



A Publication of the Council for Learning Disabilities December 2020

President's Message



Dear CLD Members,

I am excited to share that our 42nd annual CLD conference was a huge success. Our first virtual conference was a team effort, and I would like to extend a big, virtual, germ-free thank you to Joseph Morgan, president elect and conference chair, who led the effort to quickly pivot from an in-person, traditional conference to an online conference with over 300 attendees! Anne Brawand and Maria Peterson-Ahmad, Conference Planning Committee chairs, simultaneously negotiated a new contract for our 2022 conference in Richmond, Virginia, with no financial burden to our organization; continued planning for our 2021 conference in Las Vegas, Nevada; and supported efforts to move our 42nd conference to a virtual format. Technology Committee chairs Sarah McCarthy and Kathy Ewoldt led online support efforts to ensure a positive experience for attendees. Executive Director Linda Nease kept us organized, and Treasurer and Finance Committee chair Beverly Weiser closely monitored our finances.

The overwhelmingly positive energy that resulted from your presentations is nothing short of amazing. It is evident that our advocacy, research, and service are benefiting individuals with learning disabilities. I remain impressed with the level of engagement and interaction within a virtual format and look forward to seeing everyone in person for our 43rd annual conference in sunny Las Vegas, Nevada.

If you are relatively new to the field, this is a great time to become actively involved in CLD. Please feel free to contact me or other members of the board about joining a committee. Conference attendees who are interested in CLD mem-

bership have the opportunity to apply their \$25 conference fee towards CLD membership until December 1, 2020. This would allow new 2020 CLD members to receive the member discount for the 2021 conference registration.

Once again, congratulations on a wonderful conference. I want to thank everyone for the work that you do on behalf of individuals with learning disabilities and to make CLD an outstanding organization!

Sincerely,
Brittany L. Hott, PhD
CLD President

In This Issue ...

- President's Message 1
- 42nd Annual *Virtual* Conference 2
- Nomination/Election Committee Announcement .. 3
- Research Committee Announces
Award Recipients 4
- Leadership Development Committee Updates 4
- CLD Finance Committee Updates 5
- Committee and Chapter News 6
- AmazonSmile Announcement..... 7

42nd International Virtual Conference on Learning Disabilities: We ZOOMED It

From October 15 to October 20, 2020, more than 270 professionals who serve individuals with learning disabilities (LD) came together via Zoom for the 42nd International Conference on Learning Disabilities. For six days, these professionals learned and engaged in critical discourse on methods to improve the academic, behavioral, social-emotional, and vocational outcomes of individuals with LD through educational policy, research and scholarship, and teaching and teacher education. The presentations reflected innovative practices related to individuals with disabilities; the discussion was both intellectually stimulating and forward oriented; and new collaborations and connections were made via the virtual conference platform. Highlights from the virtual conference are below.

Conference Sessions

Across the six days of the conference, 70 different presentations were given across eight domains: content area practices, cultural and linguistic diversity, educational policy, mathematics interventions, noncognitive and social-emotional interventions, reading interventions, teacher education, and writing interventions. Sessions included both breakout rooms and panel sessions and were concluded with discussion among presenters and participants about the type of work that CLD and its members might engage in to move the field forward across these content areas. Of specific note, the panel on **Culturally Sustaining Practices for Students with Learning Disabilities from Culturally, Linguistically, and Racially Diverse Backgrounds** was attended by more than 60 conference participants who then engaged in a rich discussion on how to create more equitable and accessible spaces for students with LD across all domains of interest. Participants were also able to engage in critical discussion during the 2nd Annual **Judy Voress Networking Lunch**; this allowed participants an opportunity to take time to stop and think about how the field of LD might continue to evolve forward for students and their communities. Finally, the Leadership Development Committee welcomed the **2020 Leadership Institute** cohort members. The purpose of the Leadership Institute is to engage doctoral students and early career faculty in CLD by (a) discussing the history of the field of LD and CLD as an organization, (b) offering an opportunity to talk with the editors of *Intervention in School and Clinic* and *Learning Disability Quarterly*, and (c) providing professional development on navigating the early stages of their career.

