March 26, 2020

Dear Friends,

Bill, Mary Ruth and I reconnected by phone today to assess where we are regarding the State of the Profession initiative (SOTP). (thank you CEC for the conference line!)

At the same time, we recognize how very busy you are with the federal issues surrounding provision of IDEA and resources for special education during this unprecedented pandemic. We respect that other issues must be taking priority right now. We also want to underscore how proud we are to be part of CEC and to see the organization’s efforts to keep teachers informed, to provide temporary membership, and to read the active engagement of members through the online forum.

Our meeting in Portland to discuss next steps with SOTP seems another life ago. We want to briefly return to that conversation and to offer our assistance in moving forward when the time is right. We think that there may be three ways to continue to carry the message of SOTP into the next convention.

1. We discussed *adding a strand that would focus on infusing culturally responsive/respectful practices into our profession* (especially related to behavior management, discipline, family engagement, etc). Mary Ruth has recommended Cathy Kea, who was one of our participants at the CEC session and who has been very active in infusing cultural responsiveness into teacher preparation and into daily teaching practices. You indicated an interest in this strand and Cathy is prepared to assist and lead.

2. We believe that many proposals submitted to CEC are likely to address the 6 major messages derived from the SOTP (see attachment). Once proposals have gone through the usual vetting process, we recommend *identifying with an icon* those that address one or more of the 6 major messages from SOTP. This can assist attendees who would like to learn how the field is implementing practices that teachers identified as most important to their success. We are happy to volunteer our time in any way to assist with this effort.

3. Only if one of the 6 messages is missed or very under represented, would we suggest that the conference chairs *invite 2 or 3 sessions* to address the message. Again, we would be happy to help but also recognize you have a structure in place.

At this point, we have provided CEC HQ with a power point for units and others to use to discuss the SOTP (when life returns to normal) and have made suggestions about infographics. If we’ve missed anything, just let us know. We too are “working” from home and have time to volunteer if/as needed.

Thank you again for the support and interest in the State of the Profession. We were so excited at the convention to hear panelists discuss how they were implementing information from the study to improve practices. We’re so happy to be part of your “unofficial team”.

Susan, Mary Ruth and Bill

Six major messages:

* Fostering Greater Collaboration and Connectiveness between General and Special Education to Enhance Success for All Students
* Building Capacity to Work with Students and Families from Culturally and Linguistically Different Populations
* Creating the Infrastructure Needed to Support Successful Special Education Interventions
* Addressing the Essential Role of the IEP and Providing the Resources Needed for Planning and Implementing
* Celebrating the Confidence and Competence of Special Educators in Addressing Student Learning
* Advancing the knowledge of administrators to support successful implementation of inclusive and practices and support for all teachers