



A Publication of the Council for Learning Disabilities

April 2021

President's Message



Dear colleagues,

It's hard to believe that we are at the one-year mark of navigating a global pandemic. Despite the many associated challenges, we, the CLD Board of Trustees and members, have remained focused and continued to move our organization forward. I am excited to share some of this work.

Election Results

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Margaret Flores, who was elected as our incoming vice president, and Dr. Alyson Collins, who was elected as incoming secretary. Thank you to Dr. Sheri Berkeley for her work as Nomination and Election Chair and to committee members Drs. Diane Bryant, Peggy King-Sears, and Mary Beth Calhoon for their service. Additionally, congratulations to Dr. Apryl Poch for her willingness to continue working as the editor of *LD Forum*.

Committee Highlights

We continue to move forward with 2021 conference planning. Dr. Brenda Barrio, vice president and conference chair, in collaboration with the Conference Planning Committee, is preparing for a wonderful meeting in sunny Las Vegas! More details will be forthcoming. The Research Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Jessica Toste and Dr. Margaret Flores, just launched the *LDQ Methods Exchange!* The 20- to 30-minute presentations will be followed by questions and answers related to the method discussed. The first session is scheduled for June 4th, and Mr. Brian Gearin will discuss document analysis methods. The Leadership Development Committee is encouraging the submission of applications for the 2021 Lead-

ership Institute and Leadership Academy. Please contact Dr. Esther Lindstrom, LDC co-chair, for additional information.

Membership

At a time when many professional organizations are continuing to experience significant declines in membership, CLD has maintained a stable membership. Now is a great time to encourage doctoral students and colleagues to check out CLD's website and encourage membership. Some of the many benefits include access to CLD journals, policy updates, and professional development opportunities.

Thank you for your continued CLD membership. Here's to a productive spring semester! Onward ... and upward!

Warm regards,
Brittany L. Hott, PhD, BCBA-D
2020–2021 CLD President

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Liaison Committee Updates

Much of the work of the Liaison Committee in the last year has centered on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and social justice issues related to individuals with learning disabilities (LD). As PreK–12 students with LD have attended school in various formats over the last year, it has been a challenge to make certain they are continuing to receive a free, appropriate public education—a fundamental right under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). While some students have not entered a school building for more than a year, others have been required to transition back and forth from totally virtual to face-to-face, and still others have participated in a hybrid model of schooling. We have continued to work on behalf of CLD as part of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) and the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities (NJCLD) to reach out to members of the U.S. Congress and U.S. Department of Education. While we worked in 2020 to make certain students were receiving services in various formats and schools were following recommended principles for reopening, we are now focusing on a wider reopening of schools. With that opportunity for students, it is important to reinforce the principles. The revised Reopening Principles will be available soon, and we will post them on the CLD website, as we do with other items that serve to keep you up to date. We hope you will find them helpful as your schools reopen.

The situation for students over the past year has emphasized the need for more attention to mental health. We have

signed on to a letter from CCD in support of the Student Mental Health Rights Act. With end-of-year assessments being planned, we signed on to the CCD Education Task Force Statement on Assessments/Accountability to ensure students with disabilities are included in assessments and receive accommodations and modifications as described in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). COVID relief bills and 2021 funding efforts have provided opportunities to speak out again for IEP funding. The results of those efforts have been positive, with an increase in IDEA funding being granted. Members of CLD had the opportunity to help decide on priorities we would like to see in the legislative policy agenda for the 117th U.S. Congress. In January 2021, the final policy agenda recommendations were approved and sent to members of the U.S. Congress. Also in January, we represented CLD at the CCD Annual Meeting, where the work of the past year and initiatives regarding individuals with disabilities were outlined. We attended our winter (January) and spring (March 6–8) NJCLD meetings virtually and were able to share the work we are doing at CLD and to collaborate with other organizations in the writing, communications, public policy, and organization subcommittees, planning for the work of this and future years. Please continue to watch for alerts and social media posts to keep informed.

Roberta Strosnider & Debi Gartland
Liaison Committee Co-Chairs

Research Committee Issues Call for Applications for Outstanding Researcher Award

In an effort to promote and acknowledge research, the Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD) recognizes an outstanding 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. The award recipient is a guest at the annual international conference, where they will present their paper. This recipient receives a complimentary registration and CLD membership or renewal. The recipient is also presented with a certificate of recognition and a \$500 honorarium to be presented at the 2021 International Conference on Learning Disabilities

in Las Vegas, Nevada. The recipient will be profiled in *LD Forum* and on the national CLD website. Additionally, the recipient's paper will be submitted for possible publication in *Learning Disability Quarterly*. Because of this consideration, the submitted manuscript cannot be simultaneously submitted to, or already published in, another journal.

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>.

The current **deadline** for submissions for the Outstanding Researcher Award is **May 1, 2021**, at 5:00 pm Eastern time.

43rd Annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities

Las Vegas, Nevada | October 14–15, 2021

Mark your calendars for a fantastic learning experience! The 2021 International CLD Conference will be held in sun-sational Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 14–15, 2021.



COVID-19 PLANNING: Due to the current pandemic, the 43rd annual CLD conference may have to be moved to a virtual format, similar to the 42nd annual conference. The decision regarding the format will be made no later than June 1, 2021.

Program Chair

CLD vice president **Dr. Brenda Barrio** serves as the program chair for the 43rd annual conference and is planning an exciting and informative program. Dr. Barrio anticipates that presenters will be notified of accepted presentations around mid-May.

Local Arrangements Committee

LAC Chair **Stephanie Huff** and the Local Arrangement Committee are diligently working on identifying sponsor-

ships, coordinating volunteers, and finding activities in Las Vegas for conference attendees. Please contact **Stephanie Huff** if you are interested in lending a hand!

Connect with CLD

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates about the conference.

Election Results

CLD's Nomination and Elections Committee is pleased to announce the results of this year's election of Executive Committee officers. Congratulations to **Dr. Alyson Col-**

lins, who will serve as our new secretary, and **Dr. Margaret Flores**, who will serve as our new vice president. Thank you to all who voted in the election.

Chapter News

Texas CLD Announcements

The Texas Council for Learning Disabilities is pleased to report that one of two competitive grants has been awarded. We continue to seek applications for a remaining grant that is designed to support the action research efforts in the classroom of at least one PreK–12 teacher. The grant is in the amount of \$750, and part of the grant monies will be allocated for

conference attendance and presentation of research by the recipient at the annual CLD conference.

Also, be sure to check your e-mail very soon for an exciting opportunity.

Best wishes,
Randa G. Keeley
TCLD President

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 at 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.

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.