith	Executive Associate
Jennifer Smith	Executive Associate Trainee
MCEC Student Board of Directors	
Ashley Hollenbeck, Central Michigan University	President
Kaitlyn Mack, Central Michigan University	
Hannah Firos, Central Michigan University	
Kelsea McConnell, Grand Valley State University	
Kayla Thatcher, Central Michigan University	
Rayla Matcher, Central Michigan Oniversity	Wernbership Coordinator
Michigan Special Interest Division Contacts	
Concetta Lewis, Ann Arbor Public Schools	
Cheryl Brown, Ann Arbor Public Schools	DCDT
Precios Armstrong, Jackson County ISD	DDEL
Sara Leggett, Livingston Educational Service Agency	DEC

MCEC Past Presidents

Heather Martinez 2022-2023 Robert Luce 1980-1981 Lydia Moore 2021-2022 Carolyn Benscoter 1979-1980 Angie Jasper 2020-2021 Christopher Young 1978-1979 Ben Hicks 2019-2020 Larry Campbell 1977-1978 Nichole Moore 2018-2019 Tom Caldwell 1976-1977 Concetta Lewis 2017-2018 Gary Navarre 1975-1976 Ann Walton 2016-2017 Casimir Schesky 1974-1975 Laura LaMore 2015-2016 Robert Crump 1973-1974 Joe DeMarsh 2014-2015 Leonard Luedtke 1972-1973 Mary Meldrum 2013-2014 Mildred Williams 1971-1972 Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 <
Angie Jasper 2020-2021 Christopher Young 1978-1979 Ben Hicks 2019-2020 Larry Campbell 1977-1978 Nichole Moore 2018-2019 Tom Caldwell 1976-1977 Concetta Lewis 2017-2018 Gary Navarre 1975-1976 Ann Walton 2016-2017 Casimir Schesky 1974-1975 Laura LaMore 2015-2016 Robert Crump 1973-1974 Joe DeMarsh 2014-2015 Leonard Luedtke 1972-1973 Mary Meldrum 2013-2014 Mildred Williams 1971-1972 Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Ben Hicks 2019-2020 Larry Campbell 1977-1978 Nichole Moore 2018-2019 Tom Caldwell 1976-1977 Concetta Lewis 2017-2018 Gary Navarre 1975-1976 Ann Walton 2016-2017 Casimir Schesky 1974-1975 Laura LaMore 2015-2016 Robert Crump 1973-1974 Joe DeMarsh 2014-2015 Leonard Luedtke 1972-1973 Mary Meldrum 2013-2014 Mildred Williams 1971-1972 Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1965-1966 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Nichole Moore 2018-2019 Tom Caldwell 1976-1977 Concetta Lewis 2017-2018 Gary Navarre 1975-1976 Ann Walton 2016-2017 Casimir Schesky 1974-1975 Laura LaMore 2015-2016 Robert Crump 1973-1974 Joe DeMarsh 2014-2015 Leonard Luedtke 1972-1973 Mary Meldrum 2013-2014 Mildred Williams 1971-1972 Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Concetta Lewis 2017-2018 Gary Navarre 1975-1976 Ann Walton 2016-2017 Casimir Schesky 1974-1975 Laura LaMore 2015-2016 Robert Crump 1973-1974 Joe DeMarsh 2014-2015 Leonard Luedtke 1972-1973 Mary Meldrum 2013-2014 Mildred Williams 1971-1972 Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Ann Walton 2016-2017 Casimir Schesky 1974-1975 Laura LaMore 2015-2016 Robert Crump 1973-1974 Joe DeMarsh 2014-2015 Leonard Luedtke 1972-1973 Mary Meldrum 2013-2014 Mildred Williams 1971-1972 Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Laura LaMore 2015-2016 Robert Crump 1973-1974 Joe DeMarsh 2014-2015 Leonard Luedtke 1972-1973 Mary Meldrum 2013-2014 Mildred Williams 1971-1972 Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Joe DeMarsh 2014-2015 Leonard Luedtke 1972-1973 Mary Meldrum 2013-2014 Mildred Williams 1971-1972 Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Mary Meldrum. 2013-2014 Mildred Williams 1971-1972 Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup. 2010-2012 James Edward Keller. 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski. 2009-2010 Paul Mason. 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Wendy Minor 2012-2013 Joseph Noorthoek 1970-1971 Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Dawn Gallup 2010-2012 James Edward Keller 1969-1970 Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Cheryl Borowski 2009-2010 Paul Mason 1968-1969 Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Tina Atkins-Dean 2008-2009 James Alvin Hutchinson 1967-1968 Mark Francis 2007-2008 Walter Wend 1966-1967 Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Janis Gaubatz 2006-2007 John Mader 1965-1966 Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Laurie VanderPloeg 2005-2006 Howard Morgan 1965-1966 Suzanne Shellady 2004-2005 Charles Mange 1964-1965
Suzanne Shellady
Suzanne Shellady
Judy Pazol
Chris VanderWall 2002-2003 June England 1962-1963
Kathy Barker
Linda McCrea
Jim Randall
Frances Mueller Paris
Michael Dombrowski
Lucian Parshall
Gene Kyle
Chris Clinton-Cali
Barbara Senninger
Hugh Reid
Todd Bingaman
Shirley Young
Paul Michaelsen
Mary Spessard
Leonard Rezmierski
Mary Campbell
Chuck Achterhof
Marylyn Lake
Arnold Larson
Janet Kline

