



Florida CASE Newsletter

Spring 2021

Florida CASE Board of Directors

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Lynne Mowatt

Greetings CASE Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Almost a year ago, our country was facing the tip of the Coronavirus and as a result, it has changed our lives and the lives of our students, families and school staff. As we continue to focus on supporting our students, it is equally important for us to focus on our own self-care and well-being. Our school personnel nor we cannot effectively support students if we are stressed or burned out from these times of uncertainty and continued transitions. Because of this, I have included ideas on how to practice self-care; find time to practice self-care; and suggested resources to support school personnel.

Michelle Obama affirmed, "We need to do a better job of putting ourselves at the top our own 'to do' lists." Her words may sound counterintuitive to educators like ourselves who spend our lives serving others. However, we cannot serve our schools and students well if our own energy is being critically drained by stress and fatigue.

As we continue to support others, let us remember that spring is in the air! This is the time of the year when the azaleas and dogwoods begins to bloom. A time for reflection and renewal. Let us see the beauty that surround us as we continue to be a service to others and a voice for our students.

Warm regards,
Dr. Rosalind Hall



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flow charts.
It is about one life influencing another."*

~John C. Maxwell

A Special Welcome to Our New and Rejoining CASE Members

Danita Duhart

Claude Kelly

JaSheena Ekhtator

Charlotte Luziatti

Emily Smith

Colleen Teaf



MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

CASE has proven to be an effective influential organization which provides powerful support to its membership. The mission of The Council of Administrators of Special Education, Inc. is to provide leadership and support to members by shaping policies and practices which impact the quality of education.

Now, more than ever, your membership in the CASE organization can assist you as you grow professionally and develop services at the state, province and local level for students with disabilities. It is our hope that CASE can assist in being your springboard to excellence.

To be a CASE member you do have to pay for membership in CEC and CASE. Depending on which level you choose, that could be as little as \$135 for the Basic including CASE and CEC membership, which breaks down to \$60 CASE and \$75 for CEC. No matter which level you choose, your CEC membership will provide you with information to broaden your knowledge and keep you current, open discourse to stimulate your thinking in the CECCommunity, connections to expand your relationships through Special Interest Divisions and state/provincial unit membership, and paths to advance your career and practice.

To renew or join your membership please go to the following website for the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC): <https://www.cec.sped.org/>

- Click on Membership and join CEC
- Add CASE on as a division

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

Please note there are district memberships which can offer discounts if you have 5 or more district staff that wish to join their professional organization.

Contact customer service at 1-888-232-7733 or service@cec.sped.org for assistance or additional information.

Contact Dr. Rosalind Hall, President for additional information regarding your membership in Florida CASE: rosalind.hall@levyk12.org

District Spotlight



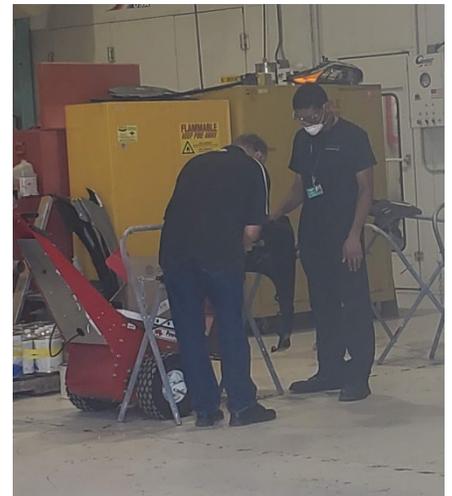
DCPS/FSCJ Extended Transition Program



The DCPS/FSCJ (Duval County Public Schools/Florida State College of Jacksonville) Extended Transition Program is a post-secondary option for students in DCPS who meet eligibility requirements and choose to defer their diploma. Students who are accepted into this program work to earn levels of certification in chosen career paths through the partnership of DCPS and FSCJ.

