



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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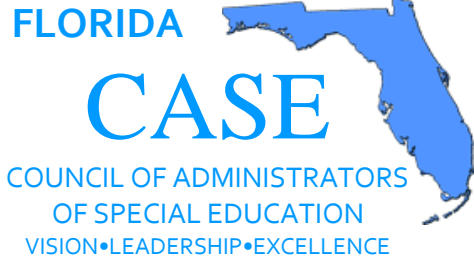
Barbara Johns

**Member at Large**

Michael Green

**Member at Large**

Dr. Anthony Mortimer



**Message from the desk of the Past President**

*Happy Near Year!*

*Wow this school year has flown by, only a little more than 5 months left. I hope that this newsletter is finding everyone refreshed and ready to tackle what lies ahead.*

*For your convenience we have included in the newsletter this year's award information and form. If you would like to submit nominations for Rookie ESE Administrator of the Year, Outstanding Administrator of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award, the deadline for nominations is March 31, 2019. Please send your completed forms to Debra Giacolone, Membership Chair, at:*

*Debra.Giacolone@sarasotacountyschools.net*

*Florida CASE would like to recognize our very own, Dr. Rosalind Hall, President-Elect on being voted on the National CEC Board as Member-At-Large. Great job Rosalind!!*

**We need your help with updating each districts W9 form to ensure that we receive payment to the correct address. Please send your districts updated W9 to the following:**

**Sandra Chambers-Collins  
Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource System (FDLRS)  
3130 Edgewater Drive.  
Orlando, FL 32804**

*Would you like to be a Florida CASE Board Member? We have the following vacancies open on the Board for 2019-20:*

- Secretary*
- Treasurer*
- Membership*
- Legislation and Bylaws*

*If you or anyone you know would be willing to work with a great team of people we would love for you to run for an office.*

*All the best,*

*Cathy Dofka  
Director of Exceptional Student Support Services  
Hernando County Schools  
Past President, Florida CASE  
[dofka\\_c@hcsb.k12.fl.us](mailto:dofka_c@hcsb.k12.fl.us)*



**2019 CASE Summer Leadership Institute**

June 10-13, 2019

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa

**Theme and registration information will be forthcoming.**



This could be your evening after spending the day listening to great speakers.



**Don't forget to make your Hotel Accommodations for the**

**2019 Florida CASE Summer Institute today.**

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa - Hotel Rate \$169.00

5001 Coconut Rd, Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Please make your hotel reservations by calling 877-803-7534 or going to the following website:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/NAPRN/G-FCAS>



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SPA

## 2018 Florida CASE Summer Leadership Sponsorship Thank You

A special thank you to all our vendors that participated in our Summer Leadership Conference last year. We hope to see all of you in June this year.

Here are a few of our vendors from 2018:



# rethink Ed



*Do you know someone that would like to be a sponsor of this year's Summer Leadership Conference?*

*Contact Michael Green at*

*[Michael.Green@bakerk12.org](mailto:Michael.Green@bakerk12.org)*

*or Anthony Mortimer at*

*[amortimer@greenwoodjax.org](mailto:amortimer@greenwoodjax.org)*

## New National CEC Board Members for 2019

Meet our new National CEC President, Dr. Jennifer J. Lesh and new National CEC Member-at-Large, our very own -Dr. Rosalind Hall.

### Meet our new National CEC President



#### **Dr. Jennifer J. Lesh**

B.S., Special Education, Indiana University, Bloomington, with a concentration in the area of Emotional/Behavioral Disorders, M.S., Educational Leadership, Ph.D., Leadership and Special Education Barry University, Miami Shores. Former ESE Teacher and Coordinator, basketball and golf coach.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:** Higher Education Lynn University, Boca Raton, FL: Assistant Professor and ESE

Master's Program Coordinator.

