NCCASE Update for NC CEC Newsletter

Here is your NCCASE Update!

The NCCASE Executive Board, Board of Directors and Overall membership met virtually on Friday, October 9th. Below are the decisions and information shared at this meeting.

1. NCCASE Officers for this year are as follows:
   1. Julie Varnham (New Hanover County Schools)---Co-President
   2. Christy Grant (Nash County Schools)—Co-President
   3. Kristin Bell (Durham Public Schools)---Immediate Past President
   4. Sam Dempsey (Retired)---Legislative Committee Co-Chair
   5. Jill McKenna (Wake County Public Schools)---Legislative Committee Co-Chair
   6. Glenda Starr (McDowell County Schools)—Secretary
   7. Teresa Owens (High Point University)---Treasurer
   8. Stacie Levi (Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools)—Membership Chair
   9. Sandy Albert (Mooresville Graded Schools)---Professional Development Co-chair
   10. Mike Marcela (Watauga County Schools)—Professional Development C0-chair
2. NCCASE added the following EC Administrators to our Board of Directors: Kelly Doppke from Jackson County Schools and Virginia Gaynor from Pitt County Schools.
3. Dr. Nellie Aspel, former NCCASE Board of Director member and EC Director from Cleveland County Schools, has been selected as the recipient of the 2020 CASE Outstanding Administrator of Special Education Award. This national award recognizes individuals with 10 years or more of special education leadership experience who have made significant professional contributions to leadership and field practice in the administration of programs for students with disabilities and/or who are gifted. Dr. Aspel will be recognized at the National CASE Board Of Directors/Member meeting on Nov 4th and then again during the National CASE conference on Friday, Nov 6th .
4. NCCASE awarded its first Melinda Jacobs Innovation in Teaching Grant to special education teacher Greg Desern for his "iPads for Independence" project to be implemented in Alamance Burlington Schools.  The grant of $1,000 will be used to purchase two iPads Minis and durable cases to protect them for use in Mr. Desern’s special education classroom businesses. The iPads will utilize an app called Task Analysis developed by the Clemson Life program. With the use of the iPads and app, students will work to increase their independence with job skills such as making change, restocking items, and cleaning areas. This project will expand the existing school-based enterprise in an innovative way that will provide students with continued opportunities to work independently in new and more involved ways.
5. The NCCASE Board has created a new Public Relations/Communications Committee to help improve our Social Media presence and our communications with all organizations and EC administrators throughout the state. Kristin Bell is the Chairperson of this new committee. Any NCCASE member interested in helping on this new committee should contact Kristin at [Kristin\_Bell@dpsnc.net](mailto:Kristin_Bell@dpsnc.net)
6. NCCASE currently has 126 members. We discussed several options on how we can continue to increase our membership. If you are interested in becoming a member of NCCASE, please contact Stacie Levi at [stacie.levi@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:stacie.levi@cms.k12.nc.us)
7. NCCASE is currently working to convene a focus group to help us plan for a number of monthly virtual Professional Development activities during the upcoming year. This focus group will also work on developing ways to improve our annual conference. Any NCCASE member interested in helping on this this new focus group should contact Mike Marcela at [marcelam@wataugaschools.org](mailto:marcelam@wataugaschools.org) or Sandy Albert at [salbert@mgsd.k12.nc.us](mailto:salbert@mgsd.k12.nc.us)
8. The NCCASE Legislative Priorities for this year include:
   1. Supporting recommended changes to the EC Funding Formula and appropriations process to focus allotment decisions based on service needs for students instead of a straight per student allotment;
   2. Continuing to work with the Division of Health Benefits to approve and increase the number of Medicaid Billable services for school districts;
   3. Working to improve recruitment and retention of Highly Qualified EC staff, including School Psychologists, in the state;
   4. Continuing to support and work for improvement in available financial resources to encourage school safety and mental health services throughout the state.
9. A Medicaid Billing Victory! After five years of hard work, NCCASE is proud to announce that the Division of Health Benefits has approved the billing of special transportation services by school districts. More details on how districts can begin billing for this service will be forthcoming. Next on the Medicaid Billing agenda is the approval for personal care assistants for students with disabilities.
10. SAVE THE DATE:  The 2021 NC CASE Conference will be held on October 3-6, 2021 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree at Wrightsville Beach, NC. More information to come!
11. Be sure to visit NCCASE Online at <https://www.nccase.org/>

If you have any questions about the information in this update, NCCASE or information on how to become a NCCASE member, please feel free to contact Mike Marcela at 828-264-7190 or via email at marcelam@wataugaschools.org.