

COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

The TAG Update

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE GIFTED

IN THIS ISSUE:

- TAG Talks - 1
- Letter from the President - 2
- Strengthening TAG: Our New Strategic Initiatives - 3
- CEC Assumes Oversight for Gifted Education Standards - 4
- JEG: Editor Tracy L Cross Passes the Baton - 5
- From the Editor - 7



TAG TALKS:

A Valuable Member Benefit

TRACY INMAN, ED.D.
 The Center for Gifted Studies at WKU
 TAG Webmaster



One special benefit that CEC-TAG members receive is access to more than a dozen TAG Talks. TAG Talks are 10 to 25 minute podcasts where experts discuss the essentials of a critical issue in gifted education and diversity.

Please let your friends and colleagues know that a sample TAG Talk is available on our website. Dr. Debbie Dailey, TAG's secretary from the University of Central Arkansas, discusses Providing STEM Opportunities to Gifted and Advanced Learners. If they like what they hear, encourage them to join.

See page six for a complete list of TAG Talks available through the TAG website.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



We hope you'll make plans to join us at CEC's 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis. The convention is a great place to network with other educators and learn more about what is happening in the fields of gifted and special education!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



TRACY L. CROSS, Ph.D.

Jody and Layton Smith Professor of Psychology and Gifted Education

Executive Director, Center for Gifted Education & Institute for Research on the Suicide of Gifted Students
College of William and Mary

TAG has enjoyed an incredible history as an organization created to advocate for students with gifts and talents (SWGT). TAG has existed for 60 years and is halfway through a year of celebrating its illustrious history. In this newsletter, you will learn more about how TAG has once again become the professional organization responsible for the standards for the field of gifted education. Dr. Julia Roberts has graciously agreed to lead this charge for TAG along with the role of overseeing efforts to consider programs for CAEP approval in gifted education. Both of these endeavors are critical to the field. Julia provides an excellent overview of the tasks at hand later in this newsletter. Note that TAG members will be sent a survey in July relative to the standards for the field. Please take this opportunity to contribute to the standards for the field of gifted education.

CEC-TAG has been a formidable presence in our nation's capital in lobbying our legislators about the nature and needs of SWGT. It is clear that these efforts have made the difference in the scope and level of activities that have existed over the past six decades. Please keep an eye out for upcoming announcements about how each of us can contribute to the important advocacy work of TAG.

TAG has been a leader in the research side of gifted education by supporting a world class journal entitled *Journal for the Education of the Gifted* (JEG). JEG is in its fifth decade of offering articles about SWGT. This is an exciting time for JEG as its worldwide readership has grown significantly through a partnership with SAGE Publishing. This partnership has given readers access to articles via the internet, which has allowed approximately 49,000 people to download JEG in the past year. In addition to increased readership, we are excited to welcome JEG's new editors. You can learn more about this change in Tracy Inman's story in this issue of the TAG Update.

There is also additional excitement related to our plans for upcoming TAG Board meetings. We are planning to hold our next face-to-face Board meeting in Puerto Rico this December. We will be working with TAG member Ana Meijas to provide professional development for educators in Puerto Rico who work with students with gifts and talents. We are very excited to collaborate with Ana and our Puerto Rican colleagues.

(continued on page 6) 2

STRENGTHENING TAG:

Our New Strategic Initiatives

LYNETTE BREEDLOVE, Ph.D.
 Director of The Gattton Academy
 TAG President Elect



As TAG celebrates our 60th anniversary, the board felt it was imperative to plan for TAG's future. Having a clear set of strategic initiatives guides an organization along its future path and provides accountability for board members along the way. Over an intense weekend in October 2017, the board worked together to renew TAG's mission and determine initiatives that will keep our organization relevant, engaging, and effective.

The process started by examining our core values and creating the following value statement,

CEC-TAG, a service community, values working collaboratively and respectfully to advocate for quality education and service for all children with gifts and talents, especially those from twice-exceptional and other diverse populations.