Kappa Delta Pi Chi Rho Chapter Advisor, Educational Honor Society. In addition, expanded membership to include graduate students, and in the planning stages of adding a KDP Research Symposium Day. Voted 2017- 18 most improved student organization by Lynn Center for Student Involvement. Created online and blended one-hour ESE recertification courses for Florida Department of Education Recertification Created online Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education evening undergraduate course. Revamped all ESE Master's Program Courses Syllabi to incorporate all Florida Department of Education ESE and Autism Spectrum Disorder standards. In addition, added four new adjunct professors with Ph.D.'s and currently working in K-12 settings in three of largest, diverse counties in Florida developed and received approval from the Florida Department of Education Teacher Program, masters students will earn ESE teacher certification and endorsements in Autism Spectrum Disorder, English Speakers of Other Languages.

Guest Lecturer at Barry University, Miami Shores, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Palm Beach State College, Lake Worth, and Lynn University, Boca Raton, FL. Numerous publications and presentations both nationally and International.

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** American Association of University Women, American Educational Research Association, Council for Exceptional Children (Council of Administrators of Special Education, Teacher Education Division, Division of Research, Division of Learning Disabilities, Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders, Small Special Education Programs Caucus) Indiana University Alumni Association, Kappa Delta, Phi Delta Kappa, Teachers of English Speakers of Other Languages (Palm Beach) and United States Golf Association.

## Meet our New National CEC Member-At-Large



**Dr. Rosalind Hall**

**What inspired you to apply to the BOD? How do you believe this will benefit you professionally and personally?**

For many years, I have admired the work of the CEC Board of Directors and the positive impact it makes as we provide support and services to our students with disabilities and all educators, both Instructional and non-instructional as well as our administrators. Being a service to others has always been my conviction and CEC certainly exhibit such services. In addition, serving on CEC Board of Directors allows me to collaborate with other fellow educators across the nation, bringing knowledge; expertise and energy that would further advanced our organization and also my profession as I provide guidance and support to my district and state.

**What is an example of a time you led through a difficult situation? How did that experience prepare you to serve on the CEC Board?**

As an Exceptional Student Education Director in a new district, I began to visit schools, meeting the school administrators, staff as well as community stakeholders in an effort to build interpersonal relationships and come to know their vision for our students with disabilities. Through this communication, I learned that one of our service delivery models at one of our schools was a "Self-Contained" class, serving students with autism district wide. As a result, I reached out to my

Superintendent to discuss further and to obtain his support in rethinking this model. I then proceeded to talk with the building administrator to ascertain her thoughts; and it was evident that she and I shared the same vision for our students that they could be served in their home community with support. I then proceeded to develop an Action Plan that included a meeting with the superintendent again to ensure that he was in agreement that our students could be serve in their home school and from there begin conversations with the building administrators who would be impacted by such move, the transportation department, faculty and staff at said school (s), parents and the community, identifying barriers and resources needed for the receiving school staff. This experience has prepared me the opportunity to serve on the CEC Board as it demonstrates the problem-solving process and more importantly to keep the focus on the students in our decision making.

**Describe your leadership experience in both professional and volunteer organizations (CEC and other).**

My leadership experiences includes but not limited to President of Florida CASE serving two (2) terms, 4 years and recently re-elected as President- Elect. Creating a blueprint for implementing the Response to Intervention (RtI) in our district, serving on our State Advisory ESE Council appointed by the Commissioner of Education, Facilitating Focus Groups among parents and students in addressing disproportionate discipline, Co-Chair of our State Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource System Coordinating Council ensuring that services are being provided to the assigned districts, expenditures aligns to the goals/activities outlined in the grant, Chair of the Interagency Transition Council, Florida Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Member-at-Large, Member of our local CEC Chapter where our served on the fundraiser committee, The Junior League of Gainesville membership development team, mentor to new ESE Directors within Florida, and Co- Chair of our Florida Committee for Exceptional Students.