The DCPS/FSCJ Extended Transition Program provides college opportunities for students who would not otherwise consider themselves “college material” due to academic, social and/or financial barriers. The program provides assistance and support from a network of DCPS teachers, FSCJ instructors, community agencies, and peers. Students in this program do not walk their journey alone. Transition from high school to college is tough for everyone. In addition to the support services offered to all students, participants in this program receive dedicated support from full-time, on site, certified ESE instructors and a Job Developer. They receive additional instruction in Social Skills, Life Skills, Communication, Academic Remediation, and Employment Readiness. Students are provided differentiated levels of support based on their individual needs as documented in their Individualized Education Plans.

One of our students who is enrolled in the rigorous HVAC program, entered with limited English Skills. Through weekly staff meetings and daily teacher monitoring, the team identified language, communication, academic, and cultural barriers. Subsequently, the student was provided extra work time with a tutor who spoke his native language and Vocational Rehabilitation provided an interpreter during classroom instruction. As a result of this partnership, the student is successfully working towards HVAC certification.



Automotive Collision

Our program includes students with diverse disabilities. When students meet the eligibility criteria, all that is required is dedication, hard work, and perseverance. With this level of commitment our program is experiencing continued growth. We currently have 17 students seeking Technical Certificates, Career Certificates, or Continuing Workforce Certificates. Students are currently working on certification in the following areas: Automotive Technology, HVAC, Computer Programming, Welding, Allied Health, Cosmetology, Massage Therapy, and Office Management.

Previously, many ESE students stood on the sidelines, while their peers were accepted into college. They were left without a dream of a future that could provide them a meaningful career and gainful employment. Students and families often commented about the inaccessibility of college and the college experience. Some students simply did not feel “smart enough”. The DCPS/FSCJ Extended Transition Program is working to make the inaccessible accessible to all students.

Congratulations Dr. Landis Stetler Scholarship Recipients!

We are extremely excited to have awarded to the following recipients a \$3,000 scholarship to further support their educational goals.



Lauren Paolillo attends Florida State College at Jacksonville and is currently majoring in Early Childhood Education. She is expected to receive her Bachelor of Science in Education in the fall of 2021 and plans to go on to teach in an ESE position. She has worked for two years at Wildlight Elementary in Nassau County and worked as a paraprofessional in an amazing ESE room. In addition to completing her degree, working full time as an ESE paraprofessional, Lauren is also the mother to three small children. It is an honor to award the scholarship to such a hardworking individual.

Henry Nathanael attends the University of North Florida and is pursuing his Master's in Education. He will receive his degree in April 2021. He is currently working as a student assistant for the THRIVE program at UNF, which is housed in the Disability Resource Center and provides supplemental resources to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder who are seeking a degree. As a staff member for THRIVE, he meets with students every week to ensure that they are succeeding academically, mentally, and socially. As a mentor to those students, he assists them in achieving their personal goals by helping them access necessary resources. Henry would eventually like to become a behavior analyst to provide further guidance to students with disabilities. We wish you well and it's an honor to provide you with the scholarship to achieve those goals.



Lexie Clair is attending Troy University and is currently working on her Bachelor's in Rehabilitation with a minor in ABA. She will receive that degree in May 2021 and plans to go on to earn her Master's in Speech Pathology. Lexie chose the exceptional student education field because she wants to make a difference in children's lives. Children who can't sometimes help themselves and who need people in their lives to encourage and lead them to be successful in whatever they are choosing to do. In high school she volunteered to work with those in the ESE program and learned many things about working with SWD. It was at that time that she discovered that working with students with a disability is what she wanted to do in life. "All students

deserve to be given an equal chance in life and earning an education, regardless of their disability. I want to help all students, not just those who are convenient or easy to work with." Congratulations Lexie and we applaud your dedication to SWD and hope that this scholarship brings you even closer to your goals.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

- Nelson Mandela





Supporting Children's Mental Health in Schools

Message from our Florida Department of Education, Chancellor K-12, Mr. Jacob Oliva

Greetings to Florida CASE Board of Directors and Members,

First and Foremost, thank you for your continued support to our students and families during these unprecedented times. Providing mental health services are critical to our students success in school and in their respective communities. Educators and mental health providers across the country have been asked to fill many roles during this pandemic and you have done so with compassion, flexibility and resiliency. While doing so, it is also important that you take care of yourself; Self care is essential.

