



VIRGINIA VOICE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY HOPE JORDAN

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter the holiday season, I hope that everyone is able to find some time for relaxation and fun! It seems as if this time of year is so busy and time flies by too quickly between now and the first of the year. My hope is that you will each find time to refresh and enjoy those you love.

I would like to thank the VA CEC Board, Erica Geffken, Norah Hooper, and our student support team from ODU for all their hard work on our fall 2009 conference which featured Pete Wright of Wright's Law. For those who were able to attend, thank you for your support, too. Our special Leadership Evening on October 16th was a wonderful success as we investigated the topic of teachers and leaders as advocates. During the conference on Saturday we had a great day with Pete Wright, our Awards lunch and Breakouts. The day culminated with a fabulous raffle and some great gifts including a Coach Bag!!!! We are now looking forward to seeing everyone at CEC International in April.

Again this fall, we would like to increase our membership and participation. If you can think of ways for us to get the word out about VA CEC Membership, please let us know.

Finally – our new VA CEC Research to Practice Journal (on-line) titled *Research to Practice: K12 Scholarship* will launch this spring of 2010.

There are very exciting events going on with VA CEC this year. Please keep in touch!

We are looking forward to continuing an exciting year.

Take care and keep in touch.

Hope Jordan, Ph.D.
President, VA CEC

LOOK WHAT YOU MISSED!! OCTOBER 2009 VA/CEC CONFERENCE



Pete Wright, Esq. delivers the Keynote address



The awards luncheon was a success!

“VA CEC's Annual Conference never disappoints---from outstanding keynoters, fun and practical interactive breakouts to wonderful laughter and conversation over comfort food lunches---It's always on my October 'must do' list.”

—Judy Connell
Norfolk State University



Dr. Jordan, CEC President, announces the door prizes

Anyone who missed out on this conference missed out on a great Keynote speaker!

This year, we were honored to have Pete Wright discuss the hot topics in Special Education law, and what a treat!

Pete Wright is an attorney who represents children with special educational needs. Pete's determination to help children grew out of his own educational experiences.

While attending Randolph Macon College, Pete worked in a juvenile training school as a houseparent. After graduation with a degree in Psychology, he worked in another juvenile training school as a counselor and later became a Juvenile Probation Officer in the juvenile court system. In 1972, he was honored as Virginia's "Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year". During that time, Pete was also attending evening college in a graduate psychology program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

In 1977, Pete graduated from T.C. Williams Law School at the University of Richmond.

On October 6, 1993, Pete

Gave oral argument before the United States Supreme Court in *Florence County School District Four v. Shannon Carter*, 510 U.S. 7 (1993). Thirty-four days later, the court issued a unanimous decision for Shannon Carter. (Learn more about *Florence County v. Shannon Carter*).

Pete is the co-author of *Wrightslaw: Special Education Law* (1999), *Wrightslaw: No Child Left Behind* (2003), *Wrightslaw: IDEA 2004* (2005), and *Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy, 2nd edition* (2005).

He appeared as the parent's attorney in an award-winning DVD video, *Surviving Due Process: When Parents and the School Board Disagree*—Stephen Jeffers v. School Board (2004).

Pete and his beautiful wife, Pam, are adjunct professors of Law at the William and Mary Law School where they teach a course about Special Education Law and Advocacy and assist with the Law School's Special Education Law Clinic. They are the founders of Wrightslaw, the #1 ranked website about education law, special education, law, and

Special education advocacy.

Aside from the wonderful keynote, there were amazing breakout sessions. Some of those sessions included: Sensory Motor Integration: Implications and Suggestions for Practice for the General Education Teacher in the General Education Classroom (Dr. Judith Connell); Major Stressors and Life Goals of Caregivers of Individuals with Disabilities (Dr. Sharon Raver-Lampman and Ms. Anne Michalek); The Effects of Problem Solving Strategy Instruction for Students with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome and Criteria Achievements in Math Calculations (Mr. Ronald Pannell); Digital Game Based Learning: An Empirical Validation of an On-Line Literacy Program for Elementary Title I Students (Dr. Jack Naglieri); Race, Culture, Language, and Students with Learning Disabilities. Preparing all Teachers for Global Classroom (Dr. Sunita Sharma); and Opening and Operating a School-Based Enterprise (Ms. Karen Goins).

