MO-CASE
Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education

THE DIRECTOR

Volume 42, Number 3 - August 2020

2020 CALENDAR

- June 23-24, 2020 Board Meeting - - Margaritaville Resort
- Sept19, 2020 Board Meeting - - Margaritaville Resort
- Sept 20-22, 2020 MO-CASE Fall Conference, Margaritaville Resort
- Business Meeting - September 21, 2020 at the Fall Conference

2021 Calendar Page 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello MO-CASE!

"Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving, we get stronger and more resilient."

— Steve Maraboli, Life, the Truth, and Being Free

I am not sure if Steve Maraboli was thinking about his Local Director of Special Education when he penned this line, but it certainly applies to the work that the Special Education Directors across the state of Missouri have taken on these last two months. It is amazing to me to think about how, on a day's notice, we managed to rearrange all that we knew to be effective in the delivery of specialized instruction and put a plan in place to meet all our students' needs. How grateful I am to belong to such an amazing group of educators!

I hope through the COVID 19 pandemic that you are taking advantage of the webinars offered by the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE). As a unit of CASE, MO-CASE has benefited greatly from the work of Phyllis Wolfram as our Executive Director and continues to reap the benefit of her role as CASE Executive Director. Our profession is better with Phyllis as a national leader.

Speaking of parent organizations, I hope you are taking advantage of the opportunity to enroll your staff in CEC for free and/or encouraging them to enroll. As you are aware, connections to professional organizations is a highly effective engagement activity and CEC and CASE are the best for those in the field of special education.

Before COVID 19, we had another way of life. We were out and about and we attended professional learning with our peers. I hope many of you were able to attend our 4th Annual Collaborative Conference. Feedback about the keynote speakers and the break out sessions has been amazing. The conference planning team is already considering the feedback provided to adjust plans for next year.

The call for proposals for MO-CASE Fall Conference are out. Please submit a proposal. There are so many highly effective practices you engage in on a daily basis that the rest of us want to hear about! The submission form is available on the MO-CASE website.

This is Teacher Appreciation Week. I hope nation-wide special educators, like all teachers, are recognized for the valiant and impactful service they have provided to families throughout this strange time. I am so proud to be a special educator!

Take care and I look forward to seeing you on the other side of this challenging time!\

-Vicki McNamara, President MO-CASE

5 STRATEGIES TO BOOST ENGAGEMENT DURING COVID-19

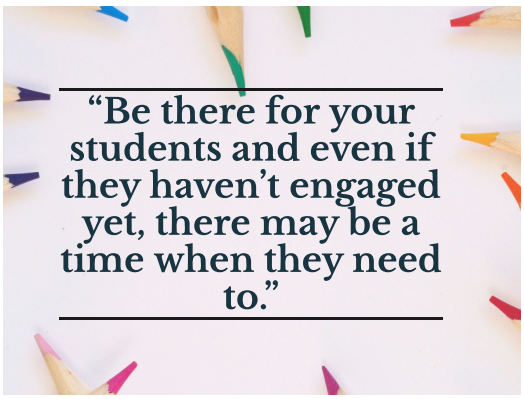
Submitted by Blaine Broderick, Ed. S.

6th Grade Teacher, Nixa Public Schools

If you are an educator like me, March and April sure seemed to be an emotional roller coaster that lasted a lifetime. In a matter of weeks, the State of Missouri went from "Ah! Spring Break is right around the corner," to "Wait… We won't get to see our students in person for the rest of the school year?"

This announcement delivered by Governor Parson on April 9th was one that shook the educational world leaving hundreds of thousands of parents, students, and teachers all across Missouri wondering, *how is school going to look for the next two months?* One thing for certain is that as educators, it remains our responsibility to ensure our students continue receiving curriculum and instruction, whether that is through printed materials or through online platforms such as Google Classroom, Canvas, Blackboard, etc.