CLD Business

On Saturday, October 17, 2020, also known as **CLD Saturday**, more than 40 members of CLD attended the annual business meeting. Updates were provided by the Board of Trustees on the business of CLD, and a new slate of candidates was announced for the upcoming elections for secretary and vice president on the Executive Committee. Following the annual business meeting, the CLD Board of Trustees had the great honor of recognizing the winners of our 2020 CLD awards: **Dr. Roberta Strosnider** (Floyd G. Hudson Service Award), **Mr. Kellian Hughes** (Texas CLD Outstanding Teacher of the Year), **Dr. Michelle Rogers** (Outstanding Researcher Award), **Dr. Jade Wexler and team** (ISC Must Read), and **Drs. Jennifer Kong and Lee Swanson** (LDQ Must Read). Participants then had the pleasure of participating in a panel presentation featuring the Outstanding Researcher and Must Reads award winners.

Additionally, CLD committees met throughout the conference to check in with members and make plans for the upcoming year related to accomplishing CLD's mission and goals. If you would like to join a committee of CLD, please contact the committee chairs directly. All email addresses can be found on the [CLD website](#).

Reminders for CLD 2021 in Las Vegas and Non-CLD Member Participants

The CLD Board of Trustees hopes that you will consider joining us for the 43rd International Conference on Learning Disabilities in fabulous Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 14–15, 2021. The full call for proposals will be available on the CLD website on December 7, 2020, and the deadline for proposal submissions will be February 13, 2021.

Additionally, if you were a participant in the 2020 Virtual Conference on Learning Disabilities, please consider joining us as a member of CLD. From now through December 1, 2020, you can apply the \$25 conference registration fee to your membership dues. If you become a member now, your membership will be current for the 2021 conference in Las Vegas, making you eligible for reduced conference registration. There are so many benefits to being a member of CLD, including access to ISC and LDQ, updated information on policy and advocacy on behalf of individuals with

(continued on page 5)

Nomination and Elections Committee Announcements

CLD's Nomination and Elections Committee is pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the offices of secretary and vice president. Ballots will be sent out to the membership in January 2021, and elected officers will begin their term on July 1, 2021.

Candidates for Secretary



Alyson A. Collins, PhD, CALT
Texas State University

Alyson A. Collins is an assistant professor of special education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Texas State University. Alyson has been an active member of CLD since 2015.

As an active member of the Research Committee, she has reviewed Research to Practice Corner publications and submissions for the Outstanding Researcher Award and “Must Read” articles. She has also volunteered her time to the Leadership Institute to support the professional development of early career scholars. Prior to earning her doctoral degree in special education from Vanderbilt University with an emphasis on learning disabilities, Alyson taught for nine years in Texas public schools. Alyson is presently serving as PI/Co-PI on three IES grants aiming to improve writing instruction for students with learning disabilities, and co-director on an OSEP preparation grant to promote interdisciplinary collaboration between special educators and school psychologists. Her nearly 20-year career in education reflects CLD’s mission to enhance instructional practices and outcomes for students with learning disabilities, including those with dyslexia. As secretary, Alyson will maintain organized and accurate records for current and future CLD boards and members.



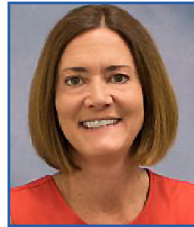
Lara Costa, PhD
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Lara Costa is a research project director at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has been an active member of CLD since 2014. During that time, she

was selected to be a member of CLD’s Leadership Academy Cohort 5; has served on numerous committees, including the Conference Planning Committee and the Bylaws Committee; and has been a conference proposal reviewer. She is in her second year as the PI of a grant funded by IES and has

been supported by IES-funded research for 12 years. She is a unique research scholar because she has expertise in both methodology and content, and draws on her former experience as a public-school special education teacher.

