

## **ICEC Newsletter**

January/February 2023

Vol. 1 Issue 1

*From the President's Desk...*

Warm greetings to you!

The *CEC Convention and Expo 2023* will take place in Louisville, Kentucky, Wednesday – Saturday, March 1-4. Congratulations to all ICEC members who are planning to attend, present a paper, attend a meeting or special event, or participate in any way. I will attend the Representatives Assembly, the *Yes, I Can!* awards celebration, and so many more special events, presentations, and meetings. I invite you to the ICEC Early Morning Coffee Party on Friday morning, March 3 at 7:30 am. Look out for an invitation via the Whova app from Dr. Brad Walkenhorst, Chair, ICEC Student Activities! Thank you Brad for your coordination of this special event.

The *ICEC School-to-Work* and *Lesley P. Graham Post-Secondary Scholarships* are due on **March 10**. The scholarship applications are available on the ICEC website: <https://www.illinoiscec.net/> by scrolling down to the Awards and Scholarship tab and again scroll down to the end of the page. Thanks to the generous work of Dr. Sarah Ballard, ICEC Scholarship Chair, both application forms are fillable online and accessible for a screen reader. *Please send your application today.*

It is time to begin plans for **Exceptional Children's Week (ECW)**, May 1-7, 2023. The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) established this week to remind all individuals about the importance of acceptance and understanding. During these special days, we join our colleagues and students all over the world to promote awareness of exceptionalities in children and youth. This is a time to celebrate diverse learners, their families, and their teachers. See the ICEC website for ideas of how to celebrate ECW 2023: <https://www.illinoiscec.net/first-week-of-may/>

You are invited to participate in the **Council for Exceptional Children Yes, I Can!** awards, 2023. ICEC recognizes and celebrates outstanding efforts of students in six areas: Academics; Arts; School & Community Activities; Self-Advocacy; Technology; and Transition (Independent Living, Work or Vocational Training). Submit your applications by May 15 via this link: <https://forms.gle/sikGWyUom6JpvMuM7>

Meghan Wurst, Chair of the **Yes, I Can!** awards Committee reminds us that: "The **Yes, I Can!** awards program honors and celebrates the achievements of children and youth (ages 2-21) with exceptionalities. These awards have two purposes. They are designed to encourage students to seek their highest potential and to increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of persons with exceptionalities."

The ICEC Fall Convention will take place at the Chicago Marriott Naperville on November 2-4, 2023. The theme of this year's Convention is **Making a Difference One Student at a Time**. See the Call for Proposals below and you are invited to send your presentation proposal today. Please note that presentation proposals are due on or before **Friday, May 19**.

See more details below on the events and plans of ICEC 2023. You are invited to participate in all of them. CEC and ICEC are stronger and more vital professional organizations because of your participation.

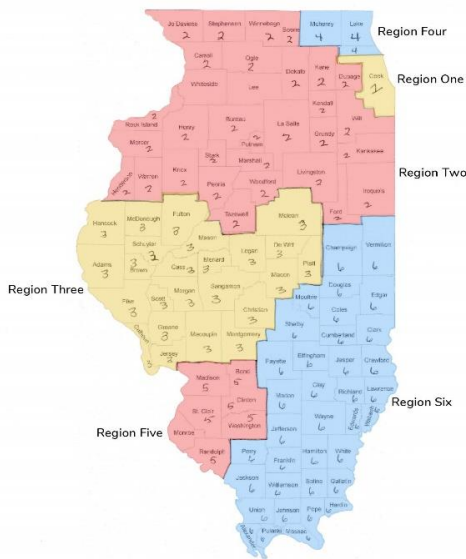
Thank you!

## In This Issue

### Regional and Chapter News

### ICEC Fall Convention Call for Proposals

### Save the Date, ICEC Fall Convention 2023 and more!



#### Region I

Dr. Joan Róg, Regional Director  
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#### Region II

Dr. Liz Sturm, Regional Director  
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#### Region III

Martha Vaché, Regional Director  
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#### Region IV

Brenda Martin, Regional Director  
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#### Region V

Amanda Bagley, Regional Director  
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#### Region VI

Denise Drue, Regional Director  
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We greatly appreciate the services provided by the ICEC regional directors. The members of ICEC in each region elect their regional director who serves for two years and may be reelected. Regional directors actively participate in ICEC at the local and statewide levels. "Each Regional Director will serve on the Executive Board of Directors to represent the interests of all chapters in his/her respective region." ICEC Bylaws, Section 5, B.

**News from Region III:** The Council for Exceptional Children, **Chapter 99** invites you to attend a **virtual session on the *Importance of the IEP*** by Dr. Margaret Carroll on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. CEC members, parents, students, and paraprofessionals attend free and other individuals pay a nominal fee. PDs are given. To register contact: [cecchapter99@gmail.com](mailto:cecchapter99@gmail.com)

**SCEC Illinois State University, Chapter #648** bravely plunged into ice cold water during *The Polar Plunge* at Miller Park, Bloomington on Saturday, February 25. These students raised more than \$1,500.00 in support of Special Olympics. Congratulations Students!



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**News from Region IV:** **Chapter #336** held their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual ICEC **Yes I Can!** Awards Celebration on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at the District 219 Bridges Adult Transition Program in Lincolnwood, Illinois. Over 40 students were presented with this prestigious recognition in the areas of, Artistic, Self-advocacy, School Community, Social Emotional, Technology, and Transition. See the ICEC website for more details and photos from this very special event. Congratulations to the members of **Chapter #336** for your work on this special event. Congratulations to the students for their dedication and hard work. Congratulations too to the teachers and caregivers who work behind the scenes to make it all happen every day.



