



MISSISSIPPI

in partnership with the

Mississippi Department of Education

2021 Virtual Conference Program

Welcome from Mississippi CEC



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Jennifer L. Boykin, Ed.D.
President



On behalf of the Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children, I would like to welcome you to the Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children (MS-CEC) 2021 Annual Conference. We are honored to present this year's conference in partnership with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). In addition, our friends at the North Mississippi Education Consortium (NMEC) have made this virtual event possible with their expertise and innovation.

This year's slate of presenters brings a wealth of knowledge to the field and will provide you with incredible opportunities to grow your knowledge base and skills to better serve ALL children in Mississippi. We are excited to learn alongside you during the conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend each of you for your dedication and perseverance during a year of tremendous change and uncertainty. You have been the constant in children's lives when everything around them seemed turbulent. Never underestimate the incredible impact you have on children and families. Your hard work, determination, and relentless pursuit of excellence will have an impact on children, communities, and our state for generations to come.

On behalf of the entire MS-CEC Board, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for the work you do day in and day out. We believe in you. Press on toward the goal, friends, our students are more than worth it.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Boykin



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Welcome from MDE



Office of Special Education
Robin Lemonis, M.Ed., LDT, CALT
State Director



Perseverance!

On behalf of the Mississippi Department of Education I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 2021 Annual Conference. We are excited to partner with the Council for Exceptional Children to provide this outstanding opportunity to our special educators.

The conference sessions are designed to advance and extend your knowledge of available resources and supports to improve outcomes for ALL children.

This past year has been an exceptionally difficult year for our families, our administrators, our students, and our teachers. I want to thank you all for going above and beyond to ensure the continued success and the social and emotional well-being of the students and families you serve. You are without a doubt, the true heroes! You have proved that you possess the compassion, the expertise, the knowledge, and the desire to positively impact and change the future for our children. Although you have encountered many challenges along the way, you have persevered!

Teach them no matter where they are, teach them the way that they learn, support all their dreams, believe they can accomplish anything, and the possibilities will always be limitless for your students regardless of the obstacles.

Sincerely,

Robin Lemonis

2021 Virtual Conference Program

MS CEC 2021 Executive Board



Mark Yeager, Past-President

Dr. Mark Yeager has been in service to people with autism spectrum disorders and other intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1975. His experiences range from being a classroom teacher to program developer creating new and innovative community-based programs. Dr. Yeager is considered the foremost authority on autism spectrum disorders in the State of Mississippi. He has dedicated his professional career to advocacy and leadership in this field. His contributions are not limited to Mississippi. He is the author of the Autism Bill of Rights. This document guides the service delivery system outlining the obligations we all have in serving individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

Dr. Yeager earned his Doctoral Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. He both developed and taught the first classes solely dedicated to the topic of autism spectrum disorders at any Mississippi institution of higher learning. His teachings are greatly sought after and include a lecture series provided to the Minister of Education of India as well as a guest lecturer in England. In addition to his many lecture offerings and presentations, Dr. Yeager is well published in several languages and consults with schools, universities and other autism programs across the United States.

Dr. Yeager is currently the Department Chair for Special Education at William Carey University. He also serves as the Executive Director of TEAAM Autism. TEAAM Autism's main offices are located at The Center Ridge Outpost, the organizations adventure base camp that is the home of one-of-a-kind adventure-based programs of which Dr. Yeager is the Founder.



Jennifer Boykin, President

Jennifer L. Boykin, Ed. D. is Project Manager and Special Supports Lead for Bailey Education Group where her areas of expertise include special education, social emotional learning, Multitiered Systems of Support (MTSS), classroom management and behavior, policy and procedure, and early childhood. In addition, she is Adjunct Professor of Education at William Carey University where she teaches graduate level education courses and supervises alternate route interns in the field. She began her career as a special education teacher for elementary students with moderate to severe disabilities and has taught students with mild to moderate disabilities at the middle school level. She began her educational leadership experience as Special Education Case Manager and Section 504 Coordinator. Most recently, she served as Director of Special Services for Pearl Public School District for 6 years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Education from Millsaps College and her Specialist and Doctorate in Education from William Carey University.

She values involvement in vocational organizations as a vehicle for continuous professional improvement. As such, she currently serves as President for the Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children and President Emeritus of the Mississippi Council for Administrators of Special Education (MS-CASE). She is a member of Crossgates Baptist Church where she is a member of the Crossgates Praise Team and Worship Choir. She lives in Pearl, Mississippi with her husband, Justin, and their two children.



