



A Publication of the Council for Learning Disabilities September 2021

President's Message



Greetings, esteemed colleagues of the Council for Learning Disabilities community!

Welcome to the first edition of the *LD Forum* for the 2021–2022 academic year. It is my great privilege and honor to serve you in the role of president of the

Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD), and I am excited to work with you, the Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees, past presidents, and other members of the learning disabilities community to ensure a productive, innovative, and engaging year on behalf of diverse individuals with learning disabilities, their families, and community stakeholders. As we continue to navigate a world that has been shaped and changed by an ongoing pandemic in ways both seen and unseen and known and unknown, I continue to be humbled by the work that you do to ensure that the diverse voices of individuals with learning disabilities are centered in our work and that we find innovative, evidence-based ways to continuously advocate for their equitable outcomes through our scholarship, teaching, and engagement as thought leaders in the field. I want to take a moment and thank our immediate past president, Dr. Brittany Hott, for her leadership and guidance as president during the unprecedented 2020–2021 academic year; the world changed on a daily basis, and Dr. Hott provided a steady hand and even guidance in ensuring that our organization stayed the course. Thanks to her and all members of the CLD leadership team for their tireless efforts in bringing us to the place we are today.

I believe that we are at a critical juncture as a society in reconceptualizing ways to ensure equity and access for all individuals with learning disabilities amidst an ongoing reckoning for racial and economic justice on behalf of Black, indigenous, and persons of color within our society; a worldwide pandemic; and ever-changing and evolving educational contexts. These have all created a time where we can challenge ourselves to think differently about the ways that we approach our work with the students, families, and teachers whom we

serve. To work with you in ensuring that we as members of the CLD community are rising to this moment, I am committed to asking myself the following guiding question throughout the year: *How can we leverage our history and plan today for the CLD of tomorrow?* I firmly believe that we can engage with one another to envision an educational community and society that are better aligned to the unique assets that individuals with learning disabilities bring to our schools and look forward to working with you to find ways that we can challenge our own thinking and systems to ensure their outcomes are centered in everything that we do. My goal is to work with the entire CLD community to ensure the following guiding principles are reflected in all that we do as an organization:

- Equity for diverse individuals with learning disabilities, their teachers, and their families.
- Inclusion and access for members who identify as Black, indigenous, and persons of color.
- Responsive to both members and the field in a globalized educational setting.
- Translation of scholarship to influence the field.
- Critical discourse and thought leadership to create parity—in schools, in communities, in scholarship.
- Challenge and update systems and policies to increase inclusion and access.

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As we embark on this new journey together, I am consistently reminded that the wealth and strength of our community is in our ability to engage in discourse and dialogue with those who can push and extend our thinking. And I hope that we can create even bigger, more open spaces so that the perspectives of diverse individuals are included in this discourse. We cannot change what we do not understand, and we can never understand the perspectives of diverse individuals if we do not create the space for their voices and concerns to be heard. I know that I do not know it all, and I am humbled daily by the learning that I do in collaboration with you, my colleagues. So, I encourage you to be involved—join a committee; share your ideas; engage in critical thought partnership at our annual conference in Las Vegas in October or via any of the other professional events that we hold

throughout the year; be a member of our professional development pathways; publish in CLD-affiliated journals such as *Learning Disability Quarterly* and *Intervention in School and Clinic* or in this newsletter; consider running for a CLD office or joining leadership on the Board of Trustees; find ways to advocate for policy and practice changes; and innovate in translating the findings of our scholarship into practice. This is our organization, and I believe that together we can rise to the moment of creating new spaces to ensure that the assets of the diverse individuals with learning disabilities we serve are continuously understood and that their needs are met in sustaining, humanizing ways. I look forward to our journey together!

Onward,
Joseph John Morgan
2021–2022 CLD President

Nomination and Election Committee Announcements

The Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD) is seeking nominations for the positions of CLD vice president and CLD treasurer. The vice president serves a one-year term and succeeds to the positions of president-elect, president, and past president over the next three years. The vice president serves as the program chair for the Annual Conference on Learning Disabilities and serves in the president's place and with his or her authority in case of absence or disability of the president and president-elect. The vice president assists in the plan of operation for the organization, charges to committees, and the annual CLD budget. The treasurer serves a three-year term and is responsible for reviewing portfolio statements and chairing the Finance Committee.

In accordance with the Standing Rules of the CLD, nominees must have experience serving on a standing committee,

the Board of Trustees at the national level, or the Executive Committee of an affiliated chapter. If interested in running for office, please contact **Brittany Hott**, Nomination and Election Committee chair, at bhott@ou.edu. To run for the offices of vice president or treasurer, nominees must consent to the nomination to stand for election, submit at least five signatures from current members of CLD on the official nominations form, and share a brief biographical sketch that includes qualifications to serve. The nomination form can be obtained by emailing Brittany Hott. Nominations for offices will be accepted until the Annual Business Meeting, which will be held at **10:30 am on Friday, October 15th**, at which time the nominations period will close.

