

PIONEERS PRESS



**CEC Pioneers
Division**

Special Education Convention & Expo

Orlando | Jan 16-19



Dr. Alba A. Ortiz

**Romaine P. Mackie Award
Winner**

Dr. Alba Ortiz

Dr. Ortiz was the first Hispanic President of CEC and had a distinguished career at the University of Texas, Austin and made many contributions to bilingual education.

A Message from the President



Thank you for your membership in the Pioneers Division of CEC! I hope all is well as life emerges from the pandemic restrictions.

The Board has been very busy working on your behalf as you will discover throughout this newsletter. A few highlights to share:

- We are in good financial standing (see Treasurer's Report, p. 5).
- Our current membership has remained steady during the past year (see Membership Chair Report, p. 5).
- Planning has begun for the annual CEC Convention to be held in Orlando (see President Elect Report, p. 3).
- Efforts to re-imagine the Pioneers Division mentoring program has begun with the hope to have new program activities before the year-end (see Mentoring Program Chair Report, p. 3).
- The Pioneers Division has been working closely with

the Division of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners to create a new webinar series (see Professional Development Chair Report, p. 3).

- The Pioneers have been in conversation with CEC about the best way to manage Courtesy Resolutions (see Courtesy Resolutions Chair Report, p. 6).

The Pioneers has been actively involved helping CEC plan the 100th anniversary celebration. If you are able, please consider attending the CEC convention in-person in January 16-19, 2022 in Orlando or the CEC virtual convention online February 1-4, 2022. The convention will feature a number of historical and celebratory events including a special luncheon on Monday, January 17. Special thanks to Diane Johnson and Candace Borger for leading these efforts on behalf of the Pioneers.

Also in this newsletter, three special opportunities for you to become more involved:

- Call for nominations for the Romaine P. Mackie Award (see p. 10).
- Call for participation in the Pioneers Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) (see p. 4).
- Pioneers President Book Club, July 15 (see p. 7)

Finally, I am pleased to report that we have had a good response to the Pioneers President Book Club. In May we met and discussed the book, *Evicted* by Matthew Desmond. In June we met and discussed the book, *Stamped From the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi. Participants have reported that they have enjoyed the safe space for talking about important issues associated with root causes of inequity. See p. 7 for information about the next session of the virtual Book Club that will be held on July 15 when we discuss *Robot-Proof* and the future of education in a world of robots and automation that threaten to alter work as we currently know it. I hope you will consider joining us!

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

Dave

Questions?

- General questions about the Pioneers can be directed to [President Dave Edyburn](#)
- Membership questions can be directed to [Membership Committee Chair: Mickie Wong-Lo](#)
- Questions about the 2022 Convention Program can be directed to [President Elect Candace Borger](#)

President-Elect Report
Candace Borger

The President-Elect continues to chair monthly meetings of the Professional Development Committee; to serve on the Program Advisory Committee; to participate as a member of the Pioneers History Work Group; and to represent the Pioneers along with our President on IDC.

Professional Development Committee

The Pioneers and DDEL are interested in continuing their partnership and committee members have provided input in the creation of a draft template for a series of webinars with DDEL including the logistics for the zoom sessions. The sessions will focus on family engagement of students who are racially and linguistically different and are being designed to be both practical and relevant and to include a strong interactive component. The proposal was endorsed at our June Board meeting and has been sent to DDEL for their review.

Further opportunities to promote the findings of The State of the Profession Survey are being explored including possible partnerships with other Divisions.

A committee member along with a Board member and myself have been attending and would highly recommend the President’s Book Club with President Dave Edyburn. Our first Book Club was held on May 13th on Evicted while the second was held on June 10th Stamped From the Beginning. The Book Club is stimulating and fun and a member benefit for the Pioneers. Interested members are encouraged to register. You won’t be disappointed!

History Work Group

A work group comprised of Canadian CEC leaders is being established to collect and prepare informational documents highlighting Canada’s history in collaboration with the Pioneer’s Historian. An action plan and framework for our work is being prepared and will be shared with work group members in a zoom meeting later in June. Our goal is to complete a report by the end of September.