Governor Ron Desantis, Commissioner of Education, Richard Corcoran and Florida Department of Education are committed to supporting mental health services to our students. Beginning in 2018-19 SY, 69.2 million dollars were allocated; 2019-2020, 75 million; 2020-2021, 10 million and for the 2021-2022 SY, 110 million budget is being recommended to the Governor to continue providing much needed services. In addition, CARES Act allocation provided school districts with funding to increase mental health services and access to telehealth services in all learning environments.

I commend our educators, student services personnel and community based partners in working collaboratively in support of our students and families.

I look forward to our continued work with energy, passion and commitment!

Kind regards,

Jacob Oliva



CASE Legislative Updates

It is that time of year when much is happening in the Florida Legislature. This year, there are several bills before the house and the senate that I will be following closely. I will share more about those bills below.

SB 48- Educational Scholarship Programs –

Looks to merge McKay and Gardiner Scholarships to become the McKay-Gardiner Scholarship and merges the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship with the Family Empowerment Scholarship. The merging would create an education savings account and would allow a parent to choose from public or private options to best meet the needs of their students. Families of students in public, private or home school, would be eligible to apply for the scholarship. There would be an increase in program awards for the McKay-Gardiner program. This is a very lengthy bill with a lot of information. It appears to have support at this time from the Senate Education Committee.



HB 225/SB 580 – Dyslexia – Would require mandatory Dyslexia screening for all students – grades K-3 and subsequent diagnosis. It also establishes a Dyslexia Task Force and would develop a statewide assessment for Dyslexia. In addition, there is language regarding Home Education.

SB 1228 – Education – This would require a district to have remote operation of public schools for 180 days or an hourly equivalent.

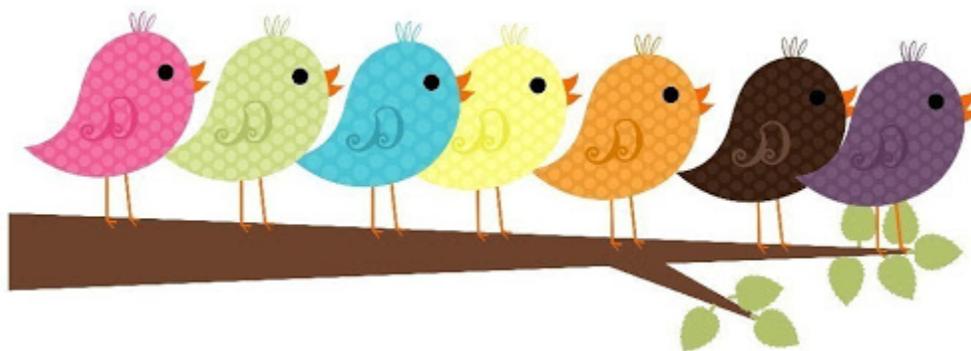
As additional bills are submitted, I will be sure to keep you informed.

The first Florida SEALS (Special Education Advocacy Legislative Summit) took place on February 23, 25 and 27. The sessions provided participants with information about the legislative process, how to advocate and be involved, and highlighted four issues of interest to Florida. Those topics included, Restraint and Seclusion, Corporal Punishment, Diversity in the Workforce and Improving Equitable Outcomes in the Least Restrictive Environment. All sessions were recorded and will be available on the Florida CEC website <https://sites.google.com/site/cecspeflorida/advocacy> the first week of March. Each session is 1 hour in length.

Let's make sure our voices are heard.

-Lynne Mowatt, Legislative Chair

-Lynne Mowatt, Legislative Chair





Here For You, Always.

Family Network on Disabilities (FND) was founded in 1985 by families of children with disabilities looking for more and better opportunities for their children’s care and education. Since then, our family centered-focus and our commitment to give parents in the community the opportunity to use knowledge and experience to help others. That’s why we understand first-hand the challenges that families may face when it’s time for their children to begin school. We believe that collaboration is essential in achieving our work together.