Although much of what goes on with our students and families from day to day is out of our control, there are ways in which we can maximize the potential of engaging students and families, regardless of their demographics and motivation. If you are currently struggling with participation and are looking to boost that engagement and create a successful learning environment during these unprecedented times, follow these five tips and tricks. **When in doubt… COVID it out.**



2021 CALENDAR

- March 23-25, 2021 MO-CASE Law & Collaborative Conference, Holiday Inn Exec Center, Columbia, MO
- Sept 26-28, 2021 MO-CASE Fall Conference, Margaritaville Resort

Click the Link Button to continue reading **5 Strategies to Boost Engagement During Covid-19**

C	**Communicate**	Communicating to your parents that their child is valued, thought of, and at the top of your list of priorities is one major first step in building a successful virtual learning foundation.
O	**Offer**	Offering a reason to "show up" to online class outside of just academic work will boost your participation, engagement, and ultimately, rebuild your sense of climate and community.
V	**Vary**	Varying instructions, lessons, and assignments to meet a broad range of unique learning styles will increase the likelihood of success among your students. Students who are successful experience more motivation to continue being engaged and continuing to work hard.
I	**Inquire**	Inquire by asking for feedback. What is working well? What issues are families currently facing that might be getting in the way of their learning?
D	**Determine**	Determining which students may need some additional encouragement may just be the difference between half of your students participating and well over 75%. Just like with traditional school, how are you going to motivate the unmotivated?

Gayle Willey, *Ed.S. Executive Director*

Beginning March 1, Gayle Willey assumed the role of Executive Director.After 28 years in public education, she retired as an Elementary principal from Joplin, MO.Before retiring,, she held positions as a Special Education Teacher, Area Coordinator and Director with the Special School District of St. Louis County. Gayle participated in a dual contract with Webster Groves School District as a Director/Liaison before accepting the position as the Director of Student Services and completing a year as an Interim Elementary Principal.After retiring from Joplin Schools,and after a year off and she decided to apply and Gayle accepted a Program Mentor position with the Western Governor's University in the Teacher's College, BASPEE (Bachelor of Art, Special Education/Elementary Education) programs. She has been a long-time CEC, MO-CEC Past-President, and MO-CASE member and Board member.

"When the Executive Director of MO-CASE position came available it did not take too long to decide that this position is where I can use my experience and aptitudes.Following Phyllis Wolfram is not an easy task and I can never take her place.However, I bring some additional experiences and will continue to move MO-CASE forward with passion!"

Miriah Fowler, *Conference Planner/ Administrative Assistant*

It is with excitement that we get to introduce, Miriah Fowler, as the new Conference Planner/Administrative Assistant! She has experience designing new marketing techniques and opportunities, client experience with retention and sales along with budgeting and management of events and travel. Her expertise lies in client and public relations, brand strategy and awareness, vendor negotiations, project management and advertising campaigns. She also has experience managing video productions, social media campaigns and expos.

Besides all of her experience and expertise, we think you will find her energy and charisma to be just the fit for MO-CASE. **Welcome Miriah!!!**

Karla Arnold, Ph.D, *Director of Innovation & Learning*

As of June 1st,Karla Arnold will be assuming the position of Director of Innovation and Learning. Karla is finishing the school year as the Director of Exceptional Education with the Kansas City Public Schools, where she has also held the role of Supervisor with KCPS. She retired from the Excelsior Springs School District #40 as the Assistant Superintendent-Student Services.

She was also the Director Title I/Early Childhood with the Grandview School District. Karla's background also includes positions as a Speech Pathologist in several districts. She is an adjunct professor with UMKC, a member of several professional and community organizations and has participated in several state and local task forces.

Karla has presented both locally and throughout the state as well as being published in *The Council for Exceptional Children: Teaching Exceptional Children* and in the *Intervention in School and Clinical Journal*. As part of her many years as a member of CEC and MO-CASE she is currently an active LASE member and currently the Policy and Legislation Chair.

Karla is already transitioning into her role and as you can tell her experience and expertise is a perfect fit for MO-CASE!!

A FACE TO THE NAME

GAYLE WILLEY

MIRIAH FOWLER

KARLA ARNOLD

Five Daily-Affirmations for Special Educators During COVID-19

Submitted by Kaleigh Picket, SP-ED

Republic Middle Schools Republic, MO

Teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic brings new struggles, fears, and joys as special educators totally revamp daily specialized instruction, attempting to reach students who already struggle. "Pandemic Teaching" requires heightened levels of the skills we use daily in our classrooms, both instructionally and emotionally. These daily affirmations are for those folks who are showing up for kids, and doing what's not been done before.