Program Advisory Committee

Preliminary program planning is underway for the 2022 Convention. A Showcase session is in the early planning stages and will focus on Legacy and Leadership: where we came from, where are we now and where are we headed. Collaborative proposals are being explored with other Divisions as well for possible program submissions with a June 18th deadline. Proposals are in the process of being reviewed and the PAC committee will be meeting again in early July to plan the program. Consideration will be given to selecting proposals and planning events for the Virtual Convention which will held February 1st to February 4th.



Pioneers Advocacy Survey

Lisa Dieker, Coordinator of the Pioneers Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) invites all members to complete a [brief 4-item survey](#) concerning your interests and priorities for federal advocacy on policy topics:

Your responses will help shape our collective advocacy concerning important issues in the profession. Thank you!

By Laws Committee Update

The Bylaws Committee had a busy year. The Committee (thanks to Mike Weinroth, Jim Chapple, Kathy Puckett and Julie Good) and the Pioneers Division Executive Board did an outstanding job of revising the 2016 version of the Constitution and Bylaws and prepared the document to be sent out to the Pioneers Division general membership for a vote. As of March 2021, the revised Bylaws have been approved. The Pioneers Division Board of Directors extends their sincere thanks to the membership who actively engaged in voting for the revision to the Pioneers Division Bylaws. The final vote was 59-0 to approve the changes. This vote represented over 25% of the membership of this Division. Thank you for your participation. Our work is not over yet. The Bylaws Committee will be planning to update the massive Handbook for our Division. Ours plans are to consolidate and simplify the document to make it more user friendly. We will keep you informed as we move forward.

Best wishes for a safe and pleasant summer. What a year it has been. I look forward to and I am very hopeful for a more normalized fall.

Joan McDonald, Chairperson

Report from Work Group on Review of CEC/PD Mentoring Program

The number of mentees has decreased significantly since the CEC/PD Mentor program's inception in 2007. Early on, the program included over 100 mentees. Based on evaluations and the decline in numbers, perhaps the virtual mentoring program as originally designed is no longer viewed as a need by mentees. However, it is our belief that mentoring can still be an effective way to support students and teachers when done in person.

In May, Pioneer Division President, Dave Edyburn, appointed a work group to study the PD mentoring program and develop a plan for a new direction for the program.

A zoom meeting was held on 5/26/21 with the following work group members present: Dave Edyburn, Bill Bogdan, Joan McDonald, Mike Thew and Jamie Hopkins. After reviewing the history and current mission and goals of the CEC/PD Mentoring Program we decided that mentoring continues to be an important factor in supporting special educators.

The initial goals were outlined:

- To serve as a mentor to CEC unit leaders who wish to develop a mentoring program.
- To provide information to CEC unit leaders about how to develop mentoring programs.
- To provide resources to CEC unit leaders regarding effective mentoring.

Additional updates will be provided as the work group continues its work. Ideally, a pilot program will be launched in September. Please contact me if you would like additional information.

Jamie Hopkins, Chairperson

Treasurer’s Report



Cash on Hand as of June 2, 2021

Checking Account	\$ 6,262.34
Savings Account	\$23,050.21
Certificate	\$10,681.09
Total	\$39,993.64

As of June 2021, we have 229 members. Keep recruiting!

Accounts Payable

CEC HQ - \$100 for free Pioneer memberships for the winners of convention raffle. Paid on June 4, 2021 – but will be reflected on next months totals.

Accounts Receivable

Previously, CEC HQ maintained a \$2,000 hold-back of Pioneers Fund. The purpose of this is lost in history. The Chief Financial Officer from CEC determined that this hold-back should be transferred to the Pioneers checking account. Therefore our current bank balance reflects this \$2,000 transfer and the CEC hold-back will no longer be reflected on the Treasurer’s reports.

CEC Artifacts

As always as you begin your “summer cleaning”, remember that some of those great mementoes that you no longer feel need a special place in your home or office, may be a missing piece of CEC history that can find a home in the historical files. If you find programs, newsletters, photos, ribbons, special letters, awards, publications please contact us before sending those items to the recycle bin.

Lorraine McPherson, Treasurer



From Special Education Today

[Why Now Is the Perfect Time to Solve the Special Education Teacher Shortage](#)

[Check out these great resources from the CEC Resource Library!](#)

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

June 2021

BACKGROUND

In November 2020, the Representative Assembly (RA) Committee recommended the CEC Board of Directors amend the Bylaws to remove the RA's responsibility for honors recognition, i.e., the presentation of Courtesy Resolutions. This was recommended so that more RA meeting time could be devoted to discussing issues facing CEC and the field. The BOD accepted this recommendation and because the change would require an amendment to the CEC Bylaws, sent the proposal to the membership for review. The Pioneers Division submitted rationale to the CEC President as to why Courtesy Resolutions should remain a part of the organization. Individual Pioneers Board members also sent responses with the same message.