FND holds the three Parent Training & Information Center across Florida which are discretionary projects of the US Department of Education. We are also the Family to Family Health Information Center a statewide discretionary project of HRSA in the US Department of Health. We provide information, resources, training, and one-on-one support to families and professionals across Florida FREE of charge. Our parent trainers are parents themselves, this adds the invaluable component of having walked the walk and the ability to share with others their experiences.

When a student is diagnosed with a disability, parents may not know where to turn. We are here for families and as a part of our commitment, we actively seek for those families so we can be their lifeline to a better tomorrow through individual support delivered in a convenient way to them. “Families have a seat at the table” is the motto that shapes and guides our work, with a clear understanding that all children have the right to grow to the maximum of their abilities to lead their own lives.

We understand it takes a village, and you are a part of that village as a local education agency. We cannot do it without you, and that’s why we want to invite you to be a part of the exciting path of giving families a voice to become active participants, as they work in collaboration with the school system to make the best possible choices for students with disabilities.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us for individual support to families in your community. We offer as well training and workshops for parents and professionals.

FND@FNDUSA.ORG

FNDUSA.ORG

(800) 825-5736



FND at AMM



FND at EASE conference



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 3 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 2022 Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute as well as the recognition of their peers at the Florida CASE Summer Virtual 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 5 to 20 years. A person who demonstrates consistent, 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 2022 Florida CASE Summer Leadership 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 20 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 2022 Florida CASE Summer Leadership Institute, National CASE or National CEC Conference and recognition at the Florida CASE Summer Virtual 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 **Kimberly Edwards @ edwarkf@bay.k12.fl.us** no later than **April 23, 2021**. Nomination form is found on the next page of this newsletter.



FLORIDA CASE AWARD NOMINATION FORM



Date of Submission: _____

(PLEASE CHECK ONE)

- Rookie Special Education Administrator (Less than 3 yrs.) Outstanding Special Education Administrator (5-20 yrs. in the field) Life Time Achievement Award (20 yrs. or more)

NOMINEE:		Nominated by:	
Email:		Email:	
Telephone #:		Telephone #:	
Years of Experience:			

Include a narrative describing each of the following areas. Request a vita of the nominee. Note: The vita is a separate document. Please include two letters of support from other individuals which support your nomination.

Professional Memberships and Activities

Please attach a page with this information.

Innovation and Contributions to Special Education/CASE

Please attach a page with this information.

Impact of Administrator Preparation and/or Quality of Services to Exceptional Children

Please attach a page with this information.

Additional Education Related and/or Community

Please attach a page with this information.

RETURN FORM and accompanying documentation via email to

Kimberly Edwards @ edwarkf@bay.k12.fl.us

Deadline for submission April 23, 2021.

Winners will be announced at the CASE Summer Leadership Virtual Institute



CASE Board Positions

The Florida CASE Board of Directors is calling for nominations for the office of Treasurer and Membership Chair. The candidate seeking the treasurer office must have served on the CASE Board at least 1 term and fulfilled all their roles and responsibilities during that term in another capacity to have an understanding of the inner workings of the board or CASE members may be eligible to run for those positions with demonstrated knowledge in the area being sought, either through job related experience or working on other professional boards in similar roles. Please review the details below and consider nominating yourself or a colleague. A two (2) year commitment commence on July 1, 2021. All officers of the Board must be a National CEC/CASE member in good standing.

Membership Chair:

1. Maintain an active record of members.
2. Maintain an active program for the recruitment of new members.
3. Increase awareness for the organization.

Treasurer:

1. Be custodian of the funds of the organization.
2. Disburse money for expenses incurred.
3. Submit a treasurer's report at all Board meetings

Please email nominations to Barbara Johns, CASE secretary at bjohnse27@gmail.com



Recognizing Our Achievers!

