

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Did you know that MO-CASE was formed in 1972? This year marks the MO-CASE 50th anniversary. What an exciting time to serve as your MO-CASE President!

The month of July brought some exciting opportunities. I was fortunate to attend the 2022 Leadership Institute at the beginning of the month with Gayle Willey, our MO-CASE Executive Director. The focus was on activating the value of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This reminded us of how important it is to remember our connection under the umbrella of CEC. The Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) is a Division of CEC and MO-CASE is a Sub-Division of CASE.

The Leadership Institute emphasized the amazing resources and support offered by CEC. The level of resources available to our members is plentiful and the resources are a significant member benefit. Our MO-CASE Board will be making intentional connections to the support and resources offered by CEC to better serve our members. If you haven't taken a look at the the CEC website recently, I would encourage you to reconnect.

Following the leadership institute, we rolled right into the 2022 Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS). A team of MO-CASE members joined people from 45 other states to advocate for the needs of our profession to congress members. We advocated for 3 priority issues impacting our field: funding/ appropriations, mental health and educator shortages. The opportunity to use our voices to advocate for change at the Legislativeto Summit is a remarkable experience. If you don't think you have the opportunity to attend the event in Washington DC, please consider joining us for our Missouri Legislative Summit.

It was a busy summer and I think we are all anticipating an exciting year. I am looking forward to seeing you all in September at the MO-CASE fall conference to celebrate this great organization!



By Marlena Walley, Ed.
MO-CASE President

In a less than 2 weeks, we will be together for our **45th Annual MO-CASE Fall Conference** celebrating **MO-CASE's 50th Anniversary!!**

Have you registered for the conference? Do you have your room reservations at Margaritaville?

If you have registered, have you downloaded the Whova app? The app will help you stay connected with any updates and plan your conference experience. Make sure your registration has your email connected to get updates and the instructions on downloading the Whova app.

Here are some of the conference highlights:

- 900+ attendees
- Keynotes from John O'Connor, Author of "Great Instruction, Great Achievement for Students with Disabilities" and Dr. Laurie VanderPloeg, Associate Executive Director for Professional Affairs, CEC
- 42 exhibitors and sponsors
- 44 breakout sessions
- Law Seminar with 5 attorneys from Missouri giving relevant up to date information
- Prestigious Award Ceremony
- Time to connect, learn and refresh – reboot
- Hear from attorneys, MO DESE, and leaders in the field of special education leadership

·Strands on Behavior/Mental Health (SEL), Evidence/Research Based Practices & MTSS, IDEA/Compliance, Planning for Improved Outcomes, Retention of teachers in the current instructional climate, specially designed instruction, Sessions for ESCE/Preschool, Elementary, Secondary, Post-secondary, and Administration

·50th Anniversary Celebration

·Sponsor Showcase

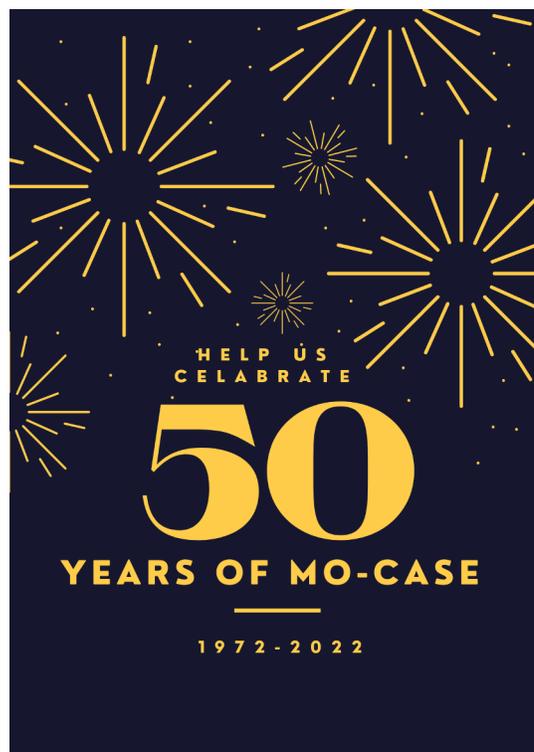
·Raffles and give aways

If you are interested in volunteering, there are many opportunities during this conference. If you are interested, please contact me at: gayle.willey@mo-case.org. This is a great way to get involved with MO-CASE.

We look forward to seeing you in September!!



-Gayle Willey, Executive Director



Special Education Legislative Summit 2022

by Dr. Karla Arnold

The CASE/CEC Special Education Legislative Summit (SELS) 2022, was once again held in person in Washington, D.C. during July. It had been virtual for the past two years, so we were very excited to meet face-to-face again! It took place the week of July 10-13. We had 15 Missouri participants, with Carrie Turner, KC-RPDC, and Lisa Goran, University of Missouri, serving as our state team leaders.

The first two days of SELS was dedicated to advocacy training on the three key issues discussed with legislators: appropriations, educator shortage, and school mental health. The third day consisted of scheduled meetings with Members of Congress and/or their staff. Our Missouri team members were able to meet with staff members from both of our senators, and 7 out of 8 of our Congressperson's offices. The fourth day was a debriefing of the visits.