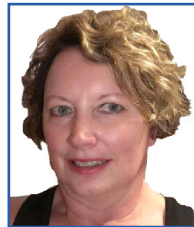
Candidates for Vice President



Margret Flores, PhD
Auburn University

Margaret Flores is a professor of special education in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling at Auburn University. She has been a member of CLD since 2009 and currently

serves as co-chair of CLD’s Research Committee. Her research interests include mathematics interventions for students with learning disabilities and students served with multi-tiered systems of support.



Rebecca K. Shankland
Appalachian State University

Rebecca K. Shankland is an associate professor in the Department of Reading Education and Special Education at Appalachian State University, where she teaches courses in learning disabilities,

diversity, developing inclusive learning communities, and reading and writing strategies. Before coming to Appalachian State, she taught students with high-incidence disabilities at all grade levels in urban, suburban, and rural schools. Dr. Shankland has been an active member of CLD since 2009. She has served as the secretary of the organization and has been a member of the Finance, Diversity, Membership, Leadership Development, and Communications Committees. Dr. Shankland values the opportunities to learn from and collaborate with professionals in the field of learning disabilities through her involvement in CLD and looks forward to continuing to support CLD’s focus on research and implementation of research-validated practices and advocacy for policies that support individuals with learning disabilities.

Research Committee Announces Award Recipients

Each year, CLD celebrates researchers who contribute to the field of learning disabilities with three different awards. The **Outstanding Researcher Award** recognizes an early career researcher who submits an article-length paper based on a doctoral dissertation completed within the last five years that is relevant to the field of learning disabilities. The research committee engages in a double-blind review process in order to select a winner. For 2020, the committee received seven submissions, and we are pleased to announce that **Michelle Rogers** was the winner. Her paper is titled “The Impact of Self-Regulated Strategy Development on Upper Elementary Students’ Opinion Writing Performance.” The submission was based on dissertation research under the direction of Janie Hodge at Clemson University.

In addition, CLD chooses exceptional research published in *Intervention in School and Clinic* and *Learning Disability Quarterly* to be recognized as **Must Read Articles**. The editors of these two journals nominated articles written between July 1 and June 30. Research Committee members then reviewed the articles to determine winners. The Must Read Article for *Intervention in School and Clinic* was “Enhancing Reading Comprehension in Middle School

Classrooms Using a Critical Reading Routine,” written by **Jade Wexler** and colleagues. The Must Read Article for *Learning Disability Quarterly* was “The Effects of a Paraphrasing Intervention on Word-Problem Solving Accuracy of English Language Learners at Risk of Mathematics Disabilities,” written by **Jennifer Kong** and **Lee Swanson**.

The lead authors associated with these award-winning papers and articles presented their work at the 42nd CLD Conference. We encourage you to read their excellent work published in CLD’s flagship journals.

If you would like to prepare an Outstanding Researcher Award Submission for 2021, the deadline will be **April 30, 2021**. The Outstanding Researcher Award recognizes a researcher who submits a manuscript-length paper about learning disabilities that is based on a doctoral dissertation completed within the last five years. The submission must not be under consideration for, or the recipient of, another award. For complete information on submitting to CLD’s Outstanding Researcher Award competition, please visit <https://council-for-learning-disabilities.org/council-learning-disabilities-outstanding-researcher-award>.

Leadership Development Committee Updates

The 42nd CLD Conference offered an opportunity to recognize current leaders in the field and prepare future leaders. The Leadership Development Committee highlighted award winners, conducted a lively Leadership Institute for 15 doctoral students and early career scholars, introduced the members of Leadership Academy Cohort 9, and met with chapter presidents to ensure sustainability and growth of our state chapters. Thanks to the many volunteers who graciously shared their time and expertise to make our events a success. We extend a heartfelt congratulations to all of our honorees.

Floyd G. Hudson Service Award

Dr. Roberta Strosnider (Maryland Chapter)

Teacher of the Year

Kellian Hughes (Texas Chapter)

Leadership Academy Cohort 9

Danielle Frith, Holly Johnson, Christiana Nielsen, Haerin Park, Amber Ray, Carlos Slavin, Leah Zimmermann

(42nd International Virtual Conference..., continued from page 3)

LD, networking opportunities with leaders of the field, and the ability to engage with other like-minded professionals focused on equity and access for all learners with LD. If you have any questions about membership, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Thank You!

