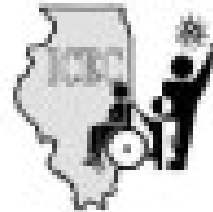




# ICEEC Newsletter

A Winter Issue from the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children



## ILLINOIS

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

**E. Paula Crowley, ICEC President**

A big thank you to special educators, related service providers, teacher educators, preservice special educators, administrators, policy makers, parents, and special education advocates from all over Illinois who attended this Convention.

For those of you who attended, what was the best part of the 74th Annual ICEC Fall Convention, November 2-4, 2023, at the Chicago Marriott Naperville?

Was it the inspiring theme Making a Difference One Student at a Time?

Was it the array of outstanding keynote speakers including Attorney Neal Takiff who addressed what we need to know about the top 10 cases in school law? Was it Dr. Gloria McDaniel-Hall's keynote on the nuances and complexity of belonging? Was it Lani Lawson's keynote on the essentials of optimism? Or was it her session on how to motivate students who refuse to work? Or was it one or more of the more than 80 presentations by our outstanding colleagues in Illinois?

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK (CON'T)

## E. Paula Crowley

Our attendees had so many outstanding sessions to attend. Session choices included focused presentations on academics; autism; behavior; community engagement; diversity; dyslexia; early childhood; elementary; family partnership; high school; home/hospital; legal; mental health; social-emotional learning; student engagement; transition; and more.

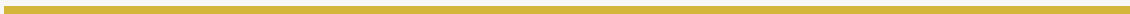
Our attendees heard Brooke Massey of CEC announce that the Annual CEC 2028 Special Education Convention and Expo will take place in Chicago. Twenty-six different exhibitors joined us. Dr. Meg Carroll delivered a reflection on the life and work of Mr. Ray Graham during the Ray Graham Memorial Luncheon on Saturday, November 4, where we honored professional and preservice student accomplishments, and so much more. Our honorees included Morgyn Kircher, Dean S. Hage Student of the Year; Omar Sanchez, ICEC Meritorious Service Award; and Senator Tammy Duckworth, Legislator of the Year.

We honored outstanding students who received Yes, I Can! awards. These included outstanding accomplishment in the areas of Academics: Sawyer Wyffels and Jose Moreno; Arts: Joey Hitzeman; School and Community: Carmelo Di Maggio and Lily Goodfellow; Self-Advocacy: Logan Broyles; Technology: Joy Bonsu; and Transition: Quinn Lyons and Shelby Edwards.

Now, your turn, please save the date: The 75 th Annual ICEC Fall Convention will once again take place at the Chicago Marriott Naperville, October 31-November 2, 2024. Look out for more details in the New Year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,  
Paula

E. Paula Crowley, Ph.D., Illinois Council for Exceptional Children, President, January 2023-December 2024. Contact me: [epcrow@ilstu.edu](mailto:epcrow@ilstu.edu) or use ICEC website Contact Us | 309-531-7255 Engaging Best Practice in Special Education Every Day





## UPDATES FROM CONVENTION

Lyndsay Palach Shelton  
President for Illinois IDCCT

On Saturday, November 4th, the ICEC Convention hosted the first ever parent panel. The audience consisted of pre-service students, retired professionals, seasoned educators, related services, other parents, graduate students, and early career teachers. Convention planning committee members, Lyndsay Palach Shelton and Adriana Schmidt, moderated a panel of three families with uniquely differing experiences. The parents of Connor, Hank, and Kenz shared successes and struggles in the world of special education, from the parent perspective. ICEC is thankful and extremely appreciative of these families to share their time and personal stories to help us all grow as professionals as we serve our students in early childhood throughout transition. We look forward to sharing this resource again in 2024!