Next year's conference is sure to fill up fast. Our keynote is to be Rick Lavoie, so don't forget!

A W A R D S

Yes, I Can Award: Angel E. Lee

Yes, I Can Award: Jack Hunter

Mary Turman Award/Grant: Cathy Semnoski

First Annual Presentation of the **Shining Star Award:** Ashlee Birckhead

For more information about any of the VA CEC awards, please see: <http://www.virginiacec.org/awards.htm>

O P E N P O S I T I O N S

Currently, the **treasurer's position, membership chair, and newsletter coordinator positions** are open. Anyone interested in volunteering with the committee should contact Dr. Hope Jordan at hopejor@regent.edu.

Do you have any "kudos" you would like to share with our members of Virginia Voice?

If you have good news you'd like to share with our members, please send it to Andrea Beam at abeam@liberty.edu no later than January 31, 2010.

S N E A K P E A K

Kristy Tinsley, Project Director and Analyst for Interactive, Inc., in Ashland, Virginia, has submitted an article to the first edition of *Research to Practice*. Be sure to read the full submission entitled "*Two-Year Statewide RTI Initiative Launched at Little Cost to the State*".

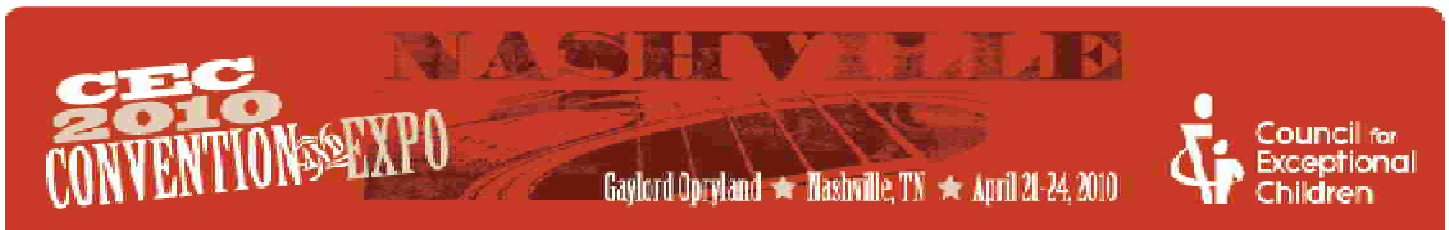
Now accepting articles for the first edition of *Research to Practice*.

If you have an article or "hot topic" that you would like included in the first edition of *Research to Practice*, please send it to Andrea Beam at abeam@liberty.edu no later than January 31, 2010.

** Any ideas/suggestions for the 2011 VA-CEC Conference should be directed to the Committee Chairperson, Andrea Beam



We're on the web! Check us out at <http://www.virginiacec.org/>



Save the Date!
CEC 2010 Convention & Expo
April 21-24 -- Nashville, Tenn.

Join us next year for the CEC Convention & Expo -- the largest professional development event dedicated to special and gifted education. There, educators from around the world will discuss the most pressing issues in the field and share information about evidence-based practices in areas such as administration and supervision; autism spectrum disorders; emotional and behavior disorders and supports; instructional strategies for math, reading, and science; response to [intervention](#); and technology. The CEC Convention & Expo offers hundreds of educational sessions conducted by leading experts and endless [opportunities](#) to network with others working with children with exceptionalities and their families. Attendees will also learn about new and pending legislation and explore cutting-edge products and services in the exhibit hall. You won't want to miss this chance to catch up on what's happening in the field, broaden your perspective of special education, and further your professional growth. The Gaylord Opryland truly embodies the spirit of "southern hospitality," making it the perfect setting for networking, learning, and relaxing at the end of the day. This will be CEC's first time in Nashville, a city known as the hub of country, bluegrass, jazz, and other types of music. The capital of Tennessee also supports a vibrant university community and is home to many historical and cultural attractions.

Registration opens Oct. 15, 2009

Interested in exhibiting at CEC 2010? Click <http://www.exhibits.cec.sped.org/cec2010/public/enter.aspx> for details

Miss the CEC 2009 Convention & Expo in Seattle? Check out our recap and photos at http://www.cec.sped.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=CEC_Today1&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=12197

CEC's Convention & Expo is the heart and soul of the special education community and your premier professional development event.