



## *GREETINGS FLORIDA CASE MEMBERS,*

*Fall is in the air! Take time to sit and watch the leaves turn into an array of colors; enjoying it's bliss!*



## PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING OUR NEW FLORIDA CASE MEMBERS:

**Sandy Akree**- FDLRS Galaxy Director, St. Lucie

**Tricia Frame**, FDLRS East Director, Brevard County

**Tony Bright**, Nova Southeastern University

**Deborah Ganquezza**, Logger's Run Middle School

**Lynn Harris**- FDLRS Emerald Coast Coordinator, Escambia

Roderick Jones

Julie Kelsay, Citrus County Schools

Elizabeth McBride, Collier County Schools

Ruth Ann Musgrove, West Palm Beach Schools

Jovan Remberst, West Park Prep School, Director

Gail Roberts, ESE Director Duval County Schools

Diane Taylor, ESE Director, Polk County

Kareem Thompson, Assistant Principal, Palm Beach Schools

Michelle Villwock

Jing Zhou, Alphine Academy, Orange County

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

Please visit our website at [www.flocase.org](http://www.flocase.org) where you will find a wealth  
of information 😊



## COALITION OF EDUCATION OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS (CEES)

On Thursday, October 16, 2014, Valerie Scott, Legislation and By-Laws Chairperson and I attended the annual meeting of the Coalition for Education of Exceptional Children (CEES) in Orlando. CEES is a coalition of parent and professional organizations who share a common concern for improving educational opportunities for exceptional students in the State of Florida. Florida CASE is a very active member of this coalition.

During this meeting the CEES attendees began to developed the 2015 Legislative Platform. This document will guide our presentations during meetings with State Legislators at the Capitol in Tallahassee during the spring 2015 Legislative session. Thank you to our members that provided Valerie input for the committee to consider.

Some of the areas of focus for CEES 2015 are:

- Funding
- Safe Learning Environment
- Accountability
- Access and Equality

- Professional Development
- State and local student assessments

Once the 2015 Legislative Platform is finalized, it will be disseminated to our members via e-mail.

If you are a member of another organization and would like to financially support the work that CEES provides in being a voice in legislation that has a direct impact on our students with disabilities and Gifted or would like additional information, please contact at Diane Johnson [dianej99@gmail.com](mailto:dianej99@gmail.com) . Diane is a CEC member and our CEC/CASE Liaison.



**DR. LANDIS M. STETLER**

## **EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**

In honor of Dr. Landis Stetler, Florida first ESE Bureau Chief, I had the honor of recognizing and awarding on behalf of our organization, two (2) deserving college students who is pursuing a graduate degree in the area of special education at the Florida

Council of Exceptional Children Conference. A \$3,000 educational scholarship was awarded to both recipients.

Our first recipient is **Karin Hunt**, a graduate student at University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Fl. majoring in Exceptional Student Education with an Autism concentration.

**Karin states** “I want to take a couple moments to say, "thank you".The past year has been a whirlwind. In the fall of 2013 I started working on my Master's Degree in Exceptional Student Education with a concentration in Autism. I quit my job to come back to school and have been working on my education with full force. Coming to the end of my time as a Graduate Student has ultimately become the beginning of my involvement and a higher level of commitment. It is an honor to have been awarded the Dr. Landis M. Stetler scholarship, and is no accident it occurred during my last term as a Graduate Student; it is a catalyst for constant and continued growth and knowledge. In the name of Dr. Landis M. Stetler, I will continue to earn what has been bestowed. This was more than a scholarship; this was a 'life-changer'. I have been exposed to a different level of possibility and necessity for change: policy and leadership. I will continue to devote myself to helping children and families who have diverse and struggling learners. I will step forward and work to educate others and myself on policies, programs, and supports. I will commit myself to more than what I see in the classroom, to what expands around this state, country, and globe. I will be proactive in the process of change. Learning knows no boundaries; and therefore, nor will my ambition. With the sincerest of appreciation and gratitude.”  
Karen.

**Lisa Jester**- 2014 recipient who renewed her application and met criteria for continued support. Lisa is a graduate student at University Central Florida, Orlando, Fl. Lisa's major is Executive Educational Leadership and plans to work in an ESE position in a Florida school district. Lisa currently works at the district level in Orange County as a Transition Specialist and coordinates the High School/High Tech program. Lisa

states “Dr. Hall, Thank you and CASE for bestowing this incredible honor upon me. I will be a good steward of this scholarship and aspire to become a leader for exceptional students that CASE can be proud of” Sincerely, Lisa Jester

I had the opportunity to talk with each of the ladies and without a doubt; they are committed to educating and empowering our students with disabilities, coupled with being a voice on behalf of our students and families. Join me in congratulating our fine young educators! They are making a difference in the lives of our children.

## 2014 FLORIDA COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN 68<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE



“GLOBAL COLLABORATION, ONE VISION, ONE WORLD,  
TOGETHER WE CAN.”

I had the opportunity to attend several sessions in the area of transition for students with disabilities. As we are aware the new diploma options that when into effect July 1, 2014( 6A-1.09963) as a result of SB 850 was a hot topic, along with post- secondary education options for students with disabilities 18-22 years and older (see attachments, compliments of a colleague). It was shared that several college campuses across the state provide such programs for our most significant cognitive disabilities. It is my understanding that there is current legislation being

discussed that would require all of our colleges to provide such programs. You are encouraged to contact your local legislator and voice your opinion on this rule. Let your voice be heard! Do not delay, share your voice today.



## FLORIDA COUNCIL OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

CEC Subdivision Units who have earned at least 80% of the points will receive the President's award for their respective unit. FCEC presents the President's Award annually to recognize CEC units in the state for actions that support the mission and Goals of the Council for Exceptional Children. The areas of focus are as follows:

**Collegiality and Networking Activities**

**Grass Roots Advocacy Activities**

**Professional Development Activities**

**Communication Activities**

**AND THE WINNERS ARE...**

Julie Bush, Suncoast, Chapter 176- Largo and St. Pete

Kareem Thompson, Chapter 200- Palm Beach

Ken Campbell, Florida Chapter of Behavioral Disorders

Elizabeth Lewis, Chapter 296- Sunset, Sarasota and Manatee

Dr. Don DeVito, Chapter 1024 Gatorland, Gainesville

CatieMacRae, Chapter 311- Big Bend, Tallahassee

Dr. Rosalind Hall, Florida CASE President



**FLORIDA CASE**  
**2015 EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SUMMER**  
**LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

**Please mark your calendar for June 8-10 at Embassy Suites  
Resort and Spa Deerfield, Florida.**

**Thank you for responding to the survey. As a result, the  
following topics had the most interest:**



**We will work diligently to include the above topics in our  
Summer Institute☺**

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

“There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when it's convenient. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.”

~Kenneth Blanchard

Best Regards,

**DR. ROSALIND HALL, PRESIDENT FLORIDA CASE**