Membership Committee Announcements

The Membership Committee has been busy working on several items designed to attract, engage, and retain members. We revised the welcome email to new members, adding live links to current journal issues, *LD Forum*, conference information (including a link to the call for proposals), legislative updates, research to practice corner, Leadership Institute, and LDQ methods exchange. We are currently working to create a forum where graduate students and early career faculty can pose questions and receive feedback from experienced researchers, and, with the Leadership Committee, facilitat-

ing the creation of a group specifically for graduate students focused on networking, generating ideas for focused workshops at the conference, committee development, and longtime membership. Additionally, we are exploring ways to better utilize social media to promote pre- and post-conference engagement by using Twitter hashtags to generate conversation and build excitement before the conference, and afterwards to share feedback and maintain engagement throughout the year.

CLD Conference: Save the Date

We are excited to see everyone in person at the Bally's Las Vegas on October 14th and 15th. We have fantastic topics and presentations, networking opportunities, and new innovative spaces called joint opportunities for discussion and action.

Also, our 2021 J. Lee Wiederholt Distinguished Lecturer is the one and only **Dr. Diane Pedrotty Bryant!** **Registration is now open.** Don't forget to secure your hotel rooms as well. See you in Las Vegas!

43rd International Conference
October 14-15, 2021

COUNCIL FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES

Bally's Las Vegas Hotel

Experience the magnificence of this wonderful city, network with other professionals, and share your research.



Research Committee Announcements

The Research Committee has two ongoing initiatives that began in 2021: the LDQ Methods Exchange and a writing group. The LDQ Methods Exchange was launched in June via three interactive Zoom sessions with authors of recently published articles in *Learning Disability Quarterly* (LDQ). The authors discussed their research designs and methods, which included the use of document analysis, latent profile analysis, and multi-level modeling. We will continue to highlight new publications through a series of LDQ Methods Exchange sessions each semester. Look for announcements on the CLD website and social media platforms. The second initiative, a writing group, meets each month. Headed by Dr. Cynthia Massey, the group shares their writing projects and ideas. Participants formed cross-collaborations, received support from colleagues with advice and encouragement, and

tracked their progress across their writing goals. The writing group would like to extend participation to any interested CLD member. For more information contact Cynthia Massey at cynthiamassey@georgiasouthern.edu.

The Research Committee also reviews submissions for three different awards: the **Outstanding Researcher Award** and two **Must Read Articles**, one from *Intervention in School and Clinic* and one from *Learning Disability Quarterly*. The lead authors associated with these award-winning papers and articles will present their work at the 43rd CLD Conference held in Las Vegas this year. Award recipients will be named at the conference and in the December issue of *LD Forum*. We hope you can attend their presentations in October. If not, we encourage you to read their excellent work published in CLD's flagship journals.

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.

Chapter News

TCLD Announcements

The board for the Texas Council for Learning Disabilities (TCLD) would like to wish the wonderful educators in preK–12 and higher education a healthy and productive start to the 2021–2022 academic year. TCLD is excited to announce two new members to our Executive Board: Dr. John Romig (vice president) and Pilar Balabuch (treasurer). As a board, we continue to strive to support our members in their commitment to students with learning disabilities and in helping to improve outcomes for these students. To accomplish this, we have added a new list of resources across a range of topics that may be of interest to our members on our chapter website (<https://texasclد.mystrkingly.com>). We hope to continue to add updated resources as they are available. Additionally, we aim to host future webinars on important issues surrounding the education of students with learning disabilities. Finally, in our effort to promote evidence-based practices, research, and advocacy for individuals with learning disabilities, we will offer a mini-grant for TCLD members to support teacher-led action research in special education. Details will be provided to our members and on our website in fall 2021.

In closing, I want to salute all past and present members of CLD for their unrelenting commitment, even in the face of unprecedented events, to improving the educational experience of students with disabilities. It is my privilege to serve

as president of TCLD this year, and on behalf of my colleagues on the board, best wishes for 2021–2022.

Shawn Kent
TCLD President

VCLD Announcements

The Virginia Council for Learning Disabilities received the **2021 disABILITY Impact Award** from the disABILITY Law Center of Virginia for *excellence in providing services, supports, and resources for people with disabilities in Southern Virginia through innovation, adaptation, and perseverance during the COVID-19 Pandemic*. VCLD, in collaboration with the Virginia Council for Exceptional Children, created a series of five webinars during COVID-19 that were attended by more than 750 educators from throughout the state. Through their professional development activities, VCLD continues its mission of enhancing the lives of people with learning disabilities and those who experience challenges in learning.

I am happy to announce that we have chosen **Virginia Wesleyan University** as the site for our spring symposium. The date is May 21, 2022. Be on the lookout for a Call for Proposals in September.

Mindy Gumpert
VCLD President

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.

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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.