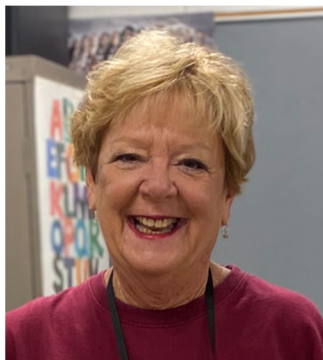
Julie Etheridge, President-Elect

Julie Etheridge is the Director of Special Services for the Walthall County School District in Tylertown Mississippi. She earned a bachelor's degree in special education, mild/moderate disabilities from University of Southern Mississippi in December of 1991 with 12 emphasis hours through the University Affiliated Programs (now the Institute for Disabilities Studies) in early intervention. Julie began working in January 1992 for the Covington County School District where she planned and implemented the special education preschool program for the county and then served as the teacher of the first Developmentally Delayed classroom at Collins Elementary School. She earned her

master's degree from USM in special education, severe/profound disabilities in 1992, and began her career in the Walthall County School District in 1993. Julie served as a special education teacher for community-based preschool, homebound/hospital, and first grade resource and self-contained. She served as Case Manager for Special Services before earning administrator licensure and becoming Director of Special Services in 2012.

Julie currently serves in her community as a Youth Intervention Court team member and a Coalition for Healthy Adolescent Programs and Services (CHAPS) team member and former president. She is a member of Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE) and the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE). Additionally, she is currently serving on the Special Education Teacher Shortages Workgroup partnering with MDE, CEEDAR, and other directors across the state to support the retention and recruitment of quality special education teachers in Mississippi.

Vice-President - Vacant



Carol Ann Franklin, Treasurer

Carol Ann Franklin presently teaches special education in the Clinton Public School District where she has been employed since 1975. She received her undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University in 1975, and her Master's degree from Mississippi State in 1978. She earned National Board Certification in the area of Exceptional Needs in 2000. She was recognized as Teacher of the Year at Clinton Junior High School in 2003 and 2015. Carol Ann has been a member of CEC for numerous years and has held the office of treasurer for the past six years.



Gretchen Cagle, Secretary

Gretchen Cagle serves as the Special Education Head Coach for Bailey Education Group. She has 25 years of experience in the field of special education including serving as the State Director of Special Education for the Mississippi Department of Education. She began her career teaching students with significant disabilities at Hudspeth Regional Center in Whitfield. She attended the acclaimed Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in Nashville where she worked as a graduate assistant and research assistant on a Peer Buddy research project and was published as a result of her contributions to the project. Upon completion of her master's degree in special education for students with severe disabilities, she worked in the field of assistive

technology and augmentative communication as the regional representative for the Prentke Romich company and as the Assistive Technology Unit (ATU) Facilitator at Hudspeth Regional Center. She left Hudspeth's ATU to become the director of training for Parent Partners, a non-profit organization that oversaw the parent training and information center

grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. There she worked with parents of students with disabilities, training on the principles of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and advocacy techniques to use in working with school districts. During this time, she completed coursework to obtain a license in psychometry and went to work for the Rankin County School District as assistant director of special education. Her duties included working with the statewide assessment system, running the extended school year program, conflict resolution, and a variety of other administrative functions. After eight years with Rankin County, she was selected as an Educator in Residence in the Office of Student Assessment at Mississippi Department of Education prior to her appointment as State Director of Special Education.



Bobby Richardson, CEC Divisions Coordinator/CAN Coordinator

Bobby Richardson is an Office Director in the Office of Special Education at the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). Mr. Richardson has over twenty years of experience educating and advocating for today's youth through service as a general education teacher, a special education teacher, and through his work at the State Department of Education.

Prior to joining the MDE in 2014, Bobby spent 14 years working in elementary, middle, and high school. He has taught resource, inclusion, self-contained, and general education reading. He has worked as a transition coordinator and a General Education Development (GED)

Options Coordinator to prepare at-risk high school students for the GED. Bobby has also worked at the district level as the teacher of incarcerated youth, homebound instructor, intervention specialist/district support team co-chair, and special education program coordinator. Bobby has a master's degree in Education Leadership and Administration.

Bobby continues to lead with passion and integrity. He is currently involved in the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) Coordinator for the state of MS, Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE), Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) – Assessment, Standards, & Education for Students with Disabilities (ASES) Steering Committee Member, the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT), the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI), the Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, & Reform (CEEDAR) Teaching and Leading Solutions Group (TLSG) – Educator Recruitment and Retention Committee, and the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) 1% Community of Practice Workgroup.