The purpose of SELS was three-fold. First, it provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity through Town Hall-style events where participants were able to learn from and ask questions of policy experts and Capitol Hill veterans. Second, SELS Team Leaders and experts from the field provided updated news and information about key issues impacting special educators across the country including legislation, appropriations, mental health, educator shortage, and more. Finally, participants were able to learn from people who have done this work before about how to sharpen the message brought to the Members of Congress to advocate for infants, toddlers, and youth with exceptionalities.

Please watch for information regarding SELS 2023!



**WE BROKE OUR FORMER
RECORD OF 34 MISSOURI
PARTICIPANTS, WITH AN ALL-
TIME HIGH OF 52!**

**PLEASE WATCH FOR INFORMATION
REGARDING SELS 2022!
HOPEFULLY, WE'LL BE BACK IN
PERSON AND ABLE TO "STORM THE
HILL" TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES!**



Dr. Karla Arnold,

Director of Learning & Innovation

New Special Education Administrator Opportunities

Now that the 2022-2023 school year is officially begun and you find yourself in a leadership position in special education in your district. Whether you have previous special education experience or not, this can be a little bit intimidating! MOCASE understands the challenges a new Special Education Administrator faces as soon as they accept the position, and even more so in this unprecedented time of COVID-19. As a result, we would like to share just a few of the excellent support opportunities MOCASE can provide for a new leader in Special Education.

Our Administrator Mentoring Program (AMP) offers the new Special Education Director the opportunity to work with a veteran special education administrator for two years. The mentor and the new Director will have contact with one another for at least 10 hours each of those years. This might be virtually, over the phone or actually in person. The mentor is there to help the new Director work through DESE deadlines, compliance issues, data questions and just to be the support that is so often needed in a position that is unique in a district. Understanding the nuances of special education can be confusing so having someone who has walked the walk as a guide is extremely helpful and comforting. If you are interested in this program, click on the New Director tab on the MO-CASE website <https://www.mo-case.org/AMP> for additional information and to get registered.

New Special Education Directors should also consider attending the fall MO-CASE conference. This conference offers a plethora of learning opportunities focused on topics such as leadership, instruction, social-emotional well-being and compliance. For many special education Directors, this becomes the one conference each year they try to attend to keep up

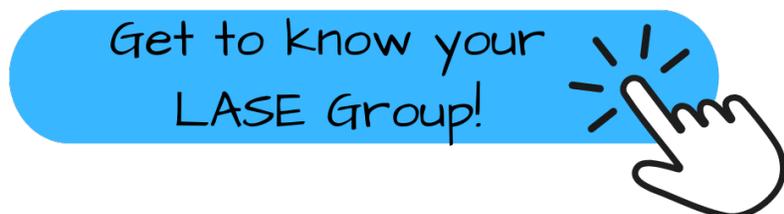
with what's going on in the rest of the state in the field of special education. To find more information and to register, click on the events tab on the MO-CASE website <https://www.mo-case.org/>

Learn more about



One additional terrific resource new Special Education Directors should become acquainted with is their local LASE group (Local Administrators of Special Education) in their area. This is a group of professionals doing the same job, dealing with the same situations and the same challenges who meet at various times of the year to collaborate and share ideas, thoughts and, yes, sometimes even frustrations. Becoming connected with your area LASE organization gives you an automatic support group. To find out the closest group in your areas, click on the membership tab on the MO-CASE website <https://www.mo-case.org/LASE>

Congratulations on your new position! MO-CASE will be planning some additional activities for new Directors throughout the year. If you are interested in these activities or need assistance with any of the things listed above, please contact me at jrothermel@edplus.org and I will be happy to help you in any way I can. Have a terrific school year.



GET CONNECTED WITH MOCASE!



**WHEN YOU FOLLOW MO-CASE ON TWITTER,
FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM**

- **CONNECTIONS TO LEADERS IN THE FIELD!**
- **NOTIFICATIONS FOR UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS!**
- **YOU CAN CONNECT ANY TIME!**
- **SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE!**



**HERE'S HOW! SCAN THESE QR CODES WITH YOUR
PHONE TO JOIN:**



facebook



Instagram



Keynote Speaker

MONDAY MORNING

John O'Connor

THE 45TH ANNUAL MO-CASE
SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE



John O'Connor led school improvement initiatives at the state and local level during his 30 years in public education. He started his career as a special education teacher serving students with orthopedic impairments in elementary and middle schools. He then held a variety of leadership positions. For nine years while working at the Georgia Department of Education, he led state-wide initiatives to improve the achievement and learning of students with disabilities.

He also served in local districts as an Assistant Director for Special Education, Executive Director for Special Services, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services and Director for Interventions. John is the author of five books including the 2nd Edition of *Great Instruction Great Achievement for Students with Disabilities: A Road Map for Special Education Administrators*. He also co-wrote a textbook chapter, a desk guide and numerous articles. Since his retirement, John has provided training, coaching, and in-school support to thousands of teachers and administrators across the country.

