

Members of the Council for Learning Disabilities and other Professionals/Students in the field of LD,

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of the Council for Learning Disabilities, I am happy to announce the *2020 International Virtual Conference on Learning Disabilities* to be held on October 15 - October 20, 2020. This conference will be **FREE** for all current members of CLD! While we are definitely sad to not be gathering together in Richmond, Virginia for our conference this fall (and wait with great anticipation to return there in 2022), we are happy to be able to provide a space for members and nonmembers alike to gather, learn, network, and innovate on behalf of students and families of students with learning disabilities. All virtual sessions will be held via Zoom during the following schedule:

- Thursday, October 15, 2020 - Morning session from 11 AM - 1 PM EST/8 AM - 10 AM PST and Afternoon session from 6 PM - 8 PM EST/3 PM - 5 PM PST
- Friday, October 16, 2020 - Morning session from 11 AM - 1 PM EST/8 AM - 10 AM PST and Afternoon session from 6 PM - 8 PM EST/3 PM - 5 PM PST
- **Saturday, October 17, 2020 - CLD SATURDAY** - Business meeting from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EST/8:00 AM - 9:30 AM PST, Awards presentation from 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM EST/9:30 AM - 10:00 AM PST, and ORA/Must Reads Presentation from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST/10:00 AM - 12:00 PM PST; Committee meetings TBD
- Sunday, October 18, 2020 - Morning session ONLY from 11 AM - 1 PM EST/8 AM - 10 AM PST
- Monday, October 19, 2020 - Morning session from 11 AM - 1 PM EST/8 AM - 10 AM PST and Afternoon session from 6 PM - 8 PM EST/3 PM - 5 PM PST
- Tuesday, October 20, 2020 - Morning session from 11 AM - 1 PM EST/8 AM - 10 AM PST and Afternoon session from 6 PM - 8 PM EST/3 PM - 5 PM PST

Each session will be centered on a specific topic area (e.g., cultural and linguistic diversity and students with learning disabilities, mathematics and students with learning disabilities) and will last for approximately 90 minutes. There will be a session leader who will provide a 10-minute overview of the topic and then participants will be able to attend two 30-minute virtual roundtable discussion sessions aligned to the topic area and facilitated by scholars from across the country. The session leader will then provide a 10-minute response to topics and ideas presented during the roundtable and will facilitate a 10-minute discussion focused on innovative ideas that may be implemented across the country to support improved outcomes for students with learning disabilities related to the topic area. We will also provide an additional 30-minutes of discussion related to the topic area at the conclusion of each session for participants who would like to further network with CLD colleagues.

Our hope is that, in these sessions, CLD members and nonmembers may be able to develop innovative ideas that they can work on throughout the 2020-2021 academic year and then come together at CLD 2021 in Las Vegas to check-in on the status of their work. Our goal is to have roundtable discussion sessions that are focused on a variety of areas related to the work we do with students with learning disabilities (i.e., research and scholarship, teacher education, implementation of strategies in PK-12

classrooms, policy and advocacy). ***A schedule of conference sessions and topics will be released by August 17, 2020; registration for the virtual conference will also be open by that date.***

If you are a current member of CLD, you will be able to access all virtual conference activities for FREE. This networking opportunity will be included as a part of your membership. If you are not a current member of CLD, we hope that you will consider renewing your membership or joining CLD to attend this virtual conference. *If you are not yet sure about being a member of CLD, you will be able to register for all virtual conference activities for \$25.* **If you decide to join CLD by December 1, 2020, that \$25 will be applied to your membership dues and your membership will then be active through the 2021 conference in Las Vegas!**

We know that these are unprecedented times in our country - with the confluence of events related to the coronavirus pandemic, the fight of Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Colors for long-awaited equity and justice, and an ever-evolving political landscape during an election year. Our goal, more than ever, is to provide the space for educators, scholars, and leaders in the field of learning disabilities to come together to discuss how we might approach developing innovative solutions to build on the assets our students bring to the classroom and disrupt systems that systematically oppress their outcomes. We hope that this virtual space provides a much-needed opportunity for us to come together as a field and begin to envision what tomorrow will look like in the education of students with learning disabilities. We hope that you will join us!

Again, details about specific conference sessions and registration will be released by August 17, 2020, but we hope you will save these dates and join us for our first-ever virtual event. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at joseph.morgan@unlv.edu. And as always, check our [website](#) for updates and follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Onward,

Joseph Morgan
President-Elect
Council for Learning Disabilities