

March 2016 Newsletter

CASE Board of Directors

President- *Dr. Rosalind Hall*

President Elect- *Cathy Dofka*

Past President- Vacant

Secretary- *Catie McRae*

Treasurer- *Debra Giacalone*

Membership-

Sandy Chambers- Collins

Professional Development-

Dr. Poinsetta Tillman

Legislation and Bylaws-

Dr. Drew Andrews

Member at Large-

Ramona Patrick

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FLORIDA CASE CONNECTIONS



GREETINGS FLORIDA CASE MEMBERS!

Spring is in the air! This is the time of the year when the azaleas and dogwoods begin 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.

Please Join Me In Welcoming Our New CASE

Members:

John Davis, Senior Director- Orange County Public Schools

Bradley Martin, Assist. Principal- Orange County Public Schools

Susan Leach, Director of ESE/SS- Duval County Public Schools

Tiffany Thames, ESE Coordinator, PKY Lab School

Deirdre Wright, Polk County Public Schools

We are so delighted that you have joined your professional organization!

Florida CASE Connections

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A visit with Senator Gardiner



Mark your calendar
for the 14th Annual
CASE Legislative
Summit

July 10-13, 2016

Washington, DC

We would love to
have you join us!

CEES "ON THE HILL" IN TALLAHASSEE

The newly organized Committee for Education of Exceptional Students held its Legislative Training on February 1st in the Bloxson Building. A special thank you to Catie McRae, CASE Secretary (retired FDLRS Administrator) and Ms Beth Williams, FDLRS Administrator for hosting our training. Dr. Rosalind Hall, Dr. Poinsetta Tillman, Valerie Scott, and Gayle Zavala representing FCEC facilitated the meeting. We began our morning with a very nice breakfast. There were twenty-six (26) actively engaged participants that included members from Florida Association of School Social Workers, Florida Educators of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Florida Gifted Network, Division on Career Development and Transition, Orange County Public School District, Florida CEC Sarasota Chapter and our special guest, Eric Caruso, a Doctoral Student from Florida State University and your CASE Board. The participants collectively made over 25 visits to members of the Senate and/or House of Representatives or their legislative staff. A beautiful bound CEES Platform was given to each respective office visited.

The agenda included presentations from Bureau of Exceptional Education Student Services (BEESS), Ms Renee Jenkins who provided an overview the latest and greatest information in the area of Special Education, Mr. Mark Eggers, DOE Finance Department; and Sean Freeman Federal Grants (IDEA). A review of the Bills and a focus was given to SB 672 "Educational Options." The highlight of our training was the presentation provided by Senator Bill Montford. Senator Montford placed great emphasis on being vigilant and the importance of having conversations with your legislators. Senator Montford stated that he has always had great respect for special educators and that it is imperative that we "step up" and let our voices be heard!



2nd Annual CASE/FASSA/FOIL Collaborative Meeting

The second annual CASE/FASSA/FOIL Collaborative Meeting took place at the Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs Hotel on February 25-26, 2016. This year's theme was "**Reinventing Special Education.**" There were approximately 200 participants in attendance. **Dr. Monica– Verra Tirado**, Bureau Chief (Exceptional Education and Student Services) emphasized equity and excellence for ALL students, from preschool to post-school. **Dr. Joanne Cashman**, Director of the IDEA Partnership at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE); **Dr. Luann Purcell**, Executive Director of National CASE; and **Dr. Robyn Hansen**, President of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) facilitated the session on Leading by Convening – A Blueprint for Authentic Engagement. Leading by Convening entails:

- * Meeting people where they are on a particular issue.
- * Bringing people together to build support for addressing the issue.
- * Convening stakeholders to discover why this is important and how it will improve practice.
- * Translating complex challenges into ways that individuals can contribute.
- * Helping people lead regardless of role, position or title.
- * Creating new knowledge together.
- * Solving complex issues that need the various perspectives/aspects that contribute to problems/solutions.
- * Building a personal commitment to working in this way because we believe inclusive work is better and more sustainable work.
- * Cultivating the habit of collaboration.
- * Integrating collaboration into the identity of the group and the individual.