84th Annual MCEC Conference



Dear Michigan CEC Conference Attendees:

I want to personally invite you to the 84th Annual Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Conference, to be held on February 28, 2024, through March 1, 2024, at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Next year's conference promises to be an inspirational and educational experience for all professionals, parents, and students working with or on behalf of students with exceptionalities. Each year, the conference hosts over 1,000 participants from across Michigan, seeking the opportunity to connect with one another as we learn excellent tools to best support students, peers, and families.

On February 28, 2024, we will offer pre-conference Wednesday Workshops. The purpose of these workshops is to provide timely and relevant learning opportunities for attendees to engage in for a full day. On February 29 and March 1, Michigan CEC presents a wide array of breakout sessions by special education stakeholders, including practicing professionals, families, and rising professionals. Additionally, it is our profound delight to provide plenary sessions, including a Keynote and update from the Michigan Department of Education.

You definitely want to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to fellowship with the greater Michigan special education community as we embrace our 2024 theme, An Exceptional Celebration! Our 2024 theme represents our ongoing commitment to all exceptional stakeholders to honor the journey while lifting up ways we can continue to grow. Participants can earn credits toward renewing their educator certificate or professional license as a bonus. So please mark your calendars now and plan to attend Michigan's premiere educational conference again in 2024. For more information, visit michigancec.org.

Thank you for coming, and we hope to see you again next year!

Warmly,

Dr. Precios M. Armstrong, MCEC Vice President 2024 Conference Chair

Future CEC Conference Information

Michigan CEC Conferences

84th Annual Conference February 28 - March 1, 2024, Grand Rapids

> 85th Annual Conference February 26-28, 2025

National CEC Conventions

March 12-15, 2024 San Antonio, Texas

March 12-15, 2025 Baltimore, Maryland

Michigan CEC Scholarship Program



Dear MCEC Conference Attendees:

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your role as educators, service providers, student educators, and parents in helping students with exceptionalities to progress in their attainment of skills in preschool, elementary and ultimately secondary education programs, which will help to prepare them for their lives as engaged, and productive adults in their communities. As you know, many students with exceptionalities desire to pursue postsecondary education or training, but need financial support to do so. This is where the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children (MCEC) Scholarship Program comes into play.

The Scholarship Program was established by and received an initial endowment of funds from MCEC in 2001 to provide scholarship assistance to students with exceptionalities who desire, and have been accepted to pursue post-secondary education or training programs after exiting from secondary education. The Scholarship Program funds these scholarships from interest on the initial endowment and from donations from the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education's silent auction, corporations, parents, and staff and friends of the MCEC Scholarship Program. We are proud to report that since 2001 we have awarded \$138,000 to 120 students.