Debbie Hubbert, Membership, Grants and Awards Coordinator

Mrs. Hubbert earned her Master of Education from Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. She received certifications in numerous areas of Special Education in the state of Georgia, Ohio, and Mississippi. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL. As a Special Education teacher, she has proven her skills in the classroom as a valuable instructor; her success is evident in the repeated progress she accomplishes in working with children of various rulings.





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Featured Speaker and Keynote Speakers

Featured Speaker – Gerry Brooks

Gerry Brooks has been an educator for 25 years, beginning as a third-grade teacher in Palm Bay, FL. He earned his master's in administration and has been an elementary principal for 15 years. Originally using humorous videos to encourage his staff, Gerry has become a national encourager for teachers through social media and speaking events. He is a voice for teachers, but his passion is leading others to be responsible for their own personal climate and culture in the workplace. His book, "Go See the Principal," outlines strategies for taking on this responsibility. Gerry and his wife, Kelly, have 3 adult children and live in Lexington, KY.



Keynote Speaker – Chuck Benigno



Chuck Benigno is currently an associate professor at William Carey University. Prior to this position, Dr. Benigno was the superintendent of the Laurel Schools and has also served as vice president for Student Services at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and principal of North Forrest High School and West Jones Middle School.

He has been named Who's Who Among American Teachers, Coach of the Year and was the 2014 Mississippi "Superintendent of the Year". Dr. Benigno was a participant in the Project Zero Classroom at Harvard University and is the author of *Teaching: Excellence or Survival?* He has served as a motivational speaker for schools and corporations across the Southeast and he also serves as the Executive Director for PREPS.

Keynote Speaker – Dwight Owens

They say if you want to make God smile, tell him you have a plan. Dwight's plan was to live his dream; teach math and coach football; and build a comfortable life for himself. Fate had other things in store for him.

In 2005, at the age of 23, Dwight was in a horrible car accident. A 72-year-old drunk driver crashed into Dwight's vehicle, and his life was changed forever. Dwight had broken bones, punctured lungs, a broken back, a severed spinal cord, and a life time of paralysis ahead of him. He is permanently paralyzed from the waist down. In fact, Dwight coded immediately after the accident and the doctors gave him no chance to survive. But survive he did, and what could have become a life of depression, self-pity, and bitterness has instead transformed into one of uplifting courage, self-reliance, and forgiveness. After surviving life support and an entire year in the hospital, Dwight even found the strength to forgive the driver and helped to reduce his sentence. He found the courage to turn tragedy into triumph, and he has become a motivational speaker sought after throughout Mississippi and beyond.



Dwight takes service seriously. He speaks at high schools & colleges throughout the U.S on his personalized campaign or tour called "Before You Drink, Think Dwight," where he brings awareness to alcohol and substance abuse. Dwight has inspired countless thousands, and no doubt saved many lives. He often speaks at jails, before groups of people with disabilities, at schools and municipal gathers, and before rehab groups. He is big on helping others with self-empowerment or value, mentorship, giving hope where needed, teaching leadership, forgiveness, suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, and helping others realize their own greatness. Dwight is also an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Specialist. He proudly helps companies to implement ADA. They welcome his wisdom and knowledge, and he counsels them on what they need to do to be compliant. He is well known in the disability community as a disability advocate. As a result of Dwight's service, many people with disabilities are active, productive members of their communities. Says Dwight: "There are no guaranties in life, and it can change on a dime. All I know is that you have to face things head on, put them in the best possible light, and help others every chance you get."

Because of Dwight's service, in 2010 he was selected for a "Spirit of Service" Award, hosted by Al Roker. In 2011 and in 2017, he was given the Cabot Community Celebrity award. Each above of those awards are national awards given annually for people that excel in volunteer service. In recent years, he has received numerous local and national awards for his service.

Dwight remains active nationally on the speaking circuit. He is also known for his inspirational memoir, "*Still Standing*." The book has inspired and given hope to many people. Dwight also writes a weekly blog for empowerment. In addition, he continues to be a disability advocate and more. Twelve years ago, Dwight married Tamika, the love of his life, and the couple had their first child, Brailey Samara Owens, on 12/12/12. Dwight says, "God has a plan for all of us, and we all have challenges to face. He also gives us the strength and resources to overcome those challenges."

You can learn more about Dwight and his ongoing journey at www.StillStandingWithDwight.com.

~ Thank You ~

The Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children would like to thank each of the sponsors for the 2021 Virtual Conference. We appreciate all that you do for our children with disabilities and those that provide services and supports to these amazing children!

Bailey Education Group

Canopy Children's Solutions

eLuma Online Therapy Services

Education Materials Specialists, Inc.

