

President's Message

Dear CLD Colleagues,

It is a great honor and privilege to serve you as president of the Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD). The Executive Committee (EC) and Board of Trustees (BOT) are already off to a great start for the 2025–2026 academic year. We have an exciting year ahead with several new members of the BOT who bring with them refreshing ideas for advancing CLD. I have also been in contact with our state chapter presidents who continue to work to grow their membership and the opportunities they can make available within their local communities. As we navigate a world with changing conceptions of disability and support for educational research, it remains critical that we share the 'why' behind our work, our organization, and those that we seek to serve. My goal this year is to work with the entire CLD community to

- prioritize translational research to reimagine possibilities for individuals with learning disabilities (LD) and their families within a changing educational environment;
- foster collaborative partnerships and experiences to build/expand CLD's mission, membership, and reach; and
- develop pathways to leadership, continued involvement, and advocacy within CLD on behalf of individuals with LD and their families.

This fall (October 16–17), we are excited to welcome everyone to our 47th International Conference on Learning Disabilities in Salt Lake City, Utah. Registration is still open [here](#). Conference co-chairs Drs. Randa Keeley and Cynthia Massey and President-Elect Dr. Alyson Collins have a packed conference program on various topics related to LD. Dr. Monica Brown will be giving this year's J. Lee Wiederholt-Donald D. Hammill Distinguished Lecture on Thursday morning. Additionally, the Research Committee will be hosting in-progress research roundtables. I am looking forward to interacting with and learning alongside all of you at our conference this fall. It is always one of the highlights of my year! In an effort to continue to grow international connections, CLD is again partnering with the Cultural Vistas' Citizen Ambassador Program to form a delegation to The Sultanate of Oman. The trip is currently scheduled for the week of December 6–13, 2025. For additional information, please reach out to Dr. Nathan Stevenson, vice president and CLD delegation leader, at nsteve15@kent.edu.

In closing, I would like to thank Dr. Sara Flanagan for her leadership as president during the 2024–2025 academic year, and for helping to support my transition this

summer. The EC and BOT are here to support you and hope you will consider expanding your involvement with CLD—join a committee; engage in critical exchanges with practitioners and scholars at our conference; publish in a CLD-affiliated journal (Learning Disability Quarterly or Intervention in School and Clinic), or in LD Forum, this newsletter, to support translational research; run for a leadership position; advocate for the needs of our field; and help us build fruitful, collaborative partnerships for the betterment of our constituents. Thank you again for this opportunity to serve as president of CLD. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or suggestions as we continue this journey together of supporting individuals with LD and their families.

With warm regards,
Apyrl L. Poch
2025–2026 CLD President