



# Idaho Council for Exceptional Children

May 2009

Website: [www.idahocec.org](http://www.idahocec.org)  
Editor: [sbosserman@gmail.com](mailto:sbosserman@gmail.com)

## Message from the President

By Karen Gillette



*The year is winding down and I am sure thoughts of rest and rejuvenation during summer break are helping you get through this final stretch.*

Like many of you, I have been writing several IEPs a week and adding new students to next year's case load.

Unfortunately we are also thinking about how to survive with a pay freeze, whether we will see any of the

stimulus money trickle down to our classrooms, and how to keep up with the mountain of paperwork. This time of year can sometimes seem bleak as exhaustion kicks in after a long hard fought year.

This is the perfect opportunity to step back and observe the students with 'new eyes'. Remember when students walked through the door at the beginning of the year and you began to determine how to best meet each child's needs. Witnessing growth at the end of the year is the most satisfying part of our careers! It makes us realize why we went into teaching in the first place.

The CEC board met in May and planned for our annual conference in October. It should prove to be an exciting and innovative conference again this year. Save now to attend and please pass on the information to friends and colleagues. If your district does not pay for the conference, you can write it off on your taxes. It is important to continue to support the association by attending the conference and encouraging others to become members of CEC. Supporting each other and sharing knowledge is even more crucial during these lean economic times.

The mission of CEC is to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy. CEC seeks to become a trusted voice in shaping education policy and practice. The International CEC has developed a **2009-2011 Strategic Plan** which features six goals—teaching and learning conditions, evidence-based practices, international engagement, community and membership, public policy and advocacy, and organizational effectiveness. If you are interested in finding out more about each goal check out the CEC website at [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org).

Have a wonderful summer and we will meet again in the fall.



## CEC Conference Assembly

By Cyndi Cook and Barbara Huck, Idaho Representatives

The Representative Assembly during the National CEC Conference in Seattle, WA was fabulous this year. The National Board has completed their Strategic Plan and Representatives were given the completed document, brochure style. This will be available on the CEC website soon.

The RA also discussed the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act)- the historical perspective, the role CEC played in securing those funds, and their recommendations for the spending of those funds. This was important as many districts have ideas other than those that were intended when the funds were made available.

The National CEC Board is now working on professional standards documents, including a Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Practice. The board reported that CEC membership has grown more than 8% over the past few years!! New membership is a focus of the National Board. They are working on incentives, grants, etc to encourage new membership and to assist students and new teachers with membership costs.

Part of the strategic plan is to expand leadership opportunities. There are multiple ways that members can get involved, including two At-Large positions on the National Board for the upcoming year. You can go to the CEC website to get more information.

The Board is also considering adding and At-Large position on the board that would basically have no responsibilities except to watch and learn. This would encourage involvement for those that are unsure of their leadership abilities or their abilities due to time constraints, etc.

Getting involved in the National is a way to be involved in the process of lobbying and changing laws that effect special education. The National Board meets 2-3 times in Virginia every year, plus 1-2 phone conference per year. What an incentive!

National Convention will be in Nashville, TN in 2010, in Baltimore, MD in 2011. Start planning now!!

## DCDT Division on Career Development and Transition

## DEC Division for Early Childhood

**DCDT News** by Staci Vreeland

DCDT was represented at the 2009 Seattle CEC Convention and Expo by three of our officers and a few Idaho Transition Mentors. While there we attended breakout sessions and learned that when it comes to transition, Idaho is ahead of the rest of the states. What we have been doing for about 4 years now, other states are just starting. We have Jacquie Hyatt to thank for this. **Way to go Jacquie!!!**

We did come back with some good information. We will pass this information on to you at the upcoming 2009 CEC Conference in Sun Valley in October. It will be presented during the preconference Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-4:00. The title of this preconference is 101 Transition Tips and Best Practices for Real Life Situations. The preconference will provide teachers with a view of 101 Transition Tips from secondary teachers across the nation. Teachers will leave with real life suggestions and activities to work with students, families, and service providers. They will also be given the opportunity to discuss ideas and fine tune ideas they are interested in perusing.

The presenters will highlight transition activities in the following areas:

- Transition Planning
  - Student Involvement
  - Family Involvement
  - Curriculum and Instruction
  - Transition Assessment
  - Assistive Technology
  - Students from Specific Disability Groups
- Be ready Transition Mentors we will be contacting you to help out.