The Excellence Group

Kurzweil Education

Performance Based Education Company

PresenceLearning

Public Consulting Group (ED Plan)

Quality Behavioral Solutions

Rosemont Consulting Services

Special Education Automation Software

SpedTrack

Monarch Teaching Technologies (Vizzle)

William Carey University

2021 Virtual Conference Program

Session Descriptions & Presenters

Featured Session – *Thursday, March 4 ~ 4:00-6:00*

Personal Climate and Culture ... It's Up to You

Presenter: Gerry Brooks

Gerry uses his videos to develop a strategy for making the workplace a pleasant place where faculty, administrators, and support staff all maintain mutual respect, regardless of personal differences, resulting in more efficient and fulfilled workers.

Keynotes – *Friday, March 5 ~ 8:30-9:45*

Keynote A - Teaching...A Game of Inches

Presenter: Chuck Beningo

"*Teaching...A Game of Inches*" is filled with music, educational research, short video clips and real-world scenarios that is designed to celebrate teachers and to challenge them to continue to fight for the needs of all children. This high-energy presentation has been shared with thousands of teachers and focuses on the importance of teaching with passion and empathy. Most importantly, teachers will leave this presentation with several tips to remind them that it's the little things that make all the difference.

Keynote B - *H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Pursue Excellence)*

Presenter: Dwight Owens

Educators, what you do Matters! This pandemic has put a wrench into the plans for many of us. It's altered the way we do things, but there is HOPE for our educators and our students. Your purpose remains intact.

Realizing that educators need encouragement too, H.O.P.E is a motivational platform designed to show educator appreciation in a unique, uplifting way. This session will deliver motivation and empowerment for our beloved special educators and beyond. It will show educators how to pursue excellence in and outside of the classroom, despite an ongoing pandemic.

H.O.P.E will be delivered by Dwight Owens, a former Special Educator whose career was cut short after being hit by a drunk driver on the way to school in 2005. Despite being physically paralyzed as a result of the accident, Dwight turned tragedy to triumph and has been nationally recognized as a disability advocate and motivational speaker. Be prepared to be inspired, learn, laugh, and even cry.

Concurrent Sessions 1 – *Friday, March 5 ~ 10:00-10:50*

Session 1A - Supporting Directors of Special Education: Defendable Decisions – Manifestation Determinations and Implementing Behavior Plans

Presenter: Dr. Sarah Seabrook

Dr. Seabrook will discuss and provide examples of defending Manifestation Determination decisions. Manifestation Determinations are not based on preconceived ideas about specific disabilities, such as stealing cannot be a manifestation of a SLD student's disability. Manifestation Determinations are often litigated, and advocates and parents press that the misbehavior was a manifestation of the student's disability. Implementing Behavior Plans, progress monitoring data collection and data driven revisions of behavior plans will be discussed with Dr. Seabrook. This session will provide examples and opportunities for questions and discussion. She will provide information gathered from her experiences in Mississippi schools providing therapy to students and implementing behavior plans.

Session 1B - Vizzle: Online Learning for Students with Special Needs

Presenter: Missy Tatum, LOTR, ATP

Vizzle is an online learning technology specifically designed for learners with special needs. It has a library of over 15,000 standards-based lessons for PreK-12th grade that teachers can assign to students to address IEP goals/objectives or specific skills. Automatic reporting and data collection make progress monitoring a snap. Vizzle also provides the ability for teachers to customize the program to meet student needs, preferences and accommodations. Built in reinforcers and end-of-lesson games keep students engaged. This session will provide an overview of Vizzle.

Session 1C - Inclusive Strategies to Transform Teaching

Presenter: Christy Hunt

During this session participants will analyze the Professional Growth System (PGS) Teacher Rubric and Special Education Teacher Rubric to identify inclusive strategies that supports all learners in an inclusive environment.

Session 1D - Creative Tech Ideas You Could Try Tomorrow

Presenters: Dr. Sara Platt, Clinical Assistant Professor of Special Ed & Dr. Diane Lowry, Clinical Associate Professor of Special Ed

This session will focus on no cost ideas that teachers can use in the classroom regardless of format (hybrid, virtual, or in-person instruction). Google Chrome Extensions, Google Jamboard, and Microsoft Flipgrid will be demonstrated. Google Chrome has extensions for accommodations for students with disabilities such as read aloud, audio recording and transcription. Google Jamboard is a free virtual whiteboard that could be used simultaneously with all students participating. Flipgrid allows for students to record presentations or have class discussions outside of the classroom. Classroom examples of these tools will be shared.



