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### **CEC Executive Director Bruce A. Ramirez to Retire**

**Arlington, Va., Feb. 4, 2013**—The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) announced today that Executive Director Bruce A. Ramirez will retire as of June 30, 2013.

Ramirez has served as executive director of CEC since 2005. His leadership and stewardship have been instrumental in growing the organization’s fiscal health, online learning presence, advocacy and public policy influence, diversity, organizational collaboration and external partnerships.

He began his 37-year career at the Council in governmental relations playing a leadership role in the implementation of the Education for All Handicapped Children’s Act, P.L 94-142. Under his guidance, diversity programming has expanded, the annual convention and expo has grown in stature to become the foremost professional development event in special education and professional development has diversified.

As deputy executive director, Ramirez oversaw the expansion of communications, including the Council's first website, and receipt of grants and contracts. He also played a key role in transforming and streamlining the Council's governance and relocating the headquarters office to have a closer proximity to the nation's capital.

Ramirez commended the members, volunteer leaders and staff of the Council for their many accomplishments over the years. “They have been at the forefront of major special and gifted education issues and trends and are deeply committed and passionate about advancing educational opportunities for children and youth with exceptionalities, the engagement of their families and advancing our field's professional practice,” Ramirez said. “One could not have a better mission and community.”

On behalf of CEC's many members and supporters, CEC President Christy Chambers praised Ramirez's extraordinary length of service and commitment to the organization and to the education of children and youth with exceptionalities. “We will miss him and we wish him well as he moves into retirement,” Chambers said.

The CEC Board of Directors will begin a national search for a successor. For more information, contact Diane Shinn, senior director for communications, [dianes@cec.sped.org](mailto:dianes@cec.sped.org), 703-264-9478.

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*CEC is an international community of educators who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education. CEC’s mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy. **For more information about CEC, visit [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org).***

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