



For immediate release.
Contact Annie Baldauf at annieb@cec.sped.org.

Council for Exceptional Children 2018 Convention & Expo to take place in Tampa, Florida February 7–10.

Thousands of educators will convene in Tampa for the world's largest special education professional development event.

Arlington, Va., Feb. 2, 2018 – Wednesday, Feb. 7 marks the opening of the Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) 2018 Convention & Expo (CEC 2018) in Tampa, Florida. CEC 2018 will host 4,000 educators from around the globe, where they will gain insights and explore solutions to the most important and challenging topics facing special education today.

CEC President, Laurie VanderPloeg of Kent ISD in Grand Rapids, Mich. describes this event as a celebration of the best that public education has to offer and where all educators are encouraged to help every child access learning without limits.

CEC 2018 will feature over 500 sessions and workshops highlighting the latest research and strategies in special education and the policy developments that affect teachers and their work every day. Presentations range from diversity and inclusion to universal design for learning, differentiated instruction, and positive behavioral practices.

Convention Co-Chairs, Claudia Rinaldi (Lasell College, Boston) and Cindy Perras (Educational Consultant, Ontario), have also developed a rich and substantive invited program that will engage attendees in dialogues focused on current topics affecting the field of special and gifted education and early intervention. The invited sessions are hosted by special education and policy experts including: Johnny Collett and Kimberly Richey (U.S. Department of Education), Mary Ruth Coleman (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), Mitchell Yell (University of South Carolina), and many [more](#).

The convention will also feature two general session speakers, Marcia Tate and Ron Suskind. Marcia Tate, a renowned education leader, will open the convention on Wednesday by sharing ready-to-implement classroom strategies. Ron Suskind, an acclaimed journalist and best-selling author of "Life, Animated," will share his son's inspiring journey with autism during the Second General Session.

All teachers and education professionals are invited to join the CEC community during its 96th Annual Convention and Expo in Tampa, Florida, Feb. 7–10, 2018.

###

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