Concurrent Sessions 2 – *Friday, March 5 ~ 11:00-11:50*

Session 2A - What Administrators and Aspiring Administrators Need to Know

Presenters: Bonnie Granger, Phylis Campbell, and April Rice

This session includes: All things Fiscal – What you need to know; Implementing efficient procedures for setting up and managing the budget, including the procurement process; Working with the Key Players – Tips for good communication and collaboration with district and school administrators on such topics as staffing, compliance requirements, and documentation; and Maintenance of Effort – How it should work and the critical need for MSIS data and proper coding of expenditures.

Session 2B - Identifying and Closing Learning Gaps: Instructional Strategies and Supports That Work

Presenter: Tanisha Washington

As a result of the worldwide pandemic, we have seen devastating effects on student learning. Learning gaps have always been present; however, they have been intensified due to school closures and loss of traditional instructional time. This affect has an even deeper impact on our students with disabilities. In this session, we will take a deep dive into identification of specific learning gaps and focus on research-based instructional strategies and support to help close these gaps. In particular, we will engage in those instructional strategies that have been proven to work with special populations.

Session 2C - One Step at a Time: Ensuring Students with Significant Cognitive Deficits Are in Their Least Restrictive Environment

Presenters: Denise Harrison and Dr. Brittany Herrington

This session is designed to provide participants information on how to address the steps in determining a Significant Cognitive Disability (SCD) eligibility criterion and how to effectively use the SCD Determination Guidance Document from the Mississippi Department of Education. This session will discuss the importance of the most appropriate Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for students with a Significant Cognitive Disability, including graduation options and resources.

Session 2D - Number Line to 10,000,000 & Other Math Manipulatives

Presenter: Jim Franklin

Join us for a hands-on presentation by Jim Franklin, teacher of special education from Rome, GA, who invented a number line to help students to round numbers up to 10,000,000. View a variety of math manipulatives and learn differentiation strategies and tips that address the standards of fractions, decimals, money, and elapsed time, capacity, and weight.



Concurrent Sessions 3 – *Friday, March 5 ~ 12:30-1:20*

Session 3A - Supporting Special Education Directors: Navigating the Storm

Presenters: Robin Hurst and Renee McNeal

This session is designed to support special education directors in their overwhelming responsibilities of developing and designing project applications, submitting state and federal reports, overseeing purchasing and meeting state goals and standards. It will provide support for special education directors in implementing IDEA and State Policies and developing procedures for ensuring compliance, providing training for special and general education teachers to ensure appropriate programming for all students with disabilities. Effective methods such as assessment and data coaching, curriculum and instructional supports will be discussed with service delivery including virtual and onsite training, coaching, modeling, consultation and technical assistance.

Session 3B - Connecting the Dots: Strategies for Inclusive Leadership

Presenter: Christy Hunt

Mississippi educators commit to providing high-quality public education to every child. There are persistent gaps in the quality of educational opportunities available to Mississippi students creating a call to action. As students' needs become increasingly diverse, the importance of fostering inclusive learning environments continue to grow. Inclusive philosophies frame a system of accessible instruction and support that generate positive outcomes for everyone. The emphasis is systemic implementation from the district and school levels, where leadership bears strengthening inclusive practices to meet all students' needs in inclusive schools. This session will provide an overview of systemic inclusive practices, collaborative planning for systemic change, and building change around student feedback. The session will focus on strengthening inclusive practices. Participants will be given time to reflect on current knowledge and implementation in connection with the professional growth system, analyze ways to promote collective planning and shared responsibility, and discuss strategies to utilize student feedback to develop instructional practices based on individual needs.

Session 3C - Understanding Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disorders

Presenter: Selina Merrell

This session will provide participants with an overview of the characteristics of students with emotional and behavioral disorders, the impact of the adult's response on behaviors, and evidenced-based strategies and interventions.

Session 3D - Reach Me to Teach Me: Plug into the 4Cs for Learning

Presenters: Allison Oliver, Ed. S. and Christine Lewis Pugh Ed. S., LPC, NCC, NCSC

Keeping students engaged and interested in their learning can be a challenge for teachers in today's virtual or traditional classroom. In order for students to become independent thinkers and buy into the value of learning, the "4Cs" must be a part of their everyday routine. Join this session to learn about the "4Cs" for 21st Century Learning: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. The objective of this session is to learn how technology plays an important role in building these skills for students with disabilities and how teachers can integrate the 4Cs into their instructional practices with confidence.