In January 2021, after the closure of the comment period, the BOD acted on the proposed Bylaws amendment and approved a motion removing the honors recognition responsibility from the RA.

Upon receiving notification of this action, the Pioneers President contacted the CEC Executive Director to discuss ways in which Courtesy Resolutions might remain a part of the honors program of CEC. With the removal of the responsibility for honors recognition from the RA, there was no longer any current reference to Courtesy Resolutions within The Council's Bylaws and Policies. Courtesy Resolutions had been a part of CEC since its inception with the first one bestowed in 1934 honoring the founder and first President of The Council, Elizabeth Farrell.

A Zoom conference was scheduled with the CEC Executive Director, the CEC Director of Governance, the Pioneers President, and the Pioneers Resolutions Committee Chair to further the discussion. The CEC Executive Director explained that the BOD action was not done to eliminate continuing such recognition by Courtesy Resolutions. Other ways needed to be explored to make the recognition. In addition, CEC felt that further clarification was necessary regarding the difference between the intent of the Courtesy Resolution and the CEC Lifetime Achievement Award (formerly the Wallin Award) and the Outstanding CEC Leadership Award. The Courtesy Resolution requirements were seen as being too similar to these two CEC Awards.

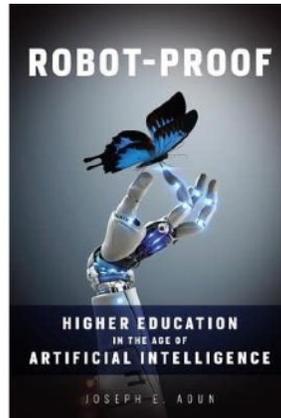
The Pioneers Division was invited to prepare a proposal for consideration by the BOD concerning the continuation of Courtesy Resolutions. The Pioneers Division accepted the invitation, and a proposal was prepared stating the differences; citing specific criteria for the Resolution; changing the name of the Resolution to Honors Recognition; and suggesting several bodies that might assume the responsibility for the selection process.

The Pioneers proposal has been reviewed by CEC and additional information concerning some of the recommendations made by the Pioneers Division was requested concerning quality indicators and a more detailed explanation regarding the differences in awards and the Resolution. The Resolutions Committee and the Pioneers Board are working together to prepare a response providing the additional information requested in order to preserve sustaining some type of Resolution honoring CEC members who have made significant and ongoing contributions to the special education field **and** to CEC at all levels over a life-long career.

Pioneers President's Book Club – July Selection
July 15, 2021, 2:00 – 3:15 ET (US and Canada)

Pioneers President Dave Edyburn is hosting a book club. The purpose is to provide Pioneer members and friends with an opportunity to gather virtually to discuss contemporary books relevant for inclusive education leaders. The first four books examine profound issues associated with root causes of social justice inequity.

The July Selection is *Robot-Proof: Higher Education in the Age of Artificial Intelligence* by Joseph Aoun. Read more about the book from [Goodreads](#).



Ordering Information

- from your favorite local bookseller (it may already be in-stock)
- [from Amazon](#)
- or, check it out from your local library.

Why I Selected this Book: As leaders in inclusive education, we should be aware of current issues and trends. One issue of significant interest to futurists involves the future of work. Or perhaps we should say, the future of not-working. This book describes the convergence of trends related to robots and automation that will reduce the workforce as we now know it. In *Robot-Proof*, author Joseph Aoun, President of Northeastern University in Boston, MA, outlines the responsibility of higher education to consider the future where many of our graduates are being prepared for jobs that will be replaced. I think this book is an important discussion starter for educators at all levels about the future of humans and machines and what this means for preparing students to live in a society where most knowledge is digital and actionable (e.g., computational knowledge).

