

CCLD Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities NEWSLETTER



Members of the CCLD Board of Directors

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Lisa Blosser
Newsletter

Mary Ann Murphy
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Jill Marshall
CDE State and National

Upcoming Events and Educational Opportunities

CDE Webinars on Executive Function and The

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President's message

Last April, I was charging across the parking lot at the Auraria Campus, a few minutes behind as usual, pulling my red roly-poly bag. Walking past a parked car, I read (actually it *leapt* off of a bumper and smacked me in the forehead) the following quote:

“Change is inevitable; growth is optional.” *

Arriving in class, I perceived the pretty much customary optimism and energy but also saw many eyes droopy from stress and late nights preparing lessons for the next day. Many of my graduate students were also in the midst of the testing cycles in their school(s). I wrote the quote above in big giant letters sprawled across the board and thus began our class. So why was this a big deal to me, why is it a big deal to you, and what does it mean to the board of the Colorado Council For Learning Disabilities?

Number one, we *believe* in you. We see you at our yearly Math on the Planes conference; we see you at other professional conferences like Courage to Risk and Reading in the Rockies. We read your outstanding classroom action research projects and receive inquiries on our website. We watch as you earn national awards and also as you celebrate daily those perhaps seemingly less spectacular but at the same time absolutely *heart-stopping successes* in your classrooms that come as a result of so much hard work.

Secondly, we also know because we are teachers, too, the uncertainty that can come as you adjust to Common Core, anticipate and adjust to an almost non-stop changing cycle of “new” state tests, and work with an increasingly diverse student population. We know, well, the *flexibility, optimism, self-reflection, and sheer grit* that it sometimes takes to push through these challenges and greet daily, with a welcoming smile, all those faces in your classroom.

And so we salute you. You’ve chosen, as educators and supporters of individuals with learning disabilities, to accept the *inevitability of change* and, as members of the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities, the *option to grow*. And we want to support you along this amazing journey.

Inside, you’ll find exciting information about our *new professional development scholarships* which you, as members, can access to help you pay for professional development opportunities. *Make sure you check these out; they are for you.* You’ll also find information about our upcoming Math on the Planes conference (Feb. 25-27, 2015), the Courage to Risk conference (Jan. 22 and 23, 2016) and finally, Reading in the Rockies (Oct. 9 and 10, 2015).

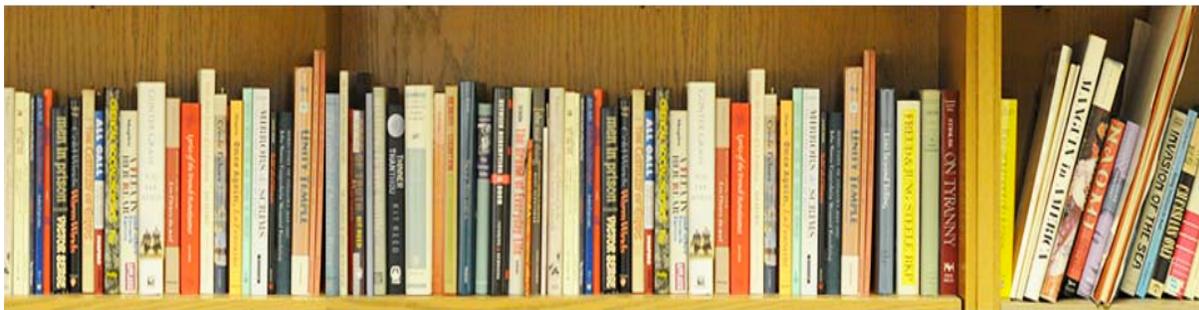
We wish you all the best in this upcoming school year!

Patty Meek, Ph.D.

President

Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities

* A Google search suggests the author of this quote is John C. Maxwell



Meet the CCLD Board Members

Patty Meek lives in Englewood with her husband, Joe. She worked in both Adams County District 50 and Englewood Public Schools. Employed as a music teacher, counselor, and school psychologist, she was delighted, for the last ten years of her school career, to teach middle school students with learning disabilities. Patty continues to teach at the University of Colorado at Denver. She enjoys hiking, listening to music, water color painting, gardening, reading, taking long walks, and working out.

Nancy Chomyn is an elementary special education teacher at Monarch K-8 in Boulder Valley School District. She has over 10 years experience with the district, teaching in various roles as a special educator, kindergarten teacher, and a para-educator. Her professional accomplishments include certification in Linguistically Diverse Education and completion of the Math Interventionist Certificate. As she pursues her love of teaching and learning, she is working on her Master's in Educational Psychology at the University of Colorado Denver. Nancy's two children are students in Colorado universities. Her son will soon graduate despite his learning disabilities.

Sabrina Raugutt started her teaching profession eight years ago while living in South Dakota. First, she was a high school special education teacher. During that time, she earned her Master's in Special Education as an Advanced Specialist in Learning Disabilities. After four years as a special education teacher, she took a fourth grade teaching position and enjoyed being the main classroom teacher working with students with a variety of disabilities in a full inclusion program. She was able to live both roles in one job. Later, she had the great opportunity to move to Colorado and take a special education position as a Learning Disabilities Specialist for Cherry Creek School District. Sabrina currently works in a middle school focusing on reading, writing, and math intervention as well as co-teaching in math and language arts classrooms. She recently earned her math specialist degree and enjoys tutoring on the side. Sabrina feels that life in Colorado is fun because she loves to hike, bike, swim, run, and travel the world as much as possible.

Kyle Hughes has spent most of her adult life as a special educator in the Cherry Creek School District. She taught at the elementary level and then spent her last eight years before retirement in secondary education. She taught in undergraduate and graduate programs at Metro State University and University of Colorado Denver. Kyle's most challenging work was as an independent contractor, working for the Colorado Department of Education in the area of school reform. As a retiree, she now enjoys volunteering in the Early Learning Center at Florence Crittenton High School, an alternative school for teen moms. She also loves traveling and spending time in Fairbanks, AK with her two grandsons who are two and five years old.

Over 20 years ago, **Annemarie Dempsey** recognized her calling when she started working with students with special needs as a TA at a residential treatment facility in Massachusetts. Since then she has earned her Master's in Special Education from UCD and spent time working in elementary and secondary schools in Adams 14, Boulder Valley, and DPS. Annemarie found her home in the Cherry Creek School District and enjoyed working with middle school students for 16 years. Additionally, she is a district Phonics Boost Trainer, was the Special Education De-

partment Coordinator at Laredo Middle School, and earned her Math Interventionist Certificate. Presently, Annemarie is proud to be a Cherry Creek High School Bruin. She is a Learning Specialist and Student Achievement Services math teacher at the school. Annemarie and her husband, Dave, enjoy spending time in the mountains with their three children (ages 11, 9, and 7) when they are not running them to soccer, gymnastics, scouts and other activities.

Lisa Blosser worked in several educational settings with runaway and homeless youth, developmentally disabled and deaf adults, and children with emotional difficulties before starting a teaching career in 1995 in the Denver Public Schools/Cleo Wallace Day Treatment Program. Her first classroom was a true lesson in differentiation because she had students ranging from kindergarten to 5th grade. Other teaching positions included the Special Needs Coordinator at Regis Jesuit High School and special education teacher in Sheridan School District. Currently, she is the Learning Support Services Teacher at Littleton Academy, a K-8 Core-Knowledge charter school in the Littleton School District. Lisa loves to spend time with her husband, Troy, and two children, Alec (19 years) and Paige (13 years). Watching movies, playing board games, and traveling are some of their favorite family activities. Lisa enjoys writing fiction and playing the folk harp; but when she has time, there is nothing she likes better than getting lost in a great book.

Mary Ann Murphy began her career as an elementary general education teacher in Cherry Creek Schools. A corporate transfer out of state and three children postponed her education career. Upon her return to Denver, she volunteered at Campus Middle School in the L.D Department. The volunteer experience with middle school students and personal experience seeing her son's frustration with a learning disability led her to return to University of Denver to pursue a moderate needs endorsement. After completion of the program, she joined the Student Achievement Services Department of Campus Middle School as a Learning Specialist. She spent the next seventeen years working to support students with moderate needs, collaborating with parents and other professionals to meet the needs of this student population. Currently, Mary Ann is volunteering at Saddle Up Foundation equine assisted therapy program for students with special needs.