Session 3E - Doing STEM Stuff: Including Your Students in STEM

Presenter: Dr. Jonte' (JT) Taylor

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematic (STEM) instruction provides a means for developing skills needed for independent living and increased quality of life. STEM education helps create careful consumers of information related to our everyday lives. Developing a student's STEM literacy, equips students with the background knowledge and skills to make decision whether through work or personal life. This includes students of all types regardless of strengths and challenges. This session will provide attendees with effective strategies and additional considerations (e.g., strength-based teaching, collaboration, assessment) for STEM teaching, specifically for students with disabilities.

Concurrent Sessions 4 – *Friday, March 5 ~ 1:30-2:20*

Session 4A - There's no 'I' in Inclusion: Centering Learner Voice for Justness During the UDL Implementation Process

Presenter: Hope Ratcliff

Systemic change is a daunting concept for any group or organization to confront. UDL implementation is no different. That challenge is multiplied when the people at the center of the process are not directly affected by the results. In this presentation, current systemic models of inclusion will be examined, deconstructed and rebuilt using the UDL Implementation Process as a guide with learner voices directly affected by the change as our leaders in the movement toward just educational opportunity and experience for ALL students.

Session 4B - Kurzweil 3000: Literacy Support Wherever Learning Happens

Presenter: Missy Tatum, LOTR, ATP

Kurzweil 3000 is a text-to-speech literacy technology that supports reading, writing, learning and test-taking. Students with complex learning needs can access a wide range of learning tools including talking dictionaries, highlighters, notes, graphic organizers, audible spell check, word prediction and more. Kurzweil 3000 makes all content accessible anytime, anywhere. This session will provide an overview of this comprehensive learning and literacy platform.

Session 4C - Not (Just) This, But That - Meeting the Needs of All Learners

Presenters: Dr. Courtney Berry, Jeanne Bonds, Ed. S.

How can we move beyond basic accommodations to create opportunities for students to experience deeper levels of thinking? Students with special education needs often struggle to access and engage in the classroom. Oftentimes, accommodations can reduce the rigor or fail to provide the intended access to learning. For example, for a student with lower working memory, it's not just about reducing the problems but providing the definitions. In this session of "Not (Just) This, But That...", two national presenters will provide an understanding of how to match student skills with practical classroom applications in order to enhance student learning.

Session 4D - Let's Get Techy!! Transforming Teachers' Toolbox to Optimize Instructional Time

Presenter: Meaghan Elizabeth Oliver, MBA, M.Ed.

This presentation aims to equip teachers with a collection of technologies to support student learning and increase engagement. Student engagement is critical in maximizing instructional time both traditionally and virtually. The objective of this session is to show teachers how to guide students learning by encouraging them to use technologies cognitive tools and in meaningful ways to.

Session 4E - STOP! Don't Say "THAT" in An IEP Meeting...Say "THIS" Instead

Presenters: Kathy Dickerson, Paula Cox

Join us for a fun, interactive discussion on conduction compliant and successful IEP meetings. Session will include "things" to avoid saying AND things that should be said at EVERY meeting. Very specific examples of "HOW" to share data- including placement, deficits, progress or the lack of progress, etc. – at IEP meetings. Our goal is for parent(s)/guardian(s) to leave IEP meetings "feeling" education, included, respected and empowered.

Closing Session – *Friday, March 5 ~ 2:20-3:15*

Closing Announcements, MS-CEC Business Meeting, Door Prizes

~ Special Thank You ~

The Mississippi Council for Exceptional Children would like to extend a special “Thank You” to the **North Mississippi Education Consortium** for managing the registration process, providing the technology, and offering CEUs.

Concurrent Session Presenters

Dr. Courtney Berry

Courtney Berry is a school-based administrator and collegiate faculty member. Courtney has a doctorate in Educational Studies from UNC, has consulted for a number of school districts, and presented nationally around collaboration, co-teaching, and instructional strategies for unique learners.

Jeanne Bonds, Ed. S.

Jeanne Bonds is an instructional coach and MTSS specialist at the middle school level and a collegiate faculty member. She has worked at the elementary and middle school levels. Jeanne has consulted and presented nationally on collaboration, co-teaching, data driven instruction, and literacy. Jeanne has an Ed. S. in Reading.

Phylis Campbell

Ms. Campbell has over 35 years of experience as a MS teacher, school administrator, and special education director. She has expertise in instructional leadership, instructional best practices, and special education.

Paula Cox

Paula is currently employed with Southern New Hampshire University as a Clinical Instructor. She began her career as a group therapist for children and adolescents who were at risk. She has extensive experience as a school counselor, specializing in behavior and special populations. Paula has operated a private practice since 2007, where she provides LPC supervision and counseling services to children and adults. Paula is passionate about helping students reach their goals. Paula and Kathy Dickerson have traveled with their “Hats and Magic Wands” to local, state, and national conferences and workshops for the past 15 years. They encourage all to “Be a Hero” and to Live Meaningful Lives”.