The Scholarship Program could use your help! If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution where 100% of the donation will go to student scholarships, please make your check payable to:

MCEC Scholarship Program c/o Cheryl Borowski MCEC Scholarship Chairperson 93780 Siebert Ave Marcellus, MI 49067

Respectfully,

Cheryl Borowski, MCEC Scholarship Chairperson

MCEC Campership Scholarships



Questions?
Please contact us at:
camperships@michigancec.org

This is an opportunity for students to apply for funding (up to \$250) to attend a summer camp in Michigan. These camperships are open to students with an active Michigan IEP, in need of financial support, and who would otherwise not have an opportunity for a summer camp experience.

Visit our website:
www.MichiganCEC.org to apply
Applications must be electronically submitted by
April 15, 2023
Notifications will be mailed by April 30, 2023

Top 10 Reasons Why YOU Should Belong to CEC

- Keep Up-To-Date on Special Education Issues, Trends and Findings: TEACHING Exceptional Children is the only classroom-oriented magazine reporting the latest practical methods, materials, and programs for teaching children with exceptionalities. Exceptional Children gives you an early look at the significant findings and trends in special education.
- Save Big Bucks: Attend the CEC Annual Convention and Expo, and you'll save the cost of your membership... and then some! Plus, as a member you can take advantage of professional liability and other insurance programs, discounts on educational resources, financial services, and much more.
- Network, Network: Dues include membership in your state/provincial CEC (and local chapter where applicable). Get to know other experts in your community, your state/province, nationally, and around the globe.
- Increase Your Professional Profile: Explore career options on-line in the largest job bank on the Internet devoted exclusively to special education professionals. Publish in CEC's journals. Share your expertise at CEC's highly respected conferences and symposia. Receive recognition for your contributions through CEC's award program.
- Add to Your Expertise: Join any—or all!—of CEC's 18 special interest divisions to increase your knowledge and become more deeply involved in your profession.
- Get the Resources You Need at Prices You Can Afford: The CEC Catalog is crammed with resources and materials specifically for special educators. Members save up to 30%!
- Add New Leadership Skills to Your Resume: You don't have to be a long-term member to get involved. New members are encouraged to participate in your local chapter or state/provincial CEC activities, join a committee, run for office or get involved in a variety of ways at all levels of CEC.
- Access to Insurance Benefits: More than a dozen life, health, auto & home, and professional liability insurance plans and protection services!
- Influence the Profession: Add your voice to advance the policies that support children with exceptionalities and the professionals who serve them. Just a few of the issues for which CEC has advocated include reduction of special education paperwork, full funding for special education, and preserving special education research programs.
- Improve the Educational Success of Individuals with Disabilities: Isn't that why you became a special educator in the first place?

MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT

 Start date:
 02/15/2023

 End date:
 03/31/2023

 Code:
 POWEROFYOU

Promotion: 25% off any category and level of CEC membership.

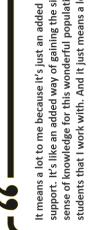
Restrictions: Can only be used for membership-related products and is only valid once per contact and/or

once per shopping cart. Cannot be combined with other offers, used for Special Interest Division membership, event registration, merchandise, CEC Store items, webinars, registrations, group

membership(s), and/or other promotional products, services, or items.

Don't just take our word for it...

Individual Membership



expand on working with students with special needs. sense of knowledge for this wonderful population of support. It's like an added way of gaining the sixth students that I work with. And it just means a lot that I get to continue to grow my knowledge and

Theresa Garfield, Member Since 2011



I could not survive my role without CEC. Melissa Garvin, Member Since 2004

resource for me through my CEC has been an amazing whole career.

Cindy Perras, Member Since 1989

brary book,

provolinary ogether we're

Contact CEC





exceptionalchildren.org (bottom-right corner)



exceptionalchildren.org/help



A Membership That Grows With You

Our memberships are designed to support you throughout your

entire career. From college to retirement, we're here for you.

Pre-Service Student

organization dedicated to improving the success of children and youth with disabilities The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional and/or gifts and talents.

resources necessary for effective professional practice. CEC is known as THE source for CEC advocates for appropriate governmental policies, sets professional standards, provides professional development, and helps professionals obtain conditions and information, resources, and professional development for special educators.

Divisions focused on a specific topic, specialty area, role, or exceptionality. We also have CEC has local Units in all 50 states and Canada, as well as 18 optional Special Interest CEC Student Chapters at hundreds of colleges and universities.