Your Board would like to recognize our members for their accomplishments throughout the year. If you receive an award, promotion, special recognition etc...Please send me the information along with a picture so that you can be highlighted in the upcoming newsletter. We take great pleasure in honoring you!!





National Council for Exceptional Children Virtual Conference

Welcome to CEC L.I.V.E.



Join us on March 8-13 for CEC's Learning Interactive Virtual Event (L.I.V.E.), featuring 700+ on-demand sessions, 3 keynote presentations, 30 live mainstage sessions, 400 poster videos, a series of pre-conference workshops, and more.

From the comfort and convenience of your home with reduced registration rates and flexible scheduling, CEC L.I.V.E. will bring you:

- **Keynote Speakers**

- Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:00-7:30PM **Dr. Tyrone C. Howard**
 - Dr. Howard is considered one of the premier experts on educational equity and access in the country.
- Friday, March 12, 2021 5:15-6:15PM **Dr. Adam Saenz**
 - Dr. Adam Saenz will deliver an inspirational message that will include personal excerpts from his life, recently published books and experiences.
- Saturday, March 13, 2021 11:15AM-12:45PM **Dan and Samuel Habib**
 - Samuel and Dan Habib will share a short preview of their new work-in-progress film, and discuss how they have tried to build a culture of inclusion in their family, school district, and community.

- 30 live interactive sessions
- More than 700 pre-recorded sessions
- 400 poster videos, 150+ Teacher Slam presentations, and 40+ Research Data Blitz sessions
- Series of pre-conference workshops
- Technology Playground presenting Technology Demonstrations, Technology Implementation, and Make N' Take sessions
- All the FUN you expect from CEC Central and the Expo Hall, including prizes, drawings, swag, games, and more!

Taking Care of Yourself is Paramount!

Take Care of Your Mind

- Do your Favorite Thing, whatever that may be, at least three times a week.
- Read a book, write in a journal, or learn the lyrics to a song you love.
- Go to a museum or historical site.

Take Care of Your Body

- Spend time outdoors, soak up the sun and go for a long walk.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Drink a lot of water. Most people don't drink as much water as their bodies need.



Take Care of Your Spirit

- Laugh.
- Engage in random acts of kindness and altruism.
- Mediate or pray.



**FALL IN LOVE
WITH TAKING
CARE OF YOURSELF.
MIND-BODY-SPIRIT**

Save the Date

April 12-14, 2021

FDCDT "Visions" Conference
Lake Buena Vista
Virtual Platform

May 5-7, 2021

Healthy Minds/Healthy Future –
Sponsored by Florida APSE
Virtual Platform

June 7-9, 2021

Florida CASE Summer Institute
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa,
Bonita Springs
Hybrid Platform

June 9-10, 2021

ISRD Summer Institute
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa,
Bonita Springs
Face to Face

2021 CASE Summer Leadership Virtual Institute



Building Blocks to Leadership

June 7-9, 2021



When

Monday, June 7, 2021 at 8:30 AM

to

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 12:00 PM

[Add to Calendar](#)

Where

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa
5001 Coconut Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34134



[Driving Directions](#)

Contact

Dr. Rosalind Hall, President
Florida CASE
rosalind.hall@levyk12.org

Michael D. Green, Jr, President Elect
Florida CASE
michael.green@bakerk12.org

2021 Florida CASE Summer Leadership Hybrid Institute "Building Blocks to Leadership"



Dear Colleagues,

The Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education would like to invite you to our upcoming Summer Leadership Virtual Institute, which will be held on June 7-9, 2021. Our theme this year is "Building Blocks of Leadership". We do hope that you will be able to join us either **Virtually** or **Face to Face**. It will be a fun filled time with great presenters that will include Dr. Terrance Scott, Dr. Dominique Smith and Julie J. Weatherly, Esq.

[Register Now!](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the contact information below. Please note that registration is non-refundable.

We look forward to seeing you at our event.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rosalind Hall, President & Michael D. Green, Jr., President Elect

Florida CASE

rosalind.hall@levyk12.org or michael.green@bakerk12.org

352-486-5240 or 904-259-6251