



## 2017-2018 Annual Report

Dear CLD Members,

CLD can be proud of many accomplishments during the 2017-2018 year. The theme of the year was “Professionalism,” and the hard work of the Board of Trustees advanced this focus as outlined in the highlights below.

The 39<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Baltimore attracted approximately 240 participants to attend 140 presentations, round tables, and interactive papers on topics that addressed the many facets of the LD field. Dr. Tom Scruggs was honored as the 10<sup>th</sup> **J. L. Wiederholt Distinguished Lecturer** and opened the conference with his address entitled “What Does Intervention Research Tell Us about the Nature of Learning Disabilities?” Other awards were distributed for **Teachers of the Year**, the **Floyd G. Hudson Service Award**, the 2017 **Must Reads** papers that appeared in *Intervention in School and Clinic* or *Learning Disability Quarterly*, and the 2017 **Outstanding Researcher Award**. In addition, the CLD leaders past and present were recognized at the President’s Reception. The success of the conference as a whole was due to the combined efforts of Judy Voress and Anne Brawand (**Conference Committee** Co-chairs), Tricia Strickland (Local Arrangements Committee Chair), Sheri Berkeley (President Elect) and Linda Nease (Executive Director).

Prior to the start of the conference, the **Leadership Development Committee** (LDC Co-chairs, Diane Bryant and Minnie Mize) held the inaugural Leadership Institute for doctoral candidates and early-career junior faculty. Participation in the institute and committee service during the year will now serve as eligibility requirements for applying to be in a Leadership Academy cohort. This represents a tremendous investment in mentoring our future leaders in the field, and CLD’s approach is now being emulated by other professional organizations. In addition to this form of leadership development, the LDC also oversees the Floyd G. Hudson award and the coordination with CLD state chapters who nominate educators from their states for the Teachers of the Year awards. The state chapters serve as vital links of organization to families of individuals with LD, practitioners, and academics. As I recognize the accomplishments of CLD this year, I am reminded that we often do not know of the many contributions happening at the local level among this important group of state chapter leaders and members.

A major effort of our **Communications Committee** (Chair, Kat Pfannenstiel) this year was to identify a new editor for the LD Forum. Following Joseph Morgan’s incredible tenure, the organization was fortunate to have strong candidates. After careful review, Apryl Poch was selected and has assumed the editorship.

The **Research Committee** (Chair, Kelli Cummings) continued to develop the offerings on the *Research to Practice Corner* and also set a record by receiving 11 Outstanding Researcher Award applicants. That was the highest number of recorded submissions.

In addition to the ongoing work representing CLD in national meetings that the **Liaison Committee** usually undertakes, Co-chairs Debi Gartland and Roberta Strosnider crafted a Statement of Ethics and Standards that is now posted on our website. This was an important accomplishment related to the year's theme of professionalism.

After a few years of discussion, the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of a new system of managing the membership database and the conference proposal system. This effort has kept the **Technology Committee** (Co-chairs Joe Morgan and Lisa Morin) busy and will continue into the new fiscal year. It is no small feat to transfer huge electronic systems and make them operational in a way that accomplishes the organization's intended purposes. This was undertaken in addition to the many supportive functions the committee continues provide all CLD committees.

The **Membership Committee** (Chair, Heather Haynes Smith) continued to investigate ways to attract and maintain members. Issues with the renewal process and the promotion of member benefits were identified, so the committee pursued steps to make substantive changes. Some will be introduced when the new electronic database is launched.

The **Diversity Committee** welcomed a new Chair, Brenda Barrio, who set about engaging her committee members in developing practitioner-oriented manuscripts. Members also were well represented among the presentations at the conference and in their efforts to mentor future leaders, researchers, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds.

A careful review of our governing documents was undertaken by the **Bylaws Committee** (Chair, Sheri Berkeley). Within a dynamic organization such as CLD, the nature of the committee work and overall governance must evolve to serve the organization and its members in the best ways. In the course of making relevant revisions, some of the documents can become misaligned. Any such discrepancies are in the process of being corrected. A redesign of the Long Range Action Plan (LRAP) templates that help track the progress of the standing committees and elected offices was undertaken simultaneously to improve the accuracy of all important documentation. The new LRAPs will be deployed in 2018-19.

The **Finance Committee** (Chair, Minyi Shih Dennis) carefully monitored the investment funds during dramatic market changes. The financial health of the organization remained strong, buoyed by a gift of \$9,178.85 from the Hammill Institute's disposition of the remaining balance for the Society of Learning Disabilities and Remedial Education.

Recruiting candidates for elected positions on the Executive Committee is an area of needed growth for CLD. Although the open offices of Vice President and Secretary were filled, the **Elections Committee** (Chair, Beth Calhoun) was not able to recruit multiple candidates for this year's election. The mentoring of future leaders who are dedicated to serving the profession remains critical to the long-term success of the organization.

Finally, the organization's primary researcher (*Learning Disability Quarterly* [LDQ]) and practitioner (*Intervention in School and Clinic* [ISC]) publications continued to thrive. The impact factors have been rising, and electronic issue alerts are now distributed to all active CLD members.

Each committee made significant progress toward their goals during the year. These efforts demonstrate the dedication to service that exemplifies the year's theme of professionalism. I particularly want to thank Linda Nease, CLD Executive Director, the Executive Committee (President Elect, Sheri Berkeley; Vice President, Lindy Crawford; Past President, Beth Calhoon; Treasurer, Minyi Shih Dennis; Secretary, Brittany Hott) and Monica Lambert, Parliamentarian, for all of their support.

Thank you for a wonderful year!

Deborah K. Reed, Ph.D.  
CLD President, 2017-2018