**CEC defines diversity to include race, ethnicity, culture, language, age, (dis)abilities, family status/composition, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious and spiritual values, geographic location, and country of origin. There is such a great range of individual backgrounds and experiences that cannot be easily conveyed by answering simple demographic questions.**

**Given this definition, how do you describe your own diversity?**

My own diversity can be described as respect to others regardless of their religion, culture, beliefs, gender, race, age, sexual orientation, or disabilities. I embrace diversity and inclusion as I have grown in a multitude of ways as I learn and grow together with friends and colleagues. I believe it is essential to recognize that there is more than one way to do something and by embracing diversity it extends the imagination of what could happen as a result of having a multitude of ways and ideas to consider. I have found in doing so that I have gained a multitude of experiences and have met great people along this journey. It is absolutely beautiful!

**What is one example of an experience related to diversity that significantly influenced you personally or professionally.**

I was raised to be kind and respectful to everyone even if they were different from me. During my middle school years, a student enrolled in my school from another country whose appearance and dressed did not look like any of the apparel we wore. As a result, many of the students did not reach out to make friends with her. I, on the other hand, did so a little reluctantly as we had recently read a story about a family from another country who was not well educated and did not like American people. I invited Hanna to our after-school study group. At first, I recall her being very quiet, but over time she opened up and began to participate. I learned so much from her; she was very smart. This experience reminds me even today, how we should never judge, make decisions based on what you have read or told about others as it is a very dangerous assumption.

## Committee for the Education of Exceptional Students (CEES) Update

October 13th the Committee for Education of Exceptional Students (CEES) committee met to discuss the upcoming legislative trip to Tallahassee. We reviewed the legislative platform and worked diligently to identify the areas that needed to be addressed such as, the Safety Report and Rescission of Discipline Guidance, Safe Learning Environments, Access and Assessment, Funding, Accountability, Personnel, and Mental Health Services. We look forward to joining our members in Tallahassee, March 24-26, to advocate for students with disabilities.

Thank You

Barbara Johns Ed.S.

Legislation and Bylaws Chair Person

[johns.barbara@mybradford.us](mailto:johns.barbara@mybradford.us)

## Florida CASE Award Nominations



This is your opportunity to recognize one of your colleagues for the excellent job they are doing. The Florida CASE Executive Board announces three awards now available for ESE administrators in our state.

**Rookie ESE Administrator of the year:** This individual should be an administrator of special education programs that has worked in this position for three years or less. This person should demonstrate vision and leadership skills that have supported children with disabilities and their families. The winner of this award will receive a plaque, paid registration for the Florida CASE Summer Institute (Florida CEC registration would be an alternative option) as well as the recognition of their peers at the Florida CASE Summer Institute. Individuals nominated for this award do not need to be a member of CASE but must be a member of CEC.

**Outstanding ESE Administrator of the year:** This individual should be an administrator of special education programs that has worked in this position for five to 20 years, demonstrate consistent and outstanding vision and leadership for children with disabilities and their families and be recognized for the contributions they have made not only to their district but to their community and state. Individuals nominated for this award must be a current member of National CASE. Winner of this award will also receive a plaque, paid registration for the Florida CASE Summer Institute, a beautiful gift basket and recognition at the CASE Summer Institute. This individual may also be submitted as a nominee for the National CASE award.

**Life Time Achievement Award;** This individual should be an administrator of special education programs for twenty years or more and has demonstrated consistent and outstanding vision and leadership for children with disabilities and their families and be recognized for the contributions they have made not only to their district but to their community and state. The nominee for this award must be a current and longtime member of CASE. Winner of this award will receive a plaque, paid registration to the Florida CASE Summer Institute, National CASE or National CEC Conference and recognition at the Florida CASE Summer Institute. This individual may also be submitted as a nominee for the National CASE award.