Kathy Dickerson

Kathy is the Director of Special Education for the Lee County School District in Tupelo MS. Kathy has served as a mental health counselor, special education teacher, school counselor and assistant principal. She provides private counseling and LPC supervision. Kathy has served on the Mississippi CEC Board since 2017. Kathy encourages all to “Be a Hero” in the lives of our children. Kathy and Paula Cox have traveled with their “Hats and Magic Wands” to local, state, and national conferences and workshops for the past 15 years. They encourage all to “Be a Hero” and to Live Meaningful Lives”.

Jim Franklin

I am a special education teacher at Elm Street Elementary School in Rome Georgia. During the 2011-2012 school year, I needed some new rounding strategies/interventions that had been successfully implemented by other teachers. I asked math specialists in my school and searched for ideas on the internet. Honestly there were not a whole lot of options. I only saw blocks, dry erase markers and boards, and number lines. Other than those options, paper and pencil were the last resort. I could not use a number line above the large dry erase board in my lessons because it only went to 100 and we were rounding numbers greater than 100. Although all four operations have been used for years and have had some success, I wanted math manipulatives that could make an immediate impact on educational performance and not be considered a “toy” by my students. Then I had an idea...

Bonnie Granger, CPA, J.D.

Mrs. Granger has an extensive background in school finance having served as a MS School Business manager, auditor with the Office of the State Auditor, and district consultant. Ms. Granger is licensed to practice law in MS focusing on the areas of education law, public finance, and purchasing.

Denise Harrison

Denise Harrison is a Professional Development Coordinator with the Mississippi Department of Education-Office of Special Education and University of Mississippi. She has seventeen years of experience teaching general and special education preschool and elementary students. Thirteen of those years, Denise taught students with significant cognitive deficits. Denise earned her Master of Education degree in Special Education from Arkansas State University. She received her National Board Certification in 2011. Denise is pursuing her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Special Education from the University of Mississippi.

Dr. Brittany Herrington

Dr. Brittany Herrington received her master's degree in early childhood special education and her doctoral degree in special education with an emphasis in severe/low incidence disabilities at the University of Southern Mississippi. She previously served as a classroom teacher for both pre-k and self-contained special education, and a childcare center director. During her recent employment at the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Brittany was the early childhood special education coordinator at MDE and provided technical assistance to districts and schools for their special education pre-k and significant cognitive disability elementary programming. She currently works for Realizing Excellence for ALL Children in Mississippi (REACH MS) as the Early Learning and Significant Cognitive Disability Specialist, focusing on supporting district-wide implementation of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) with SCD and early childhood populations. Brittany also adjuncts in special education for the University of Southern Mississippi.

Christy Hunt

Before starting with the University of Mississippi and Mississippi Department of Education as a professional development coordinator, Christy worked twenty years as a teacher, counselor, and advocate for individuals with disabilities. After a successful career helping students and adults with disabilities succeed in school and the workforce through the implementation of inclusive practices, now training educational leaders and teachers to integrate equity-based inclusive practices connected to improved student outcomes.

Robin Hurst

Mrs. Hurst is currently the Director of Special Education and District Test Coordinator with Marion County School District. She is a special education administrator with a wide range of expertise and experience in the field. She is skilled at managing staff and programs for the benefit of students with disabilities and their families. Her experience includes coordinating child find, developing policies and procedures pertaining to IDEA and Special Education, coordinating with outside agencies to ensure a continuum of services for students with disabilities.



Dr. Diane Lowry

Dr. Diane Lowry is a Clinical Associate Professor of Special Education at the University of Mississippi. She teaches courses in the areas of mild/moderate disabilities, gifted education, and special education law. Dr. Lowry worked as both K-12 special education teacher as well as a special education administrator.

Renee McNeal

Mrs. McNeal is currently the Director of Special Education with Attala County School District. As the director of special education for Attala County School District she is responsible for supervising the special education staff in conjunction with principals, planning and organizing the IDEA Part B and Preschool Project Applications as well as overseeing purchasing needed supplies using IDEA funding, preparing federal and state reports, ensuring appropriate programming for students with disabilities.

Selina Merrell

Selina Merrell is the Director of the State Personnel Development Grant, REACH MS. She has over 25 years' experience in the field of education. She has served as a self-contained classroom teacher, a building administrator in a therapeutic day school for adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders, and as a training and technical assistance provider in Positive Behavior Interventions and Support.