DCDT members nominations are now open for the Life Time Achievement Award. The nominee should be someone who has been in transition for a significant amount of time, or someone who has helped students transition into their communities, and be a CEC member. Please send the name of your nominee and a brief synopsis of why you think they deserve this award to Staci Vreeland at [staciv1@msn.com](mailto:staciv1@msn.com)

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Sun Valley!



## Idaho's Early Childhood Excellence Award

**NOMINATIONS DUE BY JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>**

The Idaho State Division for Early Childhood (DEC) annually awards an individual who has shown **exemplary commitment to the field of early childhood education**. We ask parents and service providers for nominations of a person who has **touched their lives or the lives of their children**.

We ask people to please take time to think about a special moment or activity that was been carried out by **teachers, child development specialists, therapists, parents, siblings, school employees, physicians, Head Start employees, administrators or elected officials**. Consider who has facilitated **change in the life of a person or persons with disabilities** that you find noteworthy and let the whole state know about it!

All nominations are reviewed by the Idaho DEC board. The winner will receive a **plaque during a presentation at the Annual Idaho Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Conference, a letter of commendation, a free night's lodging at the Sun Valley conference and a free one year membership to Idaho DEC**. **All nominees** receive a letter of recognition and appreciation. This is a way to celebrate all the wonderful work in Idaho!

For more information please contact Melissa Crist, Idaho DEC Past President at [melisacrist@idahovandals.com](mailto:melisacrist@idahovandals.com)



## Wanted!!

Award recipients for co-workers and students who personify

### "Excellence in Education"

To be bestowed at the October Conference in Sun Valley:

The "Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year"

The "Para-Educator Excellence"

The "Yes I Can!" award for a student or young adult

Please check the Idaho CEC website [www.idahocec.org](http://www.idahocec.org) for forms to nominate a deserving colleague or student next year! Deadlines for forms to be submitted: August 30, 2009.

## ITAG Idaho the Association for the Gifted



### ***Journeys and Destinations***

By Susan Wolfe, ITAG President  
The ITAG organization is committed to providing educators with the

information tools and resources necessary to become effective leaders in education – not an education that helps a few, but an education that helps all students reach their highest potential.

The Executive Board met in January and again in April to discuss both short- and long-term strategic needs and goals. We are living in the digital age and technology is changing the way information is shared. You can expect important progress from your organization, including newsletter and website improvement, state and National Legislative Advocacy, curriculum resource, Listserv, and the co-sponsoring and continuation of high level professional development and networking opportunities such as Edufest and Council for Exceptional Children Sun Valley Conference.

As we continue to accept new challenges, you can count on ITAG to advocate and provide you with current and relevant resources to assure the best possible education and future for each one of your different students.

I am reminded that there are a number of reasons why people join organizations. Some desire the chain of command (though I'm sometimes at a loss for this reason, now that I'm at the helm). Some desire the opportunity to volunteer their time to benefit the vision of the organization. Some just want to stay "in the loop," to "keep the pulse" of the organization.

Whatever your desire...whatever your drive, the charter of leadership is to provide you with opportunities to define and progress down your path, as that's what it truly is: your path. I'm thrilled you're along for the ITAG ride, now let's collaborate on our destination, pour over our maps, and realize our mutual interest in the betterment of Idaho education.

## DLD Division for Learning Disabilities

# DLD

By Margaret Gross

It's official! Idaho CEC now has a Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD). The Idaho DLD has been recognized by the national DLD. DLD works as an independent organization within CEC, and also in collaboration with other organizations that focus on individuals with learning disabilities. As examples, last year members of DLD researched, wrote, and published a user-friendly guide called *Thinking About Response to Intervention and Learning Disabilities: A Teacher's Guide*, which is available through DLD's Web site (TeachingLD.org) and CEC's bookstore. This booklet summarizes what we know and don't know about RtI, and how teachers of students with LD can contribute to the process as schools consider whether and how to begin. As a member of the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities (NJLD), DLD has contributed to recent papers that highlight older students with LD, including adolescent literacy and transition from high school to college.

Since the early 1980s, DLD has worked on behalf of students with learning disabilities and the professionals who serve them. As the largest division of CEC, DLD promotes efforts to meet the needs of more 2.8 million school-aged children and youth currently receiving special education services for identified learning disabilities in the United States. DLD was among the first organizations to endorse evidence-based practice and continues to support the use of methods, materials, techniques, procedures, and approaches that have substantial research foundations.

Judy Randleman, the first and current president for the Idaho division was able to meet with some of the national division leaders at the CEC conference in Seattle last April. