

## **Veteran Special Educator Jim Heiden Is New President Elect of CEC**

**Arlington, Va., June 25, 2014** – Jim Heiden, a career special educator, administrator and longtime volunteer leader within The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), has been selected as president elect in a special CEC election.

The special election was necessitated by the passing of CEC President Elect Janette Klingner in April. Heiden, who is currently serving as CEC’s treasurer, will begin his term as president elect immediately, and he will become president of CEC on Jan. 1, 2015.

As president elect, Heiden serves as a voting member of the Board and provides leadership to the Council’s planning and programs. Heiden will also oversee the work of CEC’s committees to ensure that their work enhances the functioning of the board of directors and contributes to the overall strategic direction of the organization.

“Jim’s administrative, financial and special education expertise will serve CEC well during the coming year as we finalize and execute the first year of our new three-year strategic plan to position CEC’s long-term success and growth,” said CEC Executive Director Alexander T. Graham. “Jim’s involvement with and knowledge of our organization, and the breadth of experience he brings to this leadership role, will be invaluable to CEC.”

Heiden, a member of the Council for 25 years, is a former teacher, supervisor, fiscal manager, and student services director. In his current role as superintendent, Heiden has oversight of a \$30 million budget and is helping transform an under-achieving district to a district of choice through the integration of technology and innovative practices, including oversight of a \$10 million facility upgrade and improvement process that did not increase debt service to taxpayers.

Heiden received his dual bachelor’s degree in general and special education and his master’s degree in special education from the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, and his master’s degree in special education and Ph.D. in urban education from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

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*The Council for Exceptional Children (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. Visit us at [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org).*



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