CASE/FASSA/FOIL Collaborative Meeting continues...

Sheryl Sandvoss, Executive Director of the Florida Inclusion Network, presented information during the breakout sessions, on Best Practices in Inclusive Education, and shared data by district on least restrictive environment (LRE);

Dr. T.S. Grant, Baltimore, Maryland Educator, delivered an amazing keynote speech that reminded us all that we can be the one to make a difference in the lives of the students we work with every day. Despite the odds against him as a young child, he stands successful today. In the words of Dr. Grant, “Everybody needs to be on deck in order to positively affect the lives of children.” He alluded to the power of a network of educators. Everyone is needed to reinvent special education. Education is an art. The classroom must mold the educator. What you get in the classroom cannot be found in a book. He challenged us to invest in restorative justice practices and not as a way to avoid conflict; to teach nuances to our teachers; to extoll empathy as a principle rule; and to use our networks in order to motivate students. The best practice, is to make it happen for all students.

Hershel Lyons, Chancellor of K-12 Public Schools, shared his expectation to move our most vulnerable students; and challenged us to join in meeting this expectation. He suggested that students, families, and educators work collaboratively in order to create the best environment for all students.

Overall, the collaborative meeting was a huge success. The following vendors provided their support through sponsorships and exhibits: Destination Knowledge, Presence Learning, Rethink First, TeachTown, Achieve 3000, Carnegie Learning, BrightBytes, PCG, NPR, Performance Matters and SEAS. A huge thank you to our Discretionary Projects; FIN, FDLRS, SEDNET and Project 10 for your support! We received a great deal of positive feedback from the participants in attendance. Florida CASE looks forward to continued collaboration throughout the state, and to seeing the tangible impact this collaboration will have on our students.



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Leadership
Quotes that
depict Kathy

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

~ John Quincy

Adams

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”

~John C. Maxwell

“The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.”

~ Ray Kroc



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IN HONOR OF KATHY BLACK
ESE AND STUDENT SERVICES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SCHOOL BOARD OF ALACHUA
COUNTY



Thank you for the 42 years of service to students with disabilities and their families. Your integrity and dedication is admirable. You will soon be embarking upon a new journey and exceptional chapter in your life.

We love you!

K- Kindness

A- Advocate

T- Transparent

H- Humble

Y- **Yearn**– A desire to make a positive difference in the lives of students

B- Brave

L- Loyal

A- Approachable

C- Charismatic

K- Knowledgeable



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TAKES ACTION TO DELIVER EQUITY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The nation's special education law, the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* aims to ensure fairness in the identification, placement, and discipline of students with disabilities. Yet disparities persist. Students of color remain more likely to be identified as having a disability and face harsher discipline than their white classmates. The U.S. Department of Education took a critical step towards addressing these widespread disparities in the treatment of students of color with disabilities by issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

The U.S. Department of Education took a critical step today toward addressing widespread disparities in the treatment of students of color with disabilities, [proposing a new rule to improve equity in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#).

The nation's special education law, IDEA, aims to ensure fairness in the identification, placement, and discipline of students with disabilities. Yet disparities persist, and students of color remain more likely to be identified as having a disability and face harsher discipline than their white classmates.

In order to address those inequities, IDEA requires states to identify districts with "significant disproportionality" in special education—that is, when districts identify, place outside the regular classroom, or discipline children from any racial or ethnic group at markedly higher rates than their peers. According to a [new analysis by the Department](#) of data states submitted under IDEA, hundreds of districts around the country with large racial and ethnic disparities go unidentified. For example, 876 school districts gave African American students with disabilities short-term, out-of-school suspensions at least twice as often as all other students with disabilities for three years in a row. But, in 2013, states identified fewer than 500 districts in total with "significant disproportionality."