1. **I am *flexible*** in responding to student needs, and my own.

Working and learning from home is a new way of life for both students and educators. As much as we are used to being flexible with the needs of students we serve, we need to be flexible to our own needs.

2. **I am an *innovator*, who is not afraid of new things.**

We've all heard the saying "don't reinvent the wheel" but as special educators, we know that that's not always possible. Accommodating, creating, and modifying digital assignments for specific student needs is not always simple or fast, but it's your specialty.

3. ***Encouraging* words should be simple and frequent.**

"Wow! Thank you so much for logging in today!" is enough some days. For you, for students, and for your colleagues. This is a time of unprecedented trauma in the lives of every American, whether we realize it or not. Businesses are closed, much of the country is quarantined to their homes, and people are writing Facebook and blog posts about "the end of times" being near... Just showing up is well worth encouraging right now.

4. **I am both a source of *support*, and someone who needs support.**

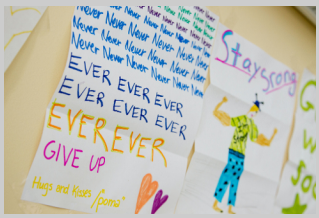
As a special educator, you and your department provide incredible amounts of support, to the students you serve, your colleagues, parents, administrators… you're used to it. And at times like these, people may be looking to you for more support than usual. Parents especially. Don't forget to reach out to your circle for support for yourself. You deserve it.

5. **My *worth* as an educator does not depend on online student engagement.**

Internet issues, parent involvement, student motivation... None of this determines your worth as a special educator, or validates/invalidates the work you're doing to provide meaningful digital learning for your students. We have no idea what students are doing at home right now, so do what you can, and rest knowing that you've given it your best.

You are part of something bigger than yourself, part of every student, parent, and colleague's life that you touch. Take care of yourself and your students, and keep moving forward!

2020



IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON EDUCATOR PREPARATION

Submitted by Dr. Tami Arthaud & Dr, Reeasha Adamsom

A pandemic of this proportion shutting down the world as we know it and creating a "new normal" is a concept that had only been seen in Hollywood blockbusters for our generation. However, with the insurgence of COVID-19, the world as we knew it halted and uncertainties across all aspects of life took place. COVID-19 has created serious challenges for Pre K-12 schools and communities that may permanently change the way educational services are provided and have forced in a very short amount of time for our school districts to completely re-conceptualize how educational services were administered. In a similar manner, Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) at the university level were forced to make drastic, immediate changes for preparing teacher candidates that could continue for months and even years to come. At Missouri State University, all administrators and faculty responsible for EPPs worked collaboratively to plan instructional revisions essential to maintain quality of programming; yet enhance safety and accessibility for the students and educator candidates engaged in academic and field-based coursework. Below is an example of the steps that Missouri State University took to ensure that teacher candidates were given an opportunity to continue to grow and develop as educators while being sensitive to the additional stressors and factors which have impacted us all. These are just some of the measures being taken by one institution to ensure quality educators enter the field, however each university has made dramatic changes to support the current crisis mode.

The first step that was taken was that students were given an extra week of Spring Break to provide faculty time to revise coursework and students to adjust to any more pressing matters in their lives. Even online courses were required to redesign the remainder of the semester to accommodate the students' transition to alternative housing and access to technology considering that campus computer labs and on-campus high speed internet would not be available for students. Most students would flee from the dorms to the safety of their homes to self-quarantine.

To be fair, the transition to online instruction was not entirely new to students or the university. Missouri State University has been using Blackboard and Zoom programming for several years; thus, adapting to distance instruction was facilitated by existing services and accounts that were already in place. However, a transition this large or for this many applied courses was unprecedented. Faculty scrambled to make changes to assignments, projects, and instructional content and to enhance distance education options with the knowledge that internet connectivity for student would be significantly variable, from no access except through a hot spot, cell phone or sitting outside a local business, dial-up, to the convenience of high-speed connectivity. Planned face-to-face presentations and discussions had to be replaced by Zoom sessions or recorded presentations embedded with video and/or audio feeds. Applied projects were redesigned to allow students to complete them through teleconferencing or Zoom format. Yet, the redesign required more than formatting of presentations and assignment completion. In EPPs, many courses include applied projects implemented in the field with children and adolescents in schools or related settings, hinged on the vital relationship which exists between educator and student, or mentor and mentee. Thus, the most daunting challenge faced by EPP faculty involved the PreK-12 school closures that resulted in the loss of applied settings in which students practice and refine their skills to become solid educators entering the field. So the question asked by all is "Where do we go from here?"