Book Club Registration via Zoom: The July meeting of the Pioneers President's Book Club will be held July 15, 2021, 2:00 – 3:15 pm ET. There is no cost to participate but you must [pre-register to receive the Zoom invitation](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Additional Readings

- [Humanics: A way to 'robot-proof' your career?](#)
- [How to Be Robot-Proof](#)

Pioneers 2021 Board Members

The following individuals serve on the 2021 Pioneers Board of Directors. To email any board member, write to us at: cecpioneers@gmail.com

Officers

- President:** Dave Edyburn
- President Elect:** Candace Borger
- Immediate Past President:** Emily Collins
- Secretary:** Kim Moffett
- Treasurer:** Lorraine McPherson

Committee Chairs

Awards & Honors Committee:

Gloria Taradash

Communications Committee:

Clinton Smith

Constitution and Bylaws:

Joan McDonald

Courtesy Resolutions Committee:

Pamela Gillet

Finance Committee:

Lorraine McPherson

Membership Committee:

Mickie Wong-Lo

Nominations & Elections Committee:

Emily Collins

Political Advocacy Committee (CAN):

Lisa Dieker

Professional Development Committee:

Candace Borger

Other-Voting Members

Coordinator, CEC-PD Mentoring Program:

Jamie Hopkins

Historian:

Diane Johnson

Other Non-Voting Members

Representative to Knowledge & Skills Committee:

Parthenia Cogdell

Representative to Project 2020:

Mary Ruth Coleman



Pioneers Calendar

CEC 2022 Session Building
July 5 thru July 30

July Board Meeting
July 14, 2021 4:00 – 5:30 pm ET

Pioneers President's Book Club
July 15, 2021, 2:00 – 3:15 pm ET

Pioneers President's Book Club August
12, 2021, 4:00 – 5:15 pm ET

Mid-August
Submitters notified CEC 2022 decisions

CEC Convention (in-person), Orlando
January 16-19, 2022

CEC Convention (virtual)
February 1-4, 2022



[Check out these resources for Cultural Diversity from CEC](#)

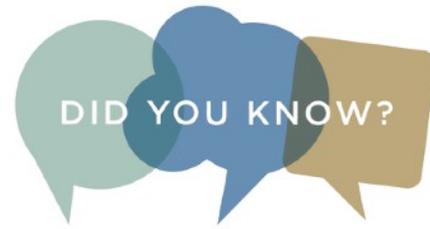
PD Historian Report

Much of the work this year has revolved around the CEC-PD Work Group on the CEC History. It was noted that CEC doesn't have a written history collected in a single document covering its happenings since 1980. There is a written history of 5 chapters that covers the period from the founding in 1922 until 1979 published in *Exceptional Children*. CEC-PD was asked to take on the task of filling this history gap and the PD Work Group was formed consisting of Susan Fowler, Parthenia Cogdell, Emily Collins, Dave Edyburn, Candace Borger, and myself as contact person. Undaunted at completing this task during a Pandemic which meant limited access to original documents and materials, with a true "pioneering" spirit, the work began with the goal of having initial information in place for the CEC 100th anniversary celebration.

A topical framework that reflects the CEC founding and current guiding principles of: (1) Professional Standards, (2) Governmental Relations/Advocacy, (3) Instructional and Curriculum Practices, (4) International Engagement, (5) Diversity, (6) Technology, (7) CEC Membership and Structure, and (8) Professional Development was used to organize the historical events and content. Focus groups were held, team leaders for the topic areas were identified, a general call for assistance was sent to PD members, and the work was underway. A working Timeline of CEC's 100 years is unfolding and highlights will be selected to update the existing CEC Milestones.

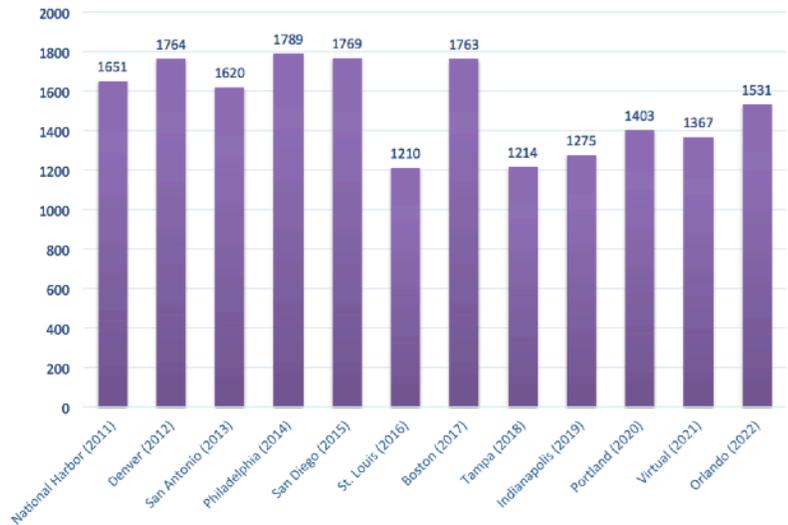
Special thanks to all who have volunteered assistance to the work group in multiple ways, your contributions are greatly appreciated. We look forward to sharing this work and watching it continue to grow.