Membership Benefits

Professional development you can trust:

- o Discounts on books and CEC products, as well as CEC's Annual Convention & Expo
 - Selection of free, member-only pre-recorded and live webinars and other learning opportunities in the CEC Learning Library
- Evidence-based professional development opportunities from leading experts in the field of special education
- Access to CEC's journals, TEACHING Exceptional Children and Exceptional Children

Support from connections, peers, and community:

- o Access to our exclusive, vibrant online community CECommunity
- o Complimentary, automatic membership to local meetups through your CEC Unit o Option to join topic-focused Special Interest Divisions (additional investment
 - required)

Protection for your practice and your profession:

- Discounted premium insurance policies and plans
- o Regular policy updates and access to advocacy opportunities

Graduate Student

For professionals that are returning to school

For students that haven't started

teaching (yet!)

Early Career Professional

Professional



For professionals in their first three years of educating

Retired Professional

For professionals with more than

three years' experience



For professionals that support teachers

that are no longer working For retired profess<u>ionals</u>







For family members

Learn more and join online at www.exceptionalchildren.org/join

College Student Strand – Governor's Room

The 2023 MCEC Student Board welcomes you to the Student Strand during the 83rd Annual Conference

Thursday Sessions

8:00am - 9:00am

You Got the Job, Now What?

Aced the interview and accepted a job? This session is for you! Learn about the steps following a job offer, such as looking at contracts, insurance information, paperwork, and Q&A with the presenters about what happens between accepting the offer and the first day on the job.

9:10am - 10:10am

Practical Strategies for High Quality IEPs

Attendees will learn practical information and obtain resources from the field in the areas of PLAAFP development, IEP goal development, and IEP facilitation. These strategies and resources embed critical concepts from IDEA and MARSE but are presented in a logical, user-friendly format. The resources shared in this session are easily transferable from this session straight to the attendee's future role as a Special Educator. This session is applicable for any future Special Educator!

1:55pm - 2:55pm

Tech Tips and Tricks....OH MY!

Participants will engage in an exploration of easy to use technology tips and tools to support classroom instruction. We will also cover adaptive supports students can use to increase their independence. Resources and strategies will be included throughout the presentation for attendees to reference and put to use immediately.

3:05pm - 4:05pm

Data Data Data...I Have Data, Now What?

An overview of types of data collection will be reviewed in a short presentation. This will be followed by examples of data sheets used to collect information by adults and students independently. The focus of this session will be on behavior.

Friday Sessions

9"45am - 10:45am

Ten Strategies You Never Thought to Use

Struggling with keeping students engaged? Need something to make learning more interactive? In this make it take it session, MCEC's Student Board will provide auditory and visual aids, websites, classroom management tools, posters and resources that can be implemented in the classroom INSTANTLY!

11:55am - 2:00pm

University Chapter Outreach

Time for current and future Michigan university chapters to come together. Talk about what has been successful and some challenges you have faced with your chapter. Being able to come together and collaborate to make student chapters in Michigan even more amazing. Also, you will be able to talk with our Student CEC Chapter Liaison Katy Pluimer about starting new university chapters.

2:10pm - 3:10pm

Teacher of the Year Panel Interview

Attendees of this session will get the opportunity to hear from some of the best teachers in Michigan. Be prepared to gain advice on teaching practices that you can use in your future classroom!

Why **Students** Should Belong to the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Top 10 Reasons



Benefits of a Professional at a Special Rate

Continue to pay the student membership rate for the first two years in your teaching profession. Save BIG bucks!!!!



Increase Your Professional Profile

Explore career options on-line in the largest job bank on the Internet devoted exclusively to special education professionals.



Get the Resources You Need at Prices You Can Afford

The CEC Catalog is crammed with resources and materials specifically for special education members. Members save up to 30%.



Keep Up-to-Date on Special Education Issues, Trends, and Findings

CEC Publications TEACHING Exceptional Children, CEC Today, CEC Smart Briefs give you an early look at significant research, practical help and trends in special education.



Network, Network

Get to know and learn from other educators in your community, state, nationally and around the globe.



Make a Difference with Policy Makers

Add your voice to advance the policies that support children with exceptionalities and the professionals who serve them.