A Colorado native, **Kathy Oviatt**, graduated from Arapahoe High School and then received her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Colorado in Secondary English Education. Kathy spent seven years outside of education, managing a retail bookstore. Realizing her true passion was teaching, she returned to education. She earned her Master of Arts in Special Education also from the UNC. After spending over ten years working with students with learning disabilities in the middle school, she worked as a Learning Specialist at Northglenn High School. Kathy taught and co-taught English and math classes. Kathy found her membership in CCLD allows her to develop her professional skills and to interact with others in the field. Through CCLD and Adams State, she earned her Math Interventionist Certificate.

Jill Marshall, M.Ed., was recently hired as the Specific Learning Disability Specialist in the Exceptional Student Services Unit at the Colorado Department of Education. Jill is excited to serve the state of Colorado by providing guidance, technical assistance, and professional development for Colorado educators and administrators responsible for the education of students with learning disabilities. Jill served as a Learning Specialist, a special education area and compliance coordi-

nator, and an instructional coach. She holds a Special Education Generalist and Elementary Education License. Jill earned her Bachelor's in English Literature from Middlebury College and a Master's in Special Education from the University of Colorado at Denver. She is passionate about learning, advocating for students with exceptionalities, and being a mom. Jill and her husband, Carter, enjoy traveling, reading, running, experiencing live music, and spending time with friends and family. She is delighted to return to the CCLD Board after taking some time off for the birth of her son, Bodhi, now five years old.

Kelly Ragland is a Colorado native and graduated from the University of Colorado at Denver with her Master's in Political Science in 2009. She has one son, who was born in 2012. She worked as a program coordinator for six years in the nonprofit sector, facilitating intergenerational programs in long-term care facilities. She is currently the Project Coordinator for the Pyramid Plus Center at the University of Colorado at Denver, which works to improve the social and emotional competence and inclusion of young children.





Professional Development Scholarship

The CCLD Board strives to provide teachers with the opportunity to renew or advance their enthusiasm, skills, and knowledge of evidenced-based practices that support students' academic and social-emotional needs in the classroom. CCLD will reimburse up to \$200.00 for approved conferences or workshops.

Eligibility: CCLD/CLD members who are currently employed in a Colorado school (pre-K–12) may submit applications for preapproval of a conference or workshop. Applications will be reviewed and the applicant will be notified of approval status within 30 days.

Requirements: The member will need to prepay for the conference and submit proof of payment. Once the member has attended an approved conference, documentation of attendance and relevant receipts must be submitted for reimbursement. Documentation of attendance may include a copy of a CDE Certificate of Attendance for recertification hours or other documentation provided by the sponsoring organization. In addition, the member will submit a brief summary (one page or less) of the conference and indicate how it will impact the member's instructional practices.

To apply, go to <http://www.cocld.org/prodevscholarship.php>

Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities

Tuition Scholarship

Eligibility: The **\$1,500.00** scholarship is open to state residents currently enrolled in teacher- preparation programs in an accredited college or university in Colorado. Applicants must have a plan of study or be working towards a degree in special education with the intent of securing a generalist license or special education endorsement to support students with learning disabilities. Applicants must complete at least one half of their program and have an overall- cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher in their special education course-work.

Benefits: Recipients also receive a one- year membership to the Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD) and the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities (CCLD). Award checks will be presented at the Math on the “Planes” Conference on February 27, 2016. Recipients will be featured in an article in the CCLD newsletter and will receive national recognition in *LD Forum*, the newsletter for the Council for Learning Disabilities.

Required Documents for Consideration:

- Documentation of residency:
 - Attach the most recent tuition statement from school of attendance indicating that in- state tuition has been applied
- Most recent official, sealed college transcript (Students in a post- baccalaureate program must also include a sealed transcript of undergraduate study)
- Three letters of recommendation:
 - Two letters must be from professors in the Special Education Program and one must address the applicant’s status with his/her plan of study.
 - The third letter must be from a site supervisor and speak to the applicant’s ability to work with children/youth and colleagues.
- 500 Word Essay: “What Makes an Effective Teacher for Students with Learning Disabilities?”
- Autobiography (see Application Form for details)

To apply, go to

<http://www.cocld.org/doc/Scholarship%20Application%20II.pdf>



Research Awards

The board of the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities is extremely honored to recognize Ms. Gabriella (Gaby) Rischel and Ms. Jamie Reeck as our 2015 recipients for outstanding classroom action research, following their participation in our Math on the "Planes" MOP conference in February, 2015.