Finally, the Board of Trustees would like to thank the sponsors of the 2020 International *Virtual* Conference on Learning Disabilities—**University of Houston, University of Nevada–Las Vegas, University of Texas at Austin, and Winston Preparatory School**. We appreciate your support and could not have done this without you.

Additionally, many thanks to members of the CLD Executive Committee who engaged in many hours of planning and conversation to ensure a successful conference event. Particular thanks to **Drs. Anne Brawand and Maria Peterson-Ahmad** from the Conference Planning Committee, **Drs. Kathy Ewoldt and Sarah McCarthy** from the Technology Committee, and our Executive Director **Linda Nease** for all of their hard work in preparing for and supporting the implementation of this conference. We also thank all the volunteer discussants and break-out room hosts who kept the conference on schedule and provided technical support to conference participants. We could not have done it without you!

See you in Vegas, CLD!

CLD Finance Committee Updates

The Finance Committee met on Zoom during the virtual CLD 2020 Conference. Members on the committee include Beverly Weiser (treasurer), Sheri Berkeley (past president), Steve Chamberlain (past president), Linda Nease (executive director), Rebecca Shankland, Sharon Ray, Beth Jones, and Cameron Butler.

During the conference and throughout the year, the finance committee (a) monitors the fiscal practices of the organization, (b) develops guidelines and makes recommendations for management, (c) creates guidelines for use of reserve funds that are consistent with the objectives of CLD's Mission Statement, (d) reviews the annual budget prior to being submitted for approval by the BOT, and (e) serves in an

advisory capacity to the BOT regarding matters that would affect the revenues and expenditures of the organization.

The finance committee, along with the BOT and other committees, supports leadership development of professionals who serve individuals with learning disabilities and other challenges in learning. Additionally, the finance committee collaborates with other CLD committees on ways to build membership, including educators, researchers, university and college students, and parents of children experiencing learning difficulties. Any CLD member wishing to be part of this committee would be welcome; please contact Beverly Weiser at beverly@beverlyweiser.com for more information.

Diversity Statement

The Council for Learning Disabilities is committed to celebrating and enriching the field of special education through its diversity. As a group, we pursue the best practices, research, and policies that exemplify enhancing the lives of individuals with learning disabilities, including those from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. As a diverse group of professionals in the field of special education, we believe that this work cannot be completed in a silo, but rather, it must be embedded within every part of what we do. As an organization, we are committed to welcoming, understanding, learning about, and honoring individual diversity.

Chapter News

Texas CLD Announcements

The Texas Council for Learning Disabilities (TCLD) would like to congratulate the 2020 Council for Learning Disabilities Teacher of the Year awardee, **Kellian Hughes**, who also happens to be a TCLD member. Kellian epitomizes the mission of TCLD with his work as a special education math and reading facilitator. He works with teachers who support students in math and also conducts research on improving middle school math for students with disabilities. Congratulations, Kellian!

TCLD is excited to announce an upcoming grant competition for educators and doctoral students working in the field of special education. The competition will accept applications from educators conducting action research in the PreK–12 classroom that includes students with disabilities as well as current doctoral students conducting research in the area of special education. Applicants must be current TCLD members. Be sure to check out the TCLD website for more details.

TCLD would like to introduce the new Executive Board members and welcome **Dr. Randa Keeley** as the president, **Dr. Shawn Kent** as our vice president, **Patricia Flint** as our Secretary, **Dr. Kristi Santi** as our treasurer, and **Dr. Maryam Nozari** as our past president. TCLD would also like to recognize **Dr. Mariya Davis** as our departing Executive Board member.

TCLD would also like to remind all that it is only an extra \$10 to join TCLD if you are a CLD member residing in Texas. TCLD offers members current news from the Texas Education Agency and Department of Education, COVID-19 resources for special education, grant opportunities, and much more.

