



A Publication of the Council for Learning Disabilities September 2024

President's Message



Dear CLD Colleagues,

I hope that you have all had a chance to relax and enjoy your summer in preparation for the new academic year. I so enjoyed engaging and collaborating with all of you at our conference in Denver, Colorado, last October. The conversations and collaborations from the conference led to exciting research, advocacy, and other projects from our members.

I am honored and humbled to be your president of CLD this year. Given the increasing challenges our PK–12 students face following the pandemic, our work and advocacy supporting learning and social-emotional needs in individuals with learning disabilities is even more paramount. During my presidential year, I want to celebrate and uplift your unique voices and experiences. I not only want to continue to elevate the goals of CLD of “enhancing the education and quality of life for individuals with learning disabilities across the life span,” but to also ensure that our practitioners also have access to related high-quality information and resources. Please share our newest membership option for practitioners with PK–12 teachers and other school-based professionals you work with; this membership is offered at a reduced cost and provides practitioners access to our CLD journals and resources.

The Board of Trustees is excited to welcome everyone to our upcoming 46th International Conference on Learning Disabilities in October in Charlotte, North Carolina; you can still [register here](#). The Conference Planning Committee members, conference co-chairs Drs. Randa Keeley and Cynthia Massey, and President-Elect Dr. Apryl Poch are busy planning an exciting conference on a number of topics related to learning disabilities such as academic interventions, social-emotional support, legal-related topics, and more. We are looking forward to Drs. Douglas and Lynn Fuchs’ J. Lee Wiederholt Distinguished Lecturer opening session on students’ needs with both reading and math difficulties. Dr. Peggy King-Sears will begin our Friday sessions with a lecture titled “A Stroll Down Memory Lane with CLD.” I am excited to share that our in-progress roundtables will continue this year to al-

low you to share and get feedback on ongoing research studies. To allow for more participation, these will be earlier in the day on Friday instead of at the end of the conference. More information will be shared about how to submit a proposal for an in-progress session. I cannot wait to interact with and learn from all of you!

To reiterate, I am excited and honored to be the president of CLD this year. I hope that I represent you well and advocate for our students and others with learning disabilities and other learning needs. I also want to thank our now past-president, Dr. Margaret Flores, on her strong leadership and guidance this past year.

If you would like to get more involved with CLD, [check out our committees](#) ranging from research to leadership development. You can also consider submitting a manuscript to *LD Forum*. You can share your expertise and experiences through several submission options, including a research to practice option, describing the ways in which a research area applies to a classroom setting, or through reviewing current, ongoing issues in our field. See the [submission guidelines](#) for more information.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with suggestions or areas of need for our organization and individuals with learning disabilities.

Sara Flanagan
2024–2025 CLD President

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2024

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2023 J. LEE WIEDERHOLT
DISTINGUISHED LECTURER



DR. PEGGY KING-SEARS

Professor Emerita
George Mason University

Friday Keynote
Presentation:

*A Stroll Down
Memory Lane
with CLD*



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Have a Question About Research?

Do you have a question about research that you would like to have answered by an experienced CLD researcher? Drop us an email at AskACLDResearcher@cldinternational.org, and we'll do our best to find answers for you. We welcome questions related to theory, methodology, and logistics, including the challenges of conducting research in schools. Your questions can be specific and technical, related to your

own project, or more generally seeking advice as you begin your career as a researcher. Once we receive your question, we will provide a response or connect you with someone who has expertise in that area. Additionally, we will prepare a quarterly summary of common questions and answers that will be published on our website and here in *LD Forum*.

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.

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.

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