Gaby, working in the St. Vrain Valley School District, teaches algebra to students in special education. She also leads the high functioning autism program at her school. For her research project, Gaby worked to enhance not only her algebra students' initial learning but also their long-term retention of the process of solving linear algebraic equations. Using the Balance, Number Line, and Arrow Chain strategies presented at the MOP conference, Gaby witnessed the majority of her students' progression from little or no initial strategies for solving linear equations to confidence in using all three models. In her reflection paper, Gaby stated that the flexible use of the models, in contrast to the more customary sequence for equations, helped her to "*...see the equation and the study of different types of equations as more dynamic, and less rigid as I move forward as an educator.*" Regarding her students, Gaby stated with pride, "*They focused, applied themselves, and proved to me that they could do math that was harder than I expected they could.*"

Jamie, a middle school special education teacher at Peak to Peak Charter School in the Boulder Valley School District, worked with an 8th grader struggling a great deal with math concepts, applications and math computation. This student's negative self-concept around mathematics had long contributed to task avoidance behaviors and obstinacy regarding work completion. Using both a Number Line model and an Arrow Sequence Chain, Jamie saw her student gain not only in skills and confidence, but also decrease his negative self-talk and enhance his abilities to reason more abstractly with mathematics. Regarding the use of the Number Line and Arrow Chain models, Jamie stated, "*While I have used other types of models and supplemental aides in the past to support students with algebra, I have never seen models that make algebra so concrete for learners.*" She was particularly gratified, then, when her student asked, "*Can I use these models next year when I take Algebra 10?*"

Gaby and Jamie ventured out to learn new means of teaching abstract math concepts through their participation in Math on the "Planes." Like their students, they elected the option of growth. Change, while inevitable and sometimes uncomfortable, can also be invigorating and hopeful. Gaby and Jamie, the CCLD board salutes you as educational leaders in these sometimes uncertain but incredibly rewarding times.*

*Jamie and Gaby received complimentary one-year memberships to both the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities and the Council for Learning Disabilities. Check our website at cocld.org to read their research projects. on the "Planes" was a great success again this year.



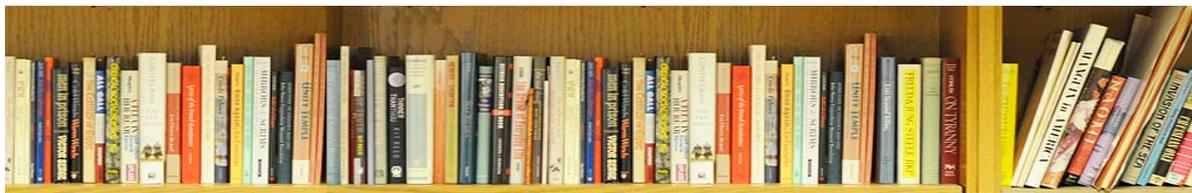
COLORADO
Department of Education

For the second year, the Colorado Department of Education is partnering with the Kansas TASN Autism and Tertiary Behavior Supports Group and the Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network to bring a comprehensive series of webinar trainings to their educators, families, and related service professionals. The next set of trainings are on executive function:

Four Part Series: Executive Functioning

- Executive Functioning: An Overview
 - Presented by Dawna Sigurdson, Ed.S. & Sharon Krupa-Sirotek, Ph.D.
 - October 28, 2015
- Executive Functioning: A Closer Look
 - Presented by Dawna Sigurdson, Ed.S.
 - November 4, 2015
- Executive Function Skills: Job Talk
 - Presented by Sara Ward, M.S., CCC-SLP
 - November 11, 2015
- Executive Functioning Skills: STOP
 - Presented by Sara Ward, M.S., CCC-SLP
 - November 12, 2015

To register for these webinars and to see the full list of trainings go to https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/asd_tristate



Improving Literacy for ALL: Differentiated Pathways for Including Students with Disabilities in the READ Act

Who: This training is intended for principals, District Assessment Coordinators, special education teachers and administrators, interventionists, and others involved in the implementation of the READ Act. This training will be to review the READ Act for very low incidence populations that currently cannot access one of the existing READ Act tools. Most specifically, learners with significant cognitive disabilities who are at an emergent literacy stage. Our key audience are generalists who work directly with learners with significant support needs. Just want to be sure everyone is on the right page that it will not address learners with SLD.