Allison Oliver, Ed. S.

Allison currently holds a specialist degree in Educational Leadership and is a Ph.D. Student at the University of Mississippi in the department of Special Education. Allison is a Positive Behavioral Specialist for DeSoto County Schools and has 15 years' experience in education. Allison has been awarded many honorariums, grants, and scholarships for her dedication, innovation, and advocacy in the field.

Meaghan Elizabeth Oliver, MBA, M. Ed.

Meaghan currently holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership and is a Graduate Student at the University of Mississippi in the department of Educational Leadership. Meaghan is a special educator and has vast experience in the field working with students from diverse backgrounds and urban areas. She is passionate about equitable rights for all students and has been awarded many honorariums for her dedication in the field.

Dr. Sara Platt

Dr. Sara Platt serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Special Education and Assistant Director of Assessment at the University of Mississippi School of Education. She teaches courses in the areas of severe disabilities, gifted education, technology, and assessment. Prior to working at the university level, Dr. Platt worked in PK-12 education as a school psychologist.

Christine Lewis Pugh Ed. S., LPC, NCC, NCSC

Christine is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Mississippi in the department of Counselor Education and Supervision. She currently holds a specialist degree in the field and is a former school counselor. Christine is a licensed professional counselor in the state of Mississippi. Christine supervises future counselors and is a published author adding to the research arena of mental health and counseling.

Hope Ratcliff

Hope Ratcliff has 14 years of experience as a public-school teacher in districts throughout Mississippi and Tennessee. She holds a Masters of Education degree in Special Education from The University of Southern Mississippi where she currently works as a Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Specialist in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Education and Mississippi's State Personnel Development Grant, REACH MS (Realizing Excellence for All Children in Mississippi) to eliminate barriers to learning by providing professional development, professional learning communities and one on one coaching to district leaders, principals, and teachers throughout northern Mississippi. She is also an adult

living and working with a physical disability that strives to empower individuals with disabilities and their families to exceed expectations and reach their fullest potential.

April Rice

Ms. Rice has over 25 years of experience as a MS educator. Formerly the Division Director for Program Evaluation and Improvement and the Division of Instructional Support for MDE, Ms. Rice is currently is serving as the Special Services Director for Biloxi School District.

Dr. Sarah Seabrook

Dr. Seabrook has twenty years of experience providing psychological services to students and children in Mississippi School Districts. She has worked for the Mississippi Department of Education as a psychologist regarding eligibility determinations and Rankin County School District as a school psychologist, conducting comprehensive evaluations and participating in eligibility determination meetings. She has worked for Rosemont Consulting Services for five years. Dr. Seabrook provides comprehensive assessments, functional behavioral assessments and behavior intervention plans, therapeutic counseling based on IEPs, training and follow up for teachers and administrators regarding behavior plans and interventions.

Missy Tatum, LOTR, ATP

Missy Tatum is a Kurzweil Education Representative for Audio Optical Systems of Austin and a Vizzle Representative for Monarch Teaching Technologies. She's been working with Audio Optical Systems and Kurzweil since 2007 and with Vizzle since 2019. Both Kurzweil 3000 and Vizzle are web-based learning tools that support students with unique learning needs. In her "previous life," Missy provided Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology Services in public schools for over 18 years and worked with diverse learners with a wide range of challenges.

Dr. Jonte' (JT) Taylor

Jonte Taylor, Ph.D., is an associate professor in Special Education at Penn State University. His work focuses on STEAM education for students with disabilities and improving schoolwide and classroom climates for students, parents, and teachers. His recent publications include meta-analytic works on science instruction for students with developmental disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder. He is currently the president of Science Education for Students with Disabilities (SESD; www.sesdinfo.org) and on leadership teams for the National Science Teaching Association, the Council for Children with Behavior Disorders, and the Council for Exceptional Children. His work has included publishing numerous peer reviewed articles and book chapters, and developing courses and professional development materials for teachers interested in science learning for students with special needs.

Tanisha Washington, Director of Educational Services

Tanisha Washington is a former elementary and middle school English Language Arts teacher with over 20 years of experience in various areas of education. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech/Language Pathology and Elementary Education from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master's degree in Elementary Education from William Carey University. She is currently working on her doctorate degree in Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Washington has served in the capacity of Academic Curriculum Coach, Curriculum Coordinator, Interventionist, School Test Coordinator, LSC Chairperson, among other titles outside the scope of regular classroom educator. Ms. Washington currently serves as Director of Educational Services for Bailey Education Group, LLC. As Director, Ms. Washington oversees all instructional support services at Bailey Education Group.