Check out and share Family/Parent Affiliate Membership information here - <https://exceptionalchildren.org/membership/affiliate-membership>

### Looking for handouts?

We invite you to review handouts from the presentations during the 74th Annual ICEC Fall Convention, November 2-4, 2023. Use this link:

Session Handouts are available on the ICEC Convention WIKI

Visit <http://icecconvention.pbworks.com>

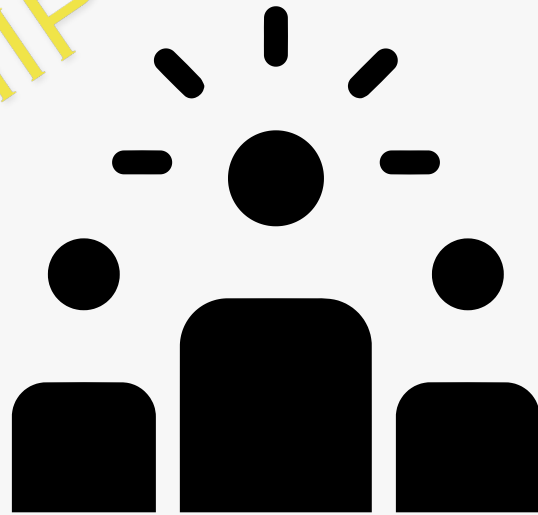
### Looking to continue your learning?

Register for CEC Convention here:

<https://ceconvention.org/>



# LEADERSHIP



## THE NEXT 75 YEARS START TODAY

### Dr. David Coker, Danville District #118

There are many wonderful people leading programs and initiatives in the ICEC. With over 1,550 members, the ICEC serves professionals in diverse settings all over the state. Our strength is the ability to network to continue our mission of providing the best possible education and related services to the children we serve.

ICEC's continued success depends on volunteers. Sustainability can only happen if members step up and learn the positions and skills of the different roles in the organization. A mistake for many organizations is not mentoring multiple people for each position. I have seen organizations pick one person to take over a role, and then when that unexpectedly falls through, the institutional knowledge is lost forever. We must train and mentor the leaders of tomorrow today.

Volunteers step up for many reasons: passion for a particular aspect, the socialization, wanting to give back, and the ability to lead. Whatever reason or role, no matter how small or large, there is something for everyone. If you have a special skill or want to get more involved, step up today and help make ICEC the best state organization in the nation. Please use the Contact Us feature of the ICEC website.

<https://www.illinoiscec.net/contact-us/>

**ICEC'S CONTINUED SUCCESS  
DEPENDS ON VOLUNTEERS.**



# RESEARCH TO PRACTICE COLUMN

## Kara Kennedy, Chapter 336 Vice-President & ICEC Communications Chair

“A picture is worth 1,000 words” (Proverb).

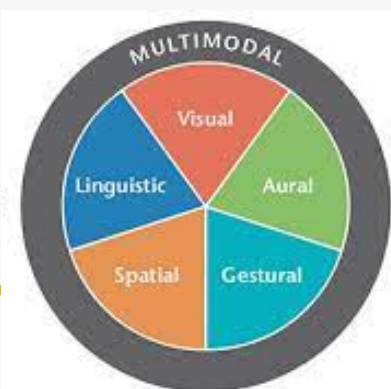
Whoever wrote that must have read the musings of multimodal theorists like Gunther Kress, Carey Jewitt, Jay Lemke, and others. In Special Education, we often refer to Universal Design for Learning [UDL] and the use of multimedia for gaining information, such as images, videos, and websites. Rose and colleagues (2002) elaborate on how to use digital resources to support all students’ learning, including multimedia. Multimedia, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is more than one medium of expression or communication and in UDL typically involves using written text alongside pictures, videos, etc. as support. The History Channel website would be a good example of this.

The term multimodal was conceptualized by The New London Group (1996), to refer specifically to text and literacy practices, specifically the idea that there are multiple ways to be literate in certain contexts. Literacy isn’t limited to the reading and writing that we do in academic settings. Literacy could be the vlog you read on YouTube, the comics you read for fun, or the music you compose for fun. Additionally, texts are more than just written. Multimodal considers images, sounds, video, gestures, and written to all be texts. All texts could be complex, no matter their modality.

