



ANYA EVMENOVA, EDITOR

AUGUST 2015

President's Message

Cheryl Temple, Ph.D., President TAM



The definition of summer for me includes a chance to rejuvenate for the upcoming school year. Being an administrator in the tenth largest school district means lots of planning and thinking about how to move forward. The same is true for the TAM division of CEC. In that regard, some of the TAM Board members spent time at the Leadership Conference hosted by CEC in Alexandria, VA in July. The conference started with a keynote by Jamie Notter, author of *When Millennials Take Over* who challenged us to think about the future of our organization (<http://jamienotter.com/>). He shared his thoughts on how organizations must learn how to move faster, flatten their hierarchies, share more openly, and operate more digitally. Social media is pushing organizations to be more transparent, decentralized, and collaborative. In that regard, TAM is currently looking at how to use social media more effectively to share resources and develop collaboration among TAM members.

After the Leadership Conference there was a Special Education Legislative Summit <http://www.specialeducationlegislativesummit.org/>. The group prepared for Capitol Hill visits by discussing advocacy strategies, getting updates from the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs, meeting by states to prepare for a trip to Capitol Hill, and actually visiting Congressmen and Senators to advocate for the needs of students receiving special education services. It was exciting to be on

the Hill advocating for our students while lawmakers were busy inside the U.S. Capitol debating the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act!

Besides continuing to be leaders in the area of technology to support diverse learners and advocating for the needs of our students, another important goal for our organization is the publication of a research-based, peer-reviewed journal. The TAM Board is excited to report that *The Journal for Special Education Technology* (JSET) will now be published by SAGE Publications. SAGE publishes over 800 books a year and over 850 journals. We are so excited to be one of the journals that will be published by SAGE. We believe that this will increase our visibility and streamline the process for authors to submit their articles. We currently have an interim editor, but we are looking for applicants for the position of Editor or a Co-Editor team for the journal beginning in January 2016.

If being a journal editor isn't your thing, there are still many other opportunities to become involved in TAM.

- Volunteer to become part of a TAM committee
- Apply to be an officer on the TAM Board (see Call for Nominations in the newsletter)
- Contact any board member to see how you can share your expertise
- Join the 163 members on the TAM Facebook page *Technology and Media Division of the Council for Exceptional Children*

I hope everyone has an excellent start to a new school year!

CAN Report

Maya Israel, Ph.D., TAM CAN Coordinator

Education Legislation in On the Move!



My name is Maya Israel. I am taking the reins over from Joel Mittler as the TAM CAN (Children and Youth Action Network) Coordinator. Joel has done an incredible job advocating on behalf of TAM and through CEC. In this position, I look forward to continuing Joel's work as I learn how to best meet TAM's advocacy charge. Feel free to reach out to me if you are interested in CAN or special education policy and advocacy!

Several TAM members attended the CEC Legislative Summit this summer and had the opportunity to meet with legislators about the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as well as other issues important for students with disabilities and their teachers (e.g., Early learning, vouchers, teacher preparation, research & development, and of course FUNDING). It was apparent how much the CEC Public Policy staff advocate for the needs of students with disabilities in Washington DC, but also to prepare CEC members to do their own advocacy work. It was a thrill to be on Capitol Hill this summer as the Senate debated and passed its version of the ESEA. In fact, along with other CAN coordinators, I had the opportunity to go to the Senate gallery and watch the debate as well as meet with the education

staffers of several lawmakers. You can access presentations, pictures, and general information about the Special Education Legislative Summit at <http://www.specialeducationlegislativesummit.org/>.

Now for a bit of discouraging news... When it comes to the budget, Deb Ziegler, the Director for Policy and Advocacy for CEC referred to the process as trench warfare. The republicans are opposed to revenue increases while the democrats oppose entitlement cuts. So....there does not seem to be any good news on the end of this stalemate and education seems to be taking its share of hits as a result. Both the Senate and House have suggested massive cuts to education, mostly due to the fact that we are still under sequestration.

As mentioned above, after years and years of stagnation on Capitol Hill on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed versions of the ESEA this summer. The House version is named *the Student Success Act* and the Senate version is called the *Every Child Achieves Act*. They debated critical issues that will impact the education of students with disabilities as well as their teachers and will now go into Conference to hopefully develop a compromise bill that can be sent to the President for signature. CEC's position was to oppose the House bill due to its lack of support for students with disabilities and their teachers including reducing accountability provisions, lack of focus on professional development, and allowance of Title I funds to be portable. The House bill had some positive provisions including elimination of AYP, maintaining the disaggregation of data by subgroups, and language related to Universal Design for Learning (UDL). The Senate version was a mixed bag of both positive and negative provisions as well. The positive aspects of the Senate bill included elimination of AYP, support for early intervening services in general education, language related to UDL, PBIS, and prohibitions of Title I portability. The negative aspects of the Senate bill included lack of accountability safeguards to ensure

that students with disabilities receive the services and resources they need (CEC, 2015). When the Conference committee is assembled, it will be important for all of us to advocate for strong accountability provisions as well as equitable distribution of resources in the final bill.

If you have any questions or want information about how to become further involved in the TAM CAN Network or special education policy, feel free to contact me at misrael@illinois.edu.

CEC, 2015. *ESEA Reauthorization: House and Senate Pass Bills*. Retrieved from <http://www.policyinsider.org/2015/07/esea-reauthorization-house-and-senate-pass-bills.html>



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TAM Nominations

TAM members are invited to nominate themselves or other members for a position on the TAM Executive Board. Nominations are sought for the positions of **President-Elect**, **Member-at-Large**, and **Secretary** to serve during 2016. The individual elected to be the President-Elect serves a three-year term: the first year as President-Elect, the second year as President, and the third year as Past-President. In order to be considered for the position of President-Elect, the nominee must have at least two years of leadership experience within TAM. The Member-at-Large serves a term of two years, serves as Chair of the Membership Committee and as a delegate to CEC's Representative Assembly. The Secretary serves a term of two years, attends all board meetings, and records minutes. All elected executive board members are expected to attend the day-long executive board meeting held during the annual CEC conference, the summer leadership institute held at CEC headquarters, participate in monthly conference calls, and be an active participant on the TAM board. Members interested in serving TAM by running for these offices, submit the following information by **September 30, 2015**:

- Name
- Phone number
- E-mail address
- Position for which you wish to be nominated
- Biographical information, limited to 100 words, which will be used by the Nominations Committee to determine the slate of candidates and presented to the membership during the voting process.

Nominations that include the above information should be sent via e-mail to the TAM Nominations Committee chairperson, Margaret Bausch, at meb@uky.edu.



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