



Committee for Education of Exceptional Students (CEES) Legislative Day “On the Hill.”

CEES held its annual Legislative Training on March 25th at the Bloxson Building, Tallahassee, Florida; A special thank you to Eydie Tricquet, FDLRS Administrator for hosting our training. CASE Board members Dr. Rosalind Hall, Barbara Johns and Sandra Chambers- Collins represented Florida CASE. Dr. Rosalind Hall and Barbara Johns facilitated the training.

The training began with much excitement and anticipation as we prepared for our visit “On the Hill” with presentations from Bureau of Exceptional Education Student Services (BEES), **Dr. Curtis Williams** Program Director and FDOE Safe School, **Ms Brooks Rumenik**, Deputy Director, who provided an overview of the latest and greatest information in the area of SB 7026; and a round table discussion with **Dr. Monica Verra-Tirado**, BEESS Bureau Chief, moderated by Dr. Rosalind Hall. All of our presenters were exceptional and shared their passion in support to school districts and students.

The highlight of our training was the review of the Educational Bills and their status provided by **Ms Joy Franks, General Counsel for Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS)** who placed great emphasis and the importance of having conversations with our legislators and sharing the positives that are occurring in our schools and communities, to tell our stories and share our concerns. It is important to be positive and of course, let our voices be heard! Twenty four (24) actively engaged participants that included members from Florida Gifted Network, Division on Career Development and Transition, Florida CASE and Florida Association of School Psychologists participated in a review of our Platform and began to strategically create their “Talking Points.” The participants collectively made over **57** visits to members of the Senate and/or House of Representatives or their legislative staff! Dr. Gene Cash, Professor of College of Psychology; President, Trainers of School Psychologists, Florida Licensed Psychologist and Nationally Certified School Psychologist testified before the Senate Education Committee in support to Senator Taddeo’s bill to ban corporal punishment. A beautiful bound CEES Platform was given to each respective office visited and follow-up with the respective legislators will take place.



We are now making plans to visit our Nation’s Capital in Washington DC to continue the work started in Tallahassee. One of our goals is to increase Florida CASE participation in visits to the Special Education Legislative Summit, Crystal City, VA July 7-10, 2019. There is power in numbers and it would be wonderful to have a large group presence from the state of Florida. For more information, go to www.casecec.org and strongly consider joining us!

Dr. Rosalind Hall, President Elect and Mrs. Barbara Johns, Legislative Chair