KEYNOTE
KEYNOTE

TUESDAY

Morning

Laurie VanderPloeg

KEYNOTE
KEYNOTE

Laurie VanderPloeg is the Associate Executive Director for Professional Affairs, Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Prior to joining CEC, she was the director of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), at the U.S. Department of Education. Laurie also served as director of special education at Kent Intermediate School District (Kent ISD) in Michigan. Also at Kent ISD, she served as assistant director for monitoring, compliance and parent support. She also served as a local supervisor of special education, a special education teacher, and an adjunct professor at Grand Valley State University in the special education administration program. Laurie is a graduate of Grand Valley State University. She is a parent of an adult son with disabilities.



45th Annual MO-CASE Special Education Administrators Conference

Less than 2 weeks away!! With over 950
attending we are looking forward to
seeing everyone there and to Celebrate
50 years of MO-CASE



PAST PRESIDENTS AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF
MO-CASE,
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

50th Anniversary
CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 9/25 | 5:15 PM -7:00 PM
MARGARITAVILLE

PLEASE RSVP TO GAYLE WILLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT
GAYLE.WILLEY@MO-CASE.ORG

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We're Here For You!

We know members like you are working hard every day to make sure the best educational services are being provided to students with disabilities. Ensuring students thrive in these challenging times is more demanding than ever before. It is crucial for you to have the tools, resources and up-to-date information you need to help with the changing dynamics in special education. Your membership ensures you STAY CONNECTED to a community of special education professionals, resources and all the support you need to enrich your practice and support your students.



CASE IS THE UMBRELLA WE ALL FIT UNDER

CASE IS THE LARGEST SUBDIVISION OF CECL



MO-CASE IS ONE OF 46 STATES WITH ACTIVE UNITS

Members Matter to MO-CASE!

As a member of MO-CASE you have access to the following benefits:

- Networking with exceptional educators
- Representation on DESE and other state level committees
- Information on state and federal issues
- Legislative awareness and advocacy
- "The Director" quarterly newsletter
- Charles Cummings Scholarship Program
- Professional Development Opportunities
 - MO-CASE Law Conference
 - MO-CASE Special Education Administrators Conference
 - Annual Collaborative Conference
 - Resources on the Website



YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OF MO-CASE BY JOINING CEC ON THEIR WEBSITE:

EXCEPTIONALCHILDREN.ORG

EACH MONTH THEY LET US KNOW YOU'VE JOINED & WE ADD YOU TO THE MO-CASE COMMUNITY!



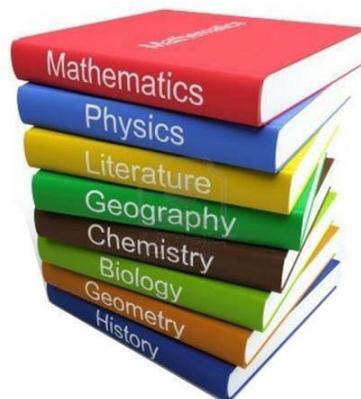
“3 Part SDI Webinar Series”

The purpose of this three-part series is to better understand specially designed instruction (SDI) and how it is (or is meant to be) implemented in schools. Each webinar is meant to provide information and interaction among school leaders about problems of practice related to SDI. Bring your lunch and your questions as we tackle this tough topic.

Presented by Dr. Margaret Weiss PhD University of Virginia, Associate Professor



October 14, 2022 11:00am-12:00pm
January 20, 2023 11:00am-12:00pm
April 14, 2023 11:00-12:00pm



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A division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).”



MO-CASE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Officers:

President: **Marlena Walley, Raymore-Peculiar**

Past President: **Dr. Ashley Krause, Farmington R7**

President Elect: **Liz Smith, Reeds Spring School District**

Treasurer: **Dr. Cheri Fortney, Franklin Co. School**

Secretary: **Jeanne Rothermel, St Louis RPDC**

Appointed Members:

Professional Development: **Dr. Reesha Adamson, Missouri State University**

LASE Chair: **Kinsey Cissna, Palmyra R-1 School District**

LASE Rep: **Amy Chappell, Independence School District**

LASE Rep: **Dr. Travena Hostetler, Special School District**

Professional Partner Rep: **Dr. Ben O'Connor, Superintendent Bronaugh School District**

Policy and Legislation: **Carrie Turner RPDC, Grain Valley**

AMP/New Directors **Christina Harbour, Sullivan School District**

Membership: **Karen McKnight, Nixa School District**

ECSE Rep: **Cindy Edwards, Franklin County Special Education Coop**

Communications Chair: **Dr. Jen Beutel, Platte County**

Higher Education Rep: **Dr. Lisa Goran, University of Missouri**

MO CEC Rep: **Kim Turner, Retired**

MACCE/SEAP: **Amy Wilson, Columbia Public Schools**

Historian: **Dr. Vicki McNamara, CASE**

MO-CASE STAFF

Gayle Willey, Executive Director

Christi Rodriguez, Conference Planner/Admin Assistant

Dr. Karla Arnold, Director of Innovation and Learning

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