Even though multimodal texts may seem easier on the surface, they include visual, spatial, and audio elements in addition to written text, making them, in some ways, more complex for students to comprehend. Students are able, more easily, to write some ideas, draw other ideas, and discuss still other ideas. When students are given the chance to write using multimodal texts, they can show more knowledge (Lemke, 1998). Further, multimodal texts expand reading comprehension opportunities because they give students multiple ways to learn information.

When instructing with multimodal texts it’s important to remember that these texts are still complex and that the strategies and supports we use with written texts are still helpful. Having students watch a video multiple times while looking for different things is using the close reading technique with a video. Students can use reading comprehension strategies like infer, predict, and determine importance with sound clips like podcasts. No matter the instructional strategy, it’s important to see multimodal texts as complex texts and support students’ understanding accordingly. Assuming that a video is easier to understand than a written text may not necessarily be the case. Is the concept tangible and easy to see? If so, then a video might make the concept easier to understand.

When writing multimodal texts, it’s important to teach students about metalanguage, or in other words, the elements that make up non-written multimodal texts (Unsworth, 2008). For example, if students are asked to create an image about a fiction book, they should be taught what elements go into visual design such as lines, color, shading, foreground/background, etc. If they aren’t explicitly taught these elements, they may not know to manipulate them to contribute to their message. Multimodal texts are useful in the classroom. Moving beyond what Rose and colleagues (2002) discuss as multimedia, and integrating literacy practices can support all learners and give them multiple ways to learn and display their knowledge. Why couldn’t a podcast series be a novel? Why can’t a series of images set to music be an essay?





## UPDATES FROM THE REGIONS AND DIVISIONS



### **Elizabeth Mackie**

#### **ILCCBD Historian/Liaison to ICEC**

ILCCBD9 (Division of EBH) would like to wish everyone a Joyous Holiday Season and Happy New Year. Registration is now open for our Virtual Winter Conference on February 1-4, 2024. [ilccbd.org](http://ilccbd.org)

And don't forget our Solution Sundays on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 5pm. Email Beverly Johns for the zoom link at [beverleyjohnse@gmail.com](mailto:beverleyjohnse@gmail.com).

### **Brenda Martin**

#### **ICEC Region 4 Director**

Region 4 Updates:

Illinois Council for Exceptional Children, Northern Region IV will be hosting our 2nd Annual Student Star Awards Ceremony. This will be our second regional award ceremony with dedicated and passionate volunteers. The Council for Exceptional Children is a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities. We accomplish our mission through advocacy, standards, and professional development. If you are a member of Region 4 and would like to nominate a student, please use the link below. You will be invited to present the award to the student at the ceremony on January 31st from 5-6pm in Niles.

[Region IV ICEC Student Nominations](#)

### **Upcoming events in the State**

Details coming soon on the ICEC 75th Anniversary Celebration Series virtually on Zoom on the 15th day each month of 2024.

*Exceptional Children's Week, May 1-7, 2024*

### **CEC Membership**

#### **It is the season for perfect gift ideas:**

Give the gift of a CEC membership. In 2024, CEC plans to offer all of the live webinars free to members in the [webinar catalog](#). The CEC special offer extends to December 31, 2023.

***CEC is offering reduced membership costs for all first time and renewing members during the 2023 ICEC Fall Convention.***

Use the following **code information** to access the current membership discount:

- Offer Expires: 12/31/2023
- Code: **ILCEC4ME23**
- Promotion: 20% off any category and level of CEC membership
- Restrictions: This code can only be used for CEC membership products and is only valid once per contact and/or once per shopping cart. Cannot be combined with other offers, used for Special Interest Division membership, event registration, merchandise, CEC Store items, webinars, registrations, group membership(s), and/or other promotional products, services, or items.