What: The Attorney General New differentiated pathways have been developed by the Exceptional Student Services Unit, in collaboration with the Office of Literacy, to include all students in the READ Act. This training will support school staff in correctly assessing students with disabilities for a significant reading deficiency as mandated by the READ Act legislation. The training will highlight:

- Changes in the READ Act Collection for the Spring 2016 involving students with disabilities.
- Information about a new tool for assessing the literacy skills of Students with Significant Support Needs.
- Effective use of assessment data to inform appropriate literacy instruction for ALL students.

When and Where:

- October 20, 2015: Pueblo - Pueblo Community College
- October 28, 2015: Durango - Durango School District Board Room
- October 30, 2015: Denver - Jefferson County School District Board Room
- November 5, 2015: Grand Junction - Mesa County Fairgrounds
- November 6 2015: Edwards - Colorado Mountain College
- November 20, 2015: Denver - Lowry Conference Center
- December 3, 2015: Greeley - Island Grove Regional Park
- December 4, 2015: Lamar - Lamar Community Center
- December 20th, 2015: Limon – ECBOCES Training Center

To register for these webinars and to see the full list of trainings go to <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/ssn>



COURAGE *to* RISK

The Courage to Risk Conference is a collaborative conference comprised of a variety of organizations committed to the educational success of students with diverse learning needs. The mission of the CTR conference is to provide quality educational experiences to parents, students, teachers, and community members; to provide networking experiences for participants; to motivate those working with students with diverse learning needs. The CTR committee seeks to accomplish this by planning a conference in Colorado for educators and families of students with diverse learning needs.

The 27th Courage to Risk Conference will be held January 22nd and 23rd, 2016 at the historic Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Keynote Speakers:

Barbara Oakley, PhD, PE is a Professor of Engineering at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Dr. Oakley's research has been described as "revolutionary" in the Wall Street Journal. She has won numerous teaching awards, including the American Society of Engineering Education's Chester F. Carlson Award for technical innovation in engineering education. She co-teaches Coursera – UC San Diego's "Learning How to Learn," one of the world's most popular massive open online courses. Her book *A Mind for Numbers: How to Excel at Math and Science (Even If You Flunked Algebra)*, (Penguin, 2014) is a New York Times best-selling science book.

Dr. Jerome (Jerry) Schultz began his career as a school special education teacher, and is currently a clinical neuropsychologist on the faculty of Harvard Medical School in the Department of Psychiatry, where he supervises aspiring young psychologists and psychiatry interns. He received both his undergraduate and Master's degrees from The Ohio State University and holds a Ph.D. from Boston College. A sought after speaker at national and international conferences, Dr. Schultz has written extensively about children with learning challenges and writes a special education and psychology blog on the Huffington Post. His book, called *Nowhere to Hide: Why Kids with ADHD and LD Hate School and What We Can Do About It*, examines the role of stress in learning, and has received international acclaim. He has an active following on Twitter, serves as the Chair of the Professional Advisory Board of the Learning Disabilities Association of America, and sits on several scientific boards dedicated to improving the education of students with special needs.



February 26-27, 2016

Location: Student Achievement Resource Center (SARC)
14188 E. Briarwood Avenue Centennial, CO
80112

Lodging: Best Western
9231 E Arapahoe Road
Greenwood Village
CO 80112

Time: 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Hotel Phone: 303-792-9999
Rate: \$89.00, book by 2/12/2016

Creating A Classroom Environment that Supports Students Who Struggle with Learning Mathematics

Dr. Eden M. Badertscher works to close opportunity gaps in mathematics education and ensure our system of mathematics education is equitable for all students. She brings extensive expertise in teacher education, mathematics curriculum and professional development. Dr. Badertscher provides experiences and tools that enable teachers and school administrators to effectively implement the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice.

Participants in this workshop will develop a knowledge base of how inequitable mathematical experiences and counterproductive identities develop and learn new ways to foster productive self-concepts. Participants will expand their knowledge of strategies that create classroom environments that empower students who struggle with learning mathematics. This nurturing classroom environment is designed to facilitate students' progress within the standards.

Questions: Contact Kelly Ragland raglankm@gmail.com

For updates on future events, please visit the CCLD website: www.cocld.org

Online registration available October 15

Math on the "Planes" is supported by the Colorado Metro Math Intervention Team and the Colorado Council for Teachers of Mathematics.