Click the Link Button to continue reading **Impact of COVID-19 on Educator Preparation.**

A NEW NORMAL

Registration Opens in June

MO-CASE 43nd Annual Administrators' Conference

September 20-22, 2020
Tan-Tar-A/Margaritaville Lake Resort

Osage Beach, MO

What to expect when you attend the conference:

- **Dynamic Keynote Speakers**:
  - Monica Genta *"180 Days of Awesome"*- Celebrating Education
  - Kelly Perales, PBIS and Mental Health
- **Law Seminar**: Selected attorneys will present on current legal issues and practical strategies for responding to these legal challenges.
- **Conference Strands**: ECSE, IDEA/ Compliance, Leadership, Evidence Based Practices, Behavior and Mental Health **Over 40 Breakout Sessions**: Featuring speakers and panel members from local schools districts, DESE, colleges and universities, and private practitioners.

LASE SPOTLIGHT

Submitted by Liz Smith, LASE Coordinator, MO-CASE Board of Directors

Congratulations to our fellow LASE colleagues across the state who are retiring! Thank you for all you have done to improve the lives of Missouri students. We wish you all the best! May you enjoy all the new opportunities and time to do the things that bring you joy!

- Deb Crowder, Special School District
- Dorothy Deason, Kelso C-7
- Dr. Beth Emmendorfer, Jackson R-2
- Kayla Schoonover, Mound City R-2
- James Simmelink, North Nodaway R-6

For information on a regional LASE group in your area, please check out the LASE tab from the MO-CASE website - www.mo-case.org, or feel free to contact, Liz Smith at esmith@wolves.k12.mo.us

SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

JOIN MO-CASE MEMBERSHIP

TOP TEN REASONS TO JOIN MO-CASE/CASE:

10. Keep up-to-date on special education issues, significant research, practical help, and trends.

9. Network with colleagues near and far.

8. Weekly targeted electronic communications.

7. Increase your professional involvement; share, publish, volunteer - BE ACTIVE!

6. Add to your expertise - conferences, webinars, and hands-on.

5. Get the resources and CASE endorsed products you need at prices you can afford - CASE/CEC catalogs.

4. Develop your skills - leading edge information on how to be a better leader.

3. Make a difference with policy makers - local, state, and national levels.

2. Influence our education profession - Individuals gain influence when they join hands with like-minded individuals. “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever does.” - Margaret Mead

1. Improve the educational success of all students.

MO-CASE was recognized by receiving the PLATINUM CASE PATRON Award at the CASE Member/Board of Directors meeting in Portland, OR on February 5th.

This award was due to our amazing growth in membership during the 2018-2019 school year. We are close to 600 members! I know this is a reflection of the work of ALL of YOU along with the work from the MO-CASE Board and the MO-CASE Membership Committee.

MO-CASE has proven to be an effective influential organization which provides powerful support to its membership. Now, more than ever, your membership in the MO-CASE organization can assist you as you grow professionally and develop services at the state and local level for students with disabilities. The growth in memberships for MO-CASE is due to amazing education professionals like YOU recognizing the benefits that our professional organization provides. MO-CASE has one unified membership. Once an individual has obtained CEC and CASE membership they are considered a MO-CASE member. By being a MO-CASE member you get to enjoy member benefits of all 3 organizations!

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is opening its doors to the special education community in need of resources. ***Nonmembers of CEC can receive a free basic membership from now through May 31*** by using the promotional code **CECED60** when they visit https://cec.sped.org/Membership and click "join as a new member."

