



For immediate release

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CEC and ATIA partner to deliver needed professional resources to special educators

Arlington, Va. and Chicago, Ill., Jul. 20, 17 – The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) have partnered to promote the necessity and the benefits of assistive technology in special education programs. The goal of this partnership is to connect two organizations with similar interests and goals: Both organizations are dedicated to ensuring that the best products, services, and opportunities are available to all children, youth, and adults with disabilities.

CEC currently offers its members a variety of in-person and web-based professional development opportunities; partnering with ATIA will allow CEC to respond to their needs for information and content on assistive technology. “As a former administrator, I know how critical effective assistive technology is for children with disabilities,” said CEC president Mikki Garcia. “It is not an option, it is a must—and educators need all the support in this area that they can get to deliver a quality education to every child.”

Tara Rudnicki, ATIA Board President and President of North America, TobiiDynavox, said that “the ATIA board of directors is excited by this new partnership and the opportunities that lie ahead for both CEC and ATIA. There is an ever-growing critical need for professional development around assistive technologies, as well as a need for organizations like ATIA and CEC to collaborate to reach a broader audience.” ATIA CEO David Dikter added that “We are excited to enter into this new partnership with CEC. Our two organizations have complementary goals, and in the current political landscape both funding and collaborative efforts are critical. We have found a great way to advance both our goals as organizations with this new partnership.”

About CEC

CEC is the professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the educational success of children with exceptionalities that accomplishes its mission through advocacy, standards and professional development. Learn more about the Council for Exceptional Children at www.cec.sped.org.

About ATIA

The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) is a not-for-profit association of manufacturers, sellers and providers of assistive technology (AT)—products, equipment and systems that enhance learning, working and daily living for persons with disabilities. For more information about our assistive technology education and research, please visit www.atia.org.

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