**News from Region VI:** The students and faculty at **Eastern Illinois University, SCEC Chapter #771** braved a cold and wintery evening on Sunday, February 26 to participate in the **Polar Plunge, 2023**.



Dr. Jennifer Buchter, Student Chapter Co-Advisor stated: "We just plunged last night! We raised the most money on campus, won first place for costume/theme, and had the person with the biggest donation! We still have to wait to find out if we raised the most of all universities and across the state!" Together they raised more than \$6,000.00. Congratulations to the students and faculty at Eastern Illinois University.

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Please send the news from your Chapter to [epcrowl@ilstu.edu](mailto:epcrowl@ilstu.edu)

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## CEC Membership Offer

This is an ideal time to invite your colleagues and friends to join CEC, our professional home. CEC has local [Units](#) in all 50 states and Canada, as well as 18 optional [Special Interest Divisions](#) focused on a specific topic, specialty area, role, or exceptionality. CEC also has CEC Student Chapters at hundreds of colleges and universities across the world.

Lyndsay Palach Shelton, ICEC Region IV requested that the staff at CEC provide a membership discount to all those who would join or renew their membership before May 31, 2023. Lyndsay is particularly interested in increasing parents/caregivers memberships in CEC/ICEC. This offer extends to anyone who wants to join CEC/ICEC or renew their memberships.

Open the CEC website <https://exceptionalchildren.org/> and click on Sign in and on Renew Membership. Use the code below to avail of this offer:

- Start date: 02/01/2023
- End date: 5/31/2023
- Code: **ILDCT23**
- Promotion: 25% off any category and level of CEC membership.
- Restrictions: Can only be used once per contact and/or once per shopping cart. Cannot be used for Special Interest Division membership, merchandise, bookstore items, webinars, registrations, group membership(s), and/or other promotional products, services, or items.

Thank you Lyndsay for your advocacy and support of CEC and ICEC members.

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Bernadette "Bern" Komenda, **Chapter #336** will serve as the 2023 ICEC Convention Chair and Rachel Merke also from **Chapter #336** will serve as the Assistant to the ICEC Convention Chair. We are delighted to welcome the energy, enthusiasm, knowledge, and skills of these gifted professionals. The ICEC Fall Convention will be highly enriched by your generous service. Thank you Bern and Rachel. We are already fully enjoying our work together with you both.

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## CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

**74<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Council for Exceptional Children Fall Convention**

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2023

Chicago Marriott Naperville

1801 North Naper Boulevard, Naperville, Illinois

The Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC) will hold the Fall Convention 2023 in-person at the Chicago Marriott Naperville in full compliance with health and safety recommendations. Special educators, related service providers, teacher educators, preservice special educators, administrators, policy makers, caregivers, parents, and special education advocates are all encouraged to attend this Convention. We invite presentations and posters that address our theme:

### ***MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE STUDENT AT A TIME***

**The deadline for presentation proposals is Friday, May 19th, 2023.** Submissions may be made electronically via this link [2023 Call for Proposals ICEC Convention](#) or by completing the form below and sending it to: [ICECConferenceproposals@gmail.com](mailto:ICECConferenceproposals@gmail.com) Please note: We will supply projectors and screens and presenters are expected to provide any other specialized equipment they need. All presenters are responsible for their ICEC Convention registration, travel, and hotel expenses. Presenters will be notified of acceptance by July 1, 2023.

**Presentation Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lead Presenter:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title/Position:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School/University/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other presenters:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check: Presentation** \_\_\_\_\_ **or Poster Session** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Check one, two, or three themes for your presentation**

Academic\_\_\_; Autism\_\_\_; Behavior\_\_\_; Community engagement\_\_\_; Diversity\_\_\_; Dyslexia\_\_\_; Early Childhood\_\_\_; Elementary\_\_\_; Family Partnership\_\_\_; High School\_\_\_; Home/hospital\_\_\_; Legal\_\_\_; Mental Health\_\_\_; Social-Emotional Learning\_\_\_; Student Engagement\_\_\_; Transition\_\_\_

**Provide a brief description of the proposed presentation or poster session (50 words):**



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## *To Do List*

1. Nominate eligible students for the **Lesley Graham Postsecondary Scholarship**. For details, review the ICEC website: [www.illinoiscec.net](http://www.illinoiscec.net) – see Awards and Scholarships. Questions: Contact Dr. Sarah Ballard, ICEC Scholarship Chair at: <slballa@ilstu.edu>
2. Nominate eligible students for the **School-to-Work Scholarship**. Review the ICEC for details: [www.illinoiscec.net](http://www.illinoiscec.net) – see Awards and Scholarships. Questions: Contact Dr. Sarah Ballard, ICEC Scholarship Chair at: <slballa@ilstu.edu>
3. Plan for **Exceptional Children’s Week**, May 1-7, 2023. For details scroll down on the front page of the ICEC website [www.illinoiscec.net](http://www.illinoiscec.net) and look for the ECW tab. Questions: Contact Meghan Wurst, Chair of **ECW** at: <meghan.l.wurst@gmail.com>
4. Nominate a student for a **Yes, I Can!** award today. Questions: Contact Meghan Wurst, Chair of **Yes, I Can!** awards at: <meghan.l.wurst@gmail.com>

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Best wishes to you as you continue your good work every day. CEC and ICEC is there for us and is our professional family.

Together we collaborate and every day engage special education best practices in the spirit of Elizabeth Farrell, the first president of CEC.

Wishing you and all those dear to you good health, strength, and courage to face the unique challenges of our time.

Sincerely,

*Paula*

E. Paula Crowley, Ph.D., Illinois Council for Exceptional Children, President, January 2023-December 2024

Professor Emerita, Special Education Department, Illinois State University

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*Engaging Best Practice in Special Education Every Day*

**Thank you for your membership in CEC and ICEC!**