**SELECTED by FLO-CASE Board of Directors**

The nomination form must be submitted to Debra Giacalone, Florida CASE Membership Chair, no later than **March 31, 2019.**

Date of Submission: \_\_\_\_\_



**NOMINATION FOR FLORIDA CASE AWARD (CHECK ONE)**

Rookie Special Education Administrator (Less than 3 years)	Outstanding Special Education Administrator (5 to 20 years in the field)	Life Time Achievement Award (20 years or more)
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<b>NOMINEE:</b>		<b>Nominated By</b>	
Position		Position	
Address		Address	
e-mail		e-mail	
Telephone		Telephone	
CEC/CASE ID*		CEC/CASE ID*	
Years Experience			

Nomination endorsement (if applicable)			
CEC subdivision/unit		Date of endorsement	

Signature of Nominator	
------------------------	--

Include a narrative describing each of the following areas—attach additional pages as needed. In addition, please request a vita of the nominee. Note: The vita is a separate document and is to verify the information in the narrative. Please include two letters of support from other individuals which support your nomination.

Professional memberships and activities  
Please see attached

Innovation and contributions to special education/CASE  
Please see attached

Impact on administrator preparation and/or quality of services to Exceptional Children  
Please see attached

Additional education-related and/or community  
Please see attached

**RETURN FORM TO:**  
Debra Giacalone, Membership Chair  
[Debra.Giacalone@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:Debra.Giacalone@sarasotacountyschools.net)>

*Electronic submission of nomination information is preferred*  
**Deadline for submission March 31, 2019**  
Winners will be announced at the Summer CASE Leadership Conference in Bonita Springs  
\*Membership in CASE must be current as of submission.



**The Board would like to say thank you to Sonia Figaredo-Alberts our Professional Development Chair, for all her hard work with the Silent Auction at AMM in December. Sonia you did a great job and we are so happy to have you as a member of CASE and on our Board.**

Dear Florida CASE Members: On behalf of the CASE Board, I am extending a most sincere appreciation. Thank you for all your donations towards the **Silent Auction!** It was a great success and your support was evident!!

**Our Silent Auction at AMM made \$1,572.00.** This funding will be used toward scholarships for students entering our profession!

Your support is truly appreciated!

Regards,

Sonia Figaredo-Alberts

Florida CASE Professional Development

[Sonia.figaredo-alberts@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:Sonia.figaredo-alberts@sarasotacountyschools.net)





## Membership News



Are you a member of CASE? If yes- THANK YOU and if not, PLEASE JOIN! There are so many benefits of membership. CASE members receive up-to-date on national/international issues, trends, and legislation that impact us directly. There are numerous opportunities to enhance professional leadership through publications that you will receive as part of your membership and through the professional development offered through CASE, including awesome webinars that can be accessed without ever leaving your desk! One of the greatest advantages of CASE membership is the networking opportunities. Through your CASE membership you can network with folks from around the globe who speak the same (special education) language and it's great to share perspectives on various issues and learn from each other.

For much more about CASE membership benefits take a look at their website at [www.casecec.org](http://www.casecec.org).

Remember, when you become a CASE member you will receive both CEC and CASE benefits; an amazing package of journals, special discounts, resources, professional development, and networking opportunities. Also remember there are 3, really 4 options to join CEC—Basic, Full, Premier, and District! And remember, you can pay in 3 installments! If you join for two years you receive a discount. For a complete explanation of the different plans, go to <http://www.celebrateexceptional.org/joinrenew/>

We are always eager for committed and passionate individuals to join our community and I think CASE is a professional community that you would be proud to be a member of!! Join Me! Call or email me if you have any questions!

Thanks so much!



Debra Giacolone  
Membership Chair, Florida CASE  
(941) 927-9000 ext. 34754  
[Debra.Giacolone@sarasotacountyschools.net](mailto:Debra.Giacolone@sarasotacountyschools.net)>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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## **2019 CEC Special Education Convention & Expo**

It is never too early to start planning for the next CEC Convention.

Register now for the CEC 2019 Convention & Expo,

January 29 – February 2, 2019, Indianapolis, Indiana

[www.cecconvention.org](http://www.cecconvention.org)



Register for the  
2019 CASE Summer  
Leadership Institute

June 10-13, 2019  
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point  
Resort and Spa