

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

This year at the 2017 conference, the J. L. Wiederholt Keynote Address was given by Dr. Tom Scruggs, Emeritus University Professor at George Mason University. In his keynote, Dr. Scruggs illustrated how theoretical and practical techniques have been employed to further our understanding of learning disabilities and discussed challenges to implementation of best practice for these students. In a companion session, Dr. Scruggs gave a practical demonstration of how to implement one of the interventions presented in the keynote address. Dr. Scruggs' insights were thought provoking and relevant to contemporary discussion on how to best serve students with learning disabilities.

This year, in addition to our traditional panel, roundtable and interactive paper formats, we piloted a new format: the structured poster session. There were two of these sessions, one on mathematics and one on vocabulary and comprehension. Both sessions were well attended and feedback from these sessions has been very positive. Thank you to Rick Brigham (*George Mason University*) for doing an excellent job as moderator for the sessions. If you did not have the opportunity to try out one of these sessions this year, consider attending one in Portland next year.

During the interactive paper sessions this year, the activities of two of our state chapters in the Baltimore region, Maryland and Virginia Chapters, were featured. (If you would like to learn more about activities happening in your state or are interested in helping form a new state chapter, contact Min Mize, Co-chair of the Leadership Development Committee). In addition, the important work of our CLD committees was highlighted in a "Committee Corner." Committee research and projects featured this year included: Technology Committee, Liaison Committee, Diversity Committee, and Leadership Development Committee. If you do not currently serve on a committee, consider attending one of the annual committee lunch meetings at the conference next year to learn more. You can also reach out to any of the committee chairs to learn how to get involved. A little bird told me that the membership committee in particular is looking for enthusiastic new committee members.

During this year's business meeting, each committee provided a report on the year's activities and upcoming projects. If you live near Austin, TX, a special plea was made for assistance on the archive committee. If you might be able to help with the important work of this committee to document the history of the organization, please, contact Deborah Reed for more information. Finally, both the positions of secretary and vice president are up for election this year and candidates were announced during the business meeting.

The president's reception served as a lovely networking opportunity at the conference. Considering that we were in Baltimore, it was no surprise that the crab cakes went fast! But, because of the numerous locations to gather in the lovely and historic Lord Baltimore Hotel, conversations continued well after the social had wound down!

The conference ended this year with a pair of closing sessions. The first session provided federal funding updates. Sarah Brasiel presented on funding opportunities from National Center for Special Education Research, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, and

Rob Ochsendorf, presented on funding opportunities from the National Science Foundation. The second session presented by Nancy Nelson and colleagues from the University of Oregon described priorities within the National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL) and current efforts to support implementation of multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). These sessions were the cherry on top of a great conference.

CLD AWARD WINNERS

The Research Committee and the Leadership Development Committee were pleased to honor several members for their hard work on behalf of students with learning disabilities in the areas of research, teaching, and service. Following is a list of this year's award winners:

Outstanding Research Award

- ❖ **Amber Wang, Vanderbilt University.** Dr. Wang is a Research Associate in the Department of Special Education at Vanderbilt University, where she also received her doctorate in 2016 under the advisement of Dr. Lynn Fuchs. She conducts programmatic research on intensive interventions designed to improve the mathematics outcomes of students with or at risk for mathematics learning disabilities and on the cognitive and linguistic student characteristics associated with mathematical development in fractions and word-problem solving.

Must Reads

Learning Disability Quarterly

- ❖ Ritchey, K.D., Palombo, K., Silverman, R.D., & Speece, D. (2017). Effects of an informational text reading comprehension intervention for fifth-grade students. *Learning Disability Quarterly, 40*, 68-80. doi:10.1177/0731948716682689

Intervention in School and Clinic

- ❖ Travers, J.D. (2017). Evaluating claims to avoid pseudoscientific and unproven practices in special education. *Intervention in School and Clinic, 52*, 195-203. doi:10.1177/1053451216659466

Floyd G. Hudson Service Award

- ❖ **Philippe Ernewein, Director of Education at Denver Academy.** As Director of Education, Philippe has trained pre- and in-service teachers while he has supported parents who have children with learning disabilities through the many professional development sessions and parent workshops. By offering the opportunities for parents and educators to learn, as well as sharing his knowledge of learning disabilities, Philippe is committed to helping all students who have learning disabilities and challenges to face the barriers they encounter during their academic pursuits.

Teachers of the Year

- ❖ **Janeen Dofflemyer, Virginia CLD Chapter.** Janeen teaches at East Rockingham High School in Elkton, Virginia, working collaboratively in general education classrooms. She serves as a clinical faculty mentor and chairs the Student Study

- Committee. She founded a Girls' Empowerment Movement (GEMS) club for at-risk 9th grade students. In addition, she secures grants that fund technology resources for her school.
- ❖ **Jennifer Ozuna, Texas CLD Chapter.** Jennifer is a special education teacher at Criswell Elementary School in Forney, Texas. She has been committed to educating students for the past 14 years. She currently teaches special education in a K-6 resource classroom. Jennifer has been awarded campus Teacher of the Year (2012 and 2017), Teacher of the Month (January, 2014), and serves as campus ambassador, training other teachers.
 - ❖ **Clark Stuke, Colorado CLD Chapter.** Clark is currently a Special Education Department Chair at Chatfield High School in Littleton, Colorado. He has been committed to providing instructional services in a cross-categorical setting, where students with and without learning disabilities have ample opportunities to work and learn together. In addition, he implements various instructional models (team-teaching, small group instruction, one-to-one instruction, resource level classroom) with his teaching experience.

INAUGURAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

This year our first ever Leadership Institute was held as a pre-conference available to graduate students and early career faculty. The institute is at no cost to selected participants. This year's Leadership Institute hosted almost 30 participants and featured a special presentation by Lindsay E. Jones, Vice President, Chief Policy & Advocacy Officer for the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD). Additionally, leaders in the field and past leadership academy members presented on numerous high interest topics during the Institute, including:

- ❖ Highlights of the field of learning disabilities and CLD
- ❖ Research activities with limited funding
- ❖ Scholarly publications
- ❖ Tips for teaching in higher education
- ❖ Tips for conference presentations

Thank you to Diane Bryant, Leadership Development Co-chair, for making this inaugural event a huge success!

The Leadership Institute extends CLD's Leadership Academy initiative. Those who attend the Leadership Institute and provide service through CLD committee work are eligible to be considered for the Leadership Academy in subsequent years. The call for applications for participation in next year's leadership institute will come out sometime in February. Be sure to suggest the Institute to graduate students and early career faculty who are working in the field of learning disabilities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPONSORS

CLD would express our sincere gratitude to the 2017 conference sponsors:

- ❖ University of Iowa

- ❖ Donald D. Hammill Foundation
- ❖ George Mason University
- ❖ Hammill Institute on Disabilities
- ❖ University of Maryland
- ❖ Maryland Federation of CEC
- ❖ Kutztown University
- ❖ Lehigh University
- ❖ Hood College
- ❖ Johns Hopkins School of Education
- ❖ University of North Carolina Charlotte

For information on sponsorships available for the 2018 CLD Conference in Portland, please contact: Anne Brawand.