"We have a moral and a civil rights obligation to ensure that all students, with and without disabilities, are provided the tools they need to succeed, regardless of background," said Acting U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King Jr. "IDEA exists for the purpose of ensuring that students get the unique services they need, and we owe it to them and to ourselves to uphold all of the law's provisions."

CONTINUES... U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TAKES ACTION TO DELIVER EQUITY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



"That's what 'My Brother's Keeper' is all about. Helping more of our young people stay on track. Providing the support they need to think more broadly about their future. Building on what works – when it works, in those critical life-changing moments."

- *President Barack Obama, February 27, 2014*

"At its core, My Brother's Keeper is about making sure all of our kids know they matter and have a clear pathway to achieve their dreams, regardless of where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born," said Broderick Johnson, cabinet secretary and chair of the My Brother's Keeper Task Force. "Today's Equity in IDEA announcement brings us a critical step forward in closing the startling opportunity gaps that limit far too many of our children's potential."

The proposed Equity in IDEA rule would, for the first time, require states to implement a standard approach to compare racial and ethnic groups, with reasonable thresholds for determining when disparities have become significant. That determination is critical to ensuring students get the supports they need and deserve. Once identified as having a significant disproportionality, the district must set aside 15 percent of its IDEA, Part B funds to provide comprehensive coordinated early intervening services. Further, the policies, practices, and procedures of the district must be reviewed, and, if necessary, revised to ensure compliance with IDEA.

As you are aware, Florida Department of Education has been proactive in monitoring disproportionality since the 2010-11 school year and will continue to provide guidance and resources in this area.



Florida CASE 19th Annual Summer Leadership Institute

Date: June 13-15, 2016

*“Rejuvenating Our Leaders to Provide
Excellence and Equity for Every Student Every Day”*

Hotel Location:

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa

5001 Coconut Rd, Bonita Springs, FL

1-888-421-1442

(Rooms \$159 per night)

Please visit our website for additional accommodations options

www.flocase.org

Conference Registration:

National Member - \$275

Florida CASE Member - \$325

Non-Member - \$375

Registration: www.flocase.org

Institute for Small and Rural Districts (ISR D)- Registration forthcoming

June 15 (PM) - 16

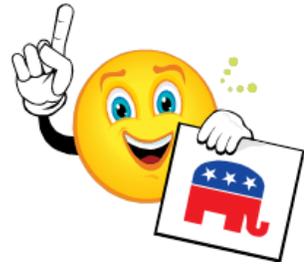


We look forward to seeing you!





CASE BOARD POSITIONS



The Florida CASE Board of Directors is calling for nominations for the office of President– Elect, Professional Development, and (2) Member-at-Large Positions. Please review the details below and consider nominating yourself or a colleague:

President-elect (6-year commitment, commence on July 1, 2016; 2 year as president-elect, 2 years as president, 2 year as past-president. Responsibilities: The President-elect will serve on committees assigned by the President. Serve in the President’s place and with the president’s authority in the case of the President’s absence and shall be responsible for all committees. Keep current on all decisions and activities, coordinate and ensure that the Annual Unit Report and the Strategic Plan are complete.

Professional Development Chair-(2-year commitment commence on July 1, 2016).

Responsibilities: Promote leadership skills within the organization and encourage the utilization of members’ leadership potentials and advise on conference programs and professional development activities.

Member at Large- (2 year commitment commence on July 1, 2016) Procurement of vendors, Newsletter Editor; a minimum of four (4) per fiscal year, Landis Stetler Scholarship, ensure website is current, Oversee on-site registration for conferences, provide other services as determined by Officers/Board of Directors. * **Two Positions Available***

Candidate Qualifications: All officers of the Board must be National CEC/CASE members in good standing.

Please email nominations to Catie McRae, CASE secretary at



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!!

DR. ROSALIND A. HALL, PRESIDENT FLORIDA CASE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please visit our website at www.flocase.org

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier.” ~ Roy E. Disney