New members who join CEC and also join the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) for the cost of $60, will receive a FULL YEAR to CEC, CASE and MO-CASE! If you join CEC for free and CASE for $60 prior to May 31, you will also be considered a MO-CASE member! **That's three memberships for the price of $60! Reach out to non-members to take advantage of this too!**

JOIN TODAY

MO CASE
Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education

MISSOURI PATHWAY FOR ASPIRING LEADERS UPDATE

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Special Education Department received a grant from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to develop a program to educate

administrators in becoming highly effective special education leaders due to the shortage of qualified Special Education Directors. DESE and MO-CASE have mapped the special education competencies and overall approach to guide the Missouri Pathway for Aspiring Leaders program. The goal of MOPAL is to increase the number of qualified special education directors in our state, inspiring them to be innovative leaders who lead their districts in the use of research-based approaches to support students with disabilities in Missouri. Through this program, aspiring leaders will receive essential content through online professional learning modules, cohort learning experiences, as well as coaching and mentoring.

The recruitment for MOPAL Cohort 1 is complete. We received 28 applications from outstanding candidates. The selection committee will review all applications and make a final selection of ten scholars in May.

The first professional learning course is Special Education Law, Regulations, Compliance and Community Involvement. A collaborative team from DESE, MoEdu-Sail, Regional Professional Development Centers and MO-CASE has gathered information to develop lessons for this course. Once modules have been developed and reviewed, a vetting team will use a scoring guide to validate the alignment of the module content with the Missouri's professional development module format.

"Identify your problems but give your power and energy to solutions."

MOPAL

The MOPAL Leadership Team will meet in May, 2020, to review the job description, expectations and requirements of the Implementation Trainer/Coach for the scholars. Applications will be taken for this position at a later date. Information will be posted on:

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kindra Delp, project director at Kindra.Delp@dese.mo.gov or call 573-751-0225.

My name is John Augustine. I am originally from Farmington, Missouri (a small town 60 miles south of St. Louis) and I currently reside in Springfield, Missouri where I have recently graduated with my Bachelors of Science in Special Education from Missouri State University (MSU). I am now in graduate school at MSU studying Special Education with an emphasis in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) where I am assisting in research studies, a graduate assistant and also taking courses. I believe to understand how I got here and my great experience at the MO-CASE Collaborative Conference, I need to provide some background information.

My father, Richard Augustine, was a Special Education teacher and later became a Principal at the at-risk school within the Farmington R-7 School District. I grew up being around teachers and administrators my whole life and saw the passion they had for teaching students. My father is my greatest inspiration because of how well he interacted with students and bringing the positive aspect out of every situation. Obviously, I have not been around the Farmington School District for awhile due to attending MSU, so I was it was a surreal moment when attending the MO-CASE Conference, that I saw some individuals who work in the field of Special Education attending from Farmington who used to work with my father.

I was first able to re-connect with Dr. Ashley Krause, who is currently the Associate Superintendent and District Foster Liaison at Farmington R-7. Dr. Krause is a person I grew up around and I was elated to share my interest and love for Special Education with her. Later, I was overjoyed when I was able to present a previous research study of mine that I conducted at a school in rural southwest Missouri to Dr. Krause and other members of the MO-CASE. It was great to also connect with current Special Ed. teachers at different grade levels from Farmington and discuss evidence-based strategies that are used in their classrooms. There were also many other professionals I was able to connect with from other school districts in Missouri.

Continue reading this awesome look into a student's perspective of the Collaborative Conference by John Augustine clicking the link button below!

MO-CASE wishes Phyllis Wolfram and Debbi Magnifico a warm goodbye and best of luck as they head to the CASE office . MO-CASE was privileged to have such passionate members of the team for so long and know they will continue to thrive at CASE!

A Special THANK YOU to our amazing Sponsors for our **4th Annual Collaborative Conference!**

SpedTrack

PresenceLearning

rethink Ed

GOALBOOK

THE SOCIAL EXPRESS™

THOMECZEK & BRINK, LLC
Attorneys at Law

The MO-CASE Spring Law Conference is brought to you in partnership with the Law Firm of Thomeczek & Brink, LLC.

Thomeczek & Brink, LLC is a great supporter of MO-CASE and those who work in the field of Special Education.

WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE AND VALUE THEIR PARTNERSHIP!

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Miriah Fowler, *Conference Planner/Admin Assistant*

Karla Arnold, *Director of Innovation and Learning (July 1, 2020)*

3550 Amazonas Dr.

Jefferson City, MO 65109

573-644-7804

MO-CASE
Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education

www.mo-case.org

office@mo-case.org

www.facebook.com/missouricase/

@missouricase

"MO-CASE is a subdivision of the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) - A division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)."