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Niles is New Assistant Executive Director, Professional Development Services

Arlington, Va., March 7, 2013—Karen Niles has joined the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) as Assistant Executive Director for Professional Development Services, bringing a broad range of special education and continuing education leadership and program development experience to her new position.

Most recently, Niles was director of professional development for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), a professional membership organization representing more than 155,000 speech-language pathologists, audiologists, and speech and hearing scientists. Niles was responsible for needs assessment, program development, delivery, and evaluation of continuing professional education programs for ASHA members, including conferences, workshops, webinars, online classrooms and other educational media.

“Karen is very well respected for her professional development expertise and is an excellent addition to our executive team at CEC,” said Bruce A. Ramirez, executive director of CEC. “She is a proven innovator and brings tremendous online learning experience and leadership to the organization. We are delighted to have her at the helm of our professional development services team.”

Before joining ASHA, Niles’ 35-year career in continuing education has included working for the Direct Marketing Association of Washington, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Graduate School, USDA. She specializes in developing profit-generating business units in nonprofit organizations.

Niles will oversee the CEC Professional Development Services team, which is responsible for the CEC Annual Convention & Expo, *Exceptional Children* and *TEACHING Exceptional Children* journals, webinars, publications and other products and services.

The author of numerous articles, Niles also has completed two terms on the Board of Directors of the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), serving as President in 2011.

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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***

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