Diane Johnson, Historian



Proposals Submitted

CEC Convention & Expo from 2011 – 2022



From CEC Policy Insider

- [CEC Endorses Legislation to End Corporal Punishment in Schools](#)
- [Department of Education Announces Summer Learning and Enrichment Collaborative](#)
- [Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Addresses School Discipline](#)
- [President Biden Releases Full Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Proposal](#)

The Pioneers Division of CEC is pleased to present a call for nominations for the Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award for 2021. Honor your colleagues who have made significant contributions to the field. Acknowledge their dedication and success in the field by a nomination for this prestigious award.

PURPOSE: The Romaine P. Mackie Award is to honor an Outstanding professional who has demonstrated leadership in CEC and other organizations for an extensive period of time in various areas within the field: service delivery; teacher education and professional development; research; policy; assessment; publications. The individual should be nominated by someone who is familiar with the nature and quality of his/her work and who can speak to the nominee's character.

The Award is named for Romaine P. Mackie who was a U.S. Commissioner of Education, a devout supporter of special education in the early years, and an active member of CEC who promoted the mission of CEC in all of her work.

Nomination Materials Include:

- Completed Nomination Form (below)
- Letter of nomination
- Brief vitae or resume of the nominee
- At least two (2) letters of support (no more than four (4) please)

Nomination Form

Nominee Name _____ Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____ Telephone Number _____

CEC Membership Number _____

Nominator Name _____ Nominator Unit _____

Nominator Email _____

The brief vita or resume for the individual nominated should include educational background, employment history, length of service, special projects undertaken, awards received, and other information which will assist the Awards Committee in making a decision.

All nominations and materials must be received by **November 15, 2021**.

Submit your nomination packet electronically to: gтарadash@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

Dr. Gloria Taradash
Awards and Honors Committee Chair
26 Cedar Hill Place NE
Albuquerque, NM 87122

Preserving CEC’s History

The June Jordan Fund was established in 1994, by the Pioneers Division in honor of June Jordan who was a former CEC staff member. June was instrumental in providing the leadership and support for establishing the Pioneers Division. In addition, she led CEC in the collection of documents and other types of information of historical significance to CEC and the field of special education.

The official title of the fund is “**The June Jordan ‘I have a Dream’ Memorial Fund**”. The purpose of the fund is to support CEC in maintaining the Archives and history of the Council. The Archives are maintained by a CEC Archivist who holds a non-voting position on the CEC-PD Board. The Fund is supported by direct contributions to the Fund. These funds are then allocated for expenditures to support the expansion and maintenance of the CEC Archives.

In the past, the support for the CEC Archives consisted of providing dollars from the June Jordan Fund to purchase supplies needed by the CEC Archivist, and to provide assistance to the Archivist by other members of the Pioneers Division in preparing and in placing materials in the CEC Archives. It is hoped that the plan developed by the History Initiative Work Group will provide additional opportunities to share, as well as, preserve the history of CEC and CEC-PD.

Please consider donating to the June Jordan Fund using the form below to assist with this important activity.

The June Jordan “I Have a Dream” Memorial Fund Contribution Form

Mail contributions to: Lorraine McPherson, 4850 W Kay T Drive, Tucson, AZ 85745

My contribution to the June Jordan Fund is \$_____.

Name: _____ **Phone/email:** _____

Address: _____

Street
City
State/Province
Zip/Postal Code

Indicate if your contribution is in memory/honor of:

Please provide name and address for acknowledgment card:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street
City
State/Province
ZipPostal Code

Please make checks payable to the Pioneers Division of the Council for Exceptional Children and attach to this form.

Thank You!