Prepare for Employment

Attend the CEC Annual Conference and other CEC professional development opportunities. Access the latest special education information, advocacy for children with exceptionalities and the profession.



Add New Leadership Skills to Your Resume

Participate in your state CEC activities, join a committee, run for office in your student chapter, get involved at all levels of CEC.



Expand Your Knowledge

Join any or all of CEC's 18 special interest divisions to increase your knowledge.



Improve the Educational Success of All Students

Isn't that why you want to become an educator?

Thank You! 2023 Gold Sponsor



Explore Our Research-Based Intervention Programs For PreK-12 Math and ELA



Reading Mastery Transformations, an evidence-based Direct Instruction program, is a comprehensive K–5 reading intervention program proven to raise reading performance for a wide range of students, including special populations. Educators use *Reading Mastery* to explicitly and systematically teach key foundational literacy skills and how to read, comprehend, and write narrative and informational text of increasing complexity—while building oral language fluency skills.

LEARN MORE

Number Words

Number Worlds® is a highly-engaging, research-proven, teacher-led math intervention program that was built on rigorous state standards to bring math-challenged PreK–8 students up to grade level with real-world applications. *Number Worlds* helps struggling learners in Response to Intervention Tiers 2 and 3 achieve math success and quickly brings them up to grade level by intensively targeting the most important standards with projects, games, activities, and digital resources.

LEARN MORE

Corrective Reading

Corrective Reading provides intensive accelerated Direct Instruction reading intervention for students in Grade 3–Adult. The program delivers tightly sequenced, carefully planned lessons that give struggling students the structure and practice necessary to become skilled, fluent readers and better learners.

LEARN MORE

For more information, contact your local sales representative.



Kevin Clark

K–12 Senior Sales Representative kevin.clark@mheducation.com (313) 655-6319



Matt Mayer

K–12 Sales Representative matt.mayer@mheducation.com (269) 339-1338



Scott Goddard

K–12 Sales Representative scott.goddard@mheducation.com (269) 532-0327



Leigh Brougher

Senior National Achievement Specialist leigh.brougher@mheducation.com (517) 410-1776

Thank You! 2023 Silver Sponsor



Join the Membership Community that Makes a Difference...

Together,

MAASE Advocates,

Leads and Learns



Hear what our members truly love about MAASE.



Did you know that you don't have to be a Special Education Administrator to join? Learn more about being a MAASE member!





Save the Date

2023 Summer Institute August 6-9, 2023

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

www.maase.org

SPECIAL EDUCATION Graduate Programs

Oakland University offers advanced training and expertise in the field of special education. Options include:

MASTER OF EDUCATION (M.ED.)

IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Choose from these concentrations:

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- **Emotional Impairment**
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Specific Learning Disability

GRADUATE

IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Choose from these concentrations:

- Applied Behavior Analysis
- Emotional Impairment
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Autism for Multiple Disciplines
- Specific Learning Disability

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (MAT)

IN K-12 SPECIAL EDUCATION

Designed for individuals who hold a bachelor's degree seeking a career in teaching K-12 special education.

Choose from these concentrations:

- Emotional Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability

For additional information, visit oakland.edu/hdcs. Join us for a virtual graduate open house in March - oakland.edu/grad/graduate-open-house





2023 Bronze Sponsors

MEA

CENTER FOR Leadership & Learning

Professional Development Reimagined

MTSA congratulates MCEC on their 83rd Annual Conference!

Join us in 2024 for the largest Transition in



Networking

Keynotes

Presentations

Resources

Exhibitors

The next MTSA Conference will be held in the Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

Wednesday, February 21—Friday, February 23, 2024

Thank You! 2023 Bronze Sponsors



SPECIAL EDUCATION

at Western Michigan University

Graduates of the WMU special education undergraduate program are certified to teach the following:

- Special education, Kindergarten through 12th grade
- Elementary education, Kindergarten through 5th grade: all subjects
- Elementary education, Kindergarten through 8th grade: all subjects self-contained classroom—one in which the majority of instruction is provided by a single teacher.





WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY College of Education and Human Development

wmich.edu/specialed | wmich.edu/apply





Thank You! Membership Gift Sponsor



Thank You! Wifi Sponsor



Thank You! Conference Bag Sponsors