Randa Keeley
TCLD President

Colorado CLD Announcements

Colorado got a conference in under the wire before things shut down due to COVID-19. They also demonstrate great leadership resources and recommend that state chapters start with branding and messaging to reach out to current and future members.

Virginia CLD Announcements

Members of the Virginia Council for Learning Disabilities (VCLD) and the Virginia Council for Exceptional Children (VACEC), two state organizations supporting students with learning disabilities and learning differences, have collaborated to offer a series of four free webinars to educators throughout the state of Virginia. Over 500 general and special educators, university professors, prospective teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals have attended the first three webinars. Notably, one professor added the webinars to her syllabus, and 35 of her university students have attended each webinar!

The 90-minute webinars offer information on topics relevant to contemporary teaching, such as *Virtual Teaching from Several Perspectives*, *COVID-19 and Special Education Law*, *Culturally Responsive Teaching*, and *Co-Teaching*. Each session is hosted by experts on the chosen topic who not only inform the participants but give them a myriad of resources to use in the classroom. Each webinar is uploaded to YouTube. Participants are given a link for the presentations and the YouTube recordings. There is also a link to complete a Certificate of Attendance for teachers who may need professional development points. The last webinar, *Co-Teaching*, currently has 235 registered attendees. Go to <http://vclد.org/> for more information from past webinars.

Resulting from the success of the webinars, several organizations would like to collaborate with VCLD on a new series of webinars starting in the spring. Thus, we have formed the *Virginia Joint Coalition of Learning Disabilities and Literacy* so that we may broaden our scope of educational professional development. VCLD looks forward to becoming a leader in Virginia in terms of providing free, quality professional development webinars to all educators throughout the state. If you would like more information on our webinars, contact Mindy Gumpert at mgumpert@odu.edu.

Stay safe!
Mindy Gumpert
VCLD President

Other Chapter News

We have members looking at the possibility of starting chapters in New Jersey (and possibly surrounding states) as well as Georgia (and possibly surrounding states). If you want to join in these efforts or start your own state chapter, please contact Donna Sacco at dmsacco60@gmail.com.

AmazonSmile Announcement

How many of you are frequent Amazon shoppers? How would you like to continue shopping and know that you are supporting CLD every time you shop, at no cost to you? Now you can with AmazonSmile! When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to CLD! Plus, you do not need to be a member of CLD to identify it as the charitable organization, so please feel free to share with family and friends!

Add CLD to your AmazonSmile:

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser with your Amazon credentials.
2. From your desktop, go to **Your Account** from the navigation at the top of any page and then select the option to **Select your AmazonSmile Charity** (under **Other Programs**). Or, from your mobile browser, select **Select Your AmazonSmile Charity** (under **Other Programs**) from the options at the bottom of the page.
3. Select **Search** and type in **Council for Learning Disabilities** as your charitable organization.
4. Bookmark smile.amazon.com so you can see your generated donations to the Council for Learning Disabilities each time you shop at Amazon.

Change Your Current AmazonSmile Charitable Organization to CLD:

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to **Your Account** from the navigation at the top of any page and then select the option to **Change your AmazonSmile Charity** (under **Other Programs**). Or, from your mobile browser, select **Change your AmazonSmile Charity** (under **Other Programs**) from the options at the bottom of the page.
3. Select **Search** and type in **Council for Learning Disabilities** as your new charitable organization.
4. Bookmark smile.amazon.com so you can see your generated donations to the Council for Learning Disabilities each time you shop at Amazon.

CLD Mission & Vision

Mission Statement: The Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD), an international organization composed of professionals who represent diverse disciplines, is committed to enhancing the education and quality of life for individuals with learning disabilities across the life span. CLD accomplishes this by promoting and disseminating evidence-based research and practices related to the education of individuals with learn-

ing disabilities. In addition, CLD fosters (a) collaboration among professionals; (b) development of leaders in the field; and (c) advocacy for policies that support individuals with learning disabilities at local, state, and national levels.

Vision Statement: All individuals with learning disabilities are empowered to achieve their potential.