This value statement served as the foundation for all discussions as the board developed the strategic initiatives as well as a measuring stick and point of comparison to ensure all decisions were true to our values.

Next, the TAG board renewed the organization's mission statement. The statement needed to include who we are, what we provide, and address why it is important that our organization continue. Throughout TAG's history we have been a voice for gifted and talented students. As a partner with CEC, TAG's focus has become increasingly clear; we must be a voice for under-represented students and those with other exceptionalities. TAG's new mission statement reflects this.

The Association for the Gifted (TAG), a division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), embraces and supports the needs of students with gifts and talents, focusing on multi-exceptional and other diverse learners, through advocacy, professional learning, and resources.

Once our values and mission were clearly stated, the board identified key initiatives that would strengthen our organization and increase our impact. Our commitment to gifted and talented students remains strong and continues to be the focus of our advocacy, professional development, and resources. With this in mind, the board's focus for the initiatives were on the organization itself in an effort to strengthen our voice and ensure our organization's longevity.

(continued on page 7)

TAG IN THE NEWS: CEC Assumes Oversight for Gifted Education Standards



JULIA LINK ROBERTS, ED.D.

Mahurin Professor of Gifted Studies at WKU
Past-President of TAG

The Association for the Gifted (TAG) members are very interested in standards, standards for teacher education program and standards for programming for students. TAG has taken a leadership role in the development and maintenance of standards for gifted educator programs for decades.

In November, 2017, the Board of Directors of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) approved a request from NAGC and TAG to become the Specialized Professional Association (SPA) for gifted and talented education programs, in partnership with the Council for Educator Preparation (CAEP). On March 1, CEC assumed the SPA role and program review administration responsibilities for gifted education programs, which was previously overseen by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC).

Early this year, CEC announced that with the support of TAG, gifted educator preparation programs may continue to seek national recognition by CEC and accreditation by CAEP by submitting program reports that demonstrate teacher candidate mastery of the CEC Gifted Teacher Educator Preparation Standards.

Jennifer Bullock, Director of Education and Standards for CEC, remarked, "CEC is proud to support the professional standards for both special and gifted educator preparation, the ongoing partnerships with our colleagues at TAG and NAGC, and the invaluable work of all professionals serving students with exceptionalities, gifts, and talents."

Members of the TAG Standards Committee who will provide direct support to CEC in all efforts related to the CEC Gifted Educator Standards include; Julia Roberts (chair), Susan Johnsen, Cheryll Adams, Alicia Cotabish, Mary Cay Ricci, Deb Troxclair, Ginny Burney, Kristie Spears Neumeister, and Susan Corwith (chair of the National Association for Gifted Children Committee).

JOURNAL FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE GIFTED: Editor Dr. Tracy L. Cross Passes the Baton



TRACY INMAN, ED.D.
The Center for Gifted Studies at WKU
TAG Webmaster

The Journal for the Education of the Gifted has only had five editors in its five-decade lifetime: Drs. Beverly Parke, Carolyn Callahan, James Gallagher, Laurence Coleman, and Tracy L. Cross. CEC-TAG is excited to add co-editors Drs. Jennifer H. Robins and Jennifer Jolly to that prestigious list. The Publications Committee was unanimous in its support for the new editors, as was the TAG Board. While both professionals are well known to TAG and CEC, we welcome them into this new role. Being the editors of JEG will also include leadership responsibilities within TAG. We look forward to collaborating with the new editors during their four-year tenure beginning January 2, 2019.

Robins said, "I'm thrilled to be a part of this new team and coedit the journal with Jennifer Jolly. I think this journal has a wonderful 40-year history in the field, and we hope to continue representing CEC-TAG's strong commitment to gifted education."

Co-editor Jolly concurred, "We are excited to be taking over the journal and stepping into the shoes held by some of the most influential scholars in gifted education. These are big shoes to fill and look forward to the challenge and what this means for CEC-TAG and the larger field of gifted education. "

JEG is in its 41st volume and is a world-class journal experiencing considerable growth in the U.S. and internationally. The journal is thriving and well positioned to continue enhancing its impact across the world. We have no doubt JEG will thrive under the editorship of Drs. Jennifer Jolly and Jenny Robins.



Jennifer Jolly, PhD
University of Alabama



Jennifer H. Robins, PhD
Baylor University

TAG TALKS: (continued from page 1)

- Accommodations and Modifications of Standardized Assessments by Dr. Yara Farah
- African-American Males in P-16 Context by Dr. Fred Bonner
- ATLAS: Initiating and Implementing a Magnet School for Middle School Students by Dr. Cecelia Boswell
- Differentiated Responsive Instruction by Ms. Mary Cay Ricci
- Effective Curriculum for Underserved Populations by Dr. Kim Chandler
- Equity-Based Identification Process by Dr. Ken Dickson
- Gifted Students with High Functioning Autism by Dr. Claire Hughes
- Moving from Professional Development to Professional Learning by Dr. Christine Weber
- Recruiting and Retaining Culturally Diverse Students by Dr. Donna Ford
- The Dark Side of Giftedness by Dr. Tracy L. Cross
- The Importance of Peer Relationships by Dr. Jennifer Cross
- The Learning Ceiling Challenge by Dr. Jennifer Jolly
- The Twice-Exceptional Student by Dr. Claire Hughes
- Understanding Rural Gifted Issues by Dr. Cecelia Boswell
- What Administrators Need to Know About Gifted Education by Dr. Krysa Goree



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued from page 2)

Each year the TAG Board has historically held one meeting during our annual CEC conference and one meeting during an event coordinated with TAG, usually a state gifted conference or similar event. This year the TAG Board voted to add two additional virtual TAG Board meetings. We held our first virtual meeting in June and have another scheduled during the late summer. The first effort at a virtual board meeting seemed to work very well and we are excited to see how adding the two additional meetings helps us move along the TAG agenda.

I am very excited and proud to serve TAG as its President during our 60th anniversary year. TAG's history and its current vitality have been greatly enhanced over the past several years by current and past Board members. TAG has benefited from some terrific leaders and the future is bright given the new leadership team moving into their roles. I could not be more optimistic for TAG.

I strongly encourage you to get involved with TAG and its many initiatives. TAG has a well-known reputation for its openness to diversity and its encouragement of participation by its membership.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (continued from page 3)

These initiatives will guide the board's decision-making over the next three to five years.

- Increase and sustain our visibility within CEC.
- Increase and sustain our visibility in the field of education.
- Diversify our sources of funding.
- Increase the effectiveness of the structure and function of the organization.

You will find the actions the board decided to prioritize for our first year in the strategic initiatives report available on TAG's website. You will also see our list of potential future actions we hope to address as we progress through the plan.

The next step is to update our bylaws. Proposed amendments were emailed to all members to review. The bylaw changes align with our strategic initiatives and are an important step in ensuring our board is transparent, accessible, diverse, and effective. After the required 30-day review period, members will be asked to vote to approve the proposed amendments. TAG has a rich 60-year history. We are committed to ensuring TAG's next 60 years are as vibrant and impactful.

FROM THE EDITOR



KIM HARDIN, Ph.D.
Abilene Christian University
TAG Newsletter Editor

I hope that this TAG Update finds you all well and enjoying summer break. For some, summer is a time to relax and recover from a long year of teaching. For others, summer is their busiest time of year with Professional Development and summer enrichment activities. Whichever group you find yourself in, I hope that you are able to find time for both rest and growth.

This TAG Update has been full of information about our organization's current initiatives and projects. I hope that after reading it you have a better sense of the breadth of what TAG does in the field of Gifted Education.

If there are things you'd be interested in reading or learning about in future TAG Updates please email me at kim.hardin@acu.edu with your ideas and we'll do our best to include them in future issues!

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH TAG



→ cectag.com



→ CEC TAG
The Association for the Gifted



→ TAG.CEC@gmail.com

SUPPORT TAG

donations to TAG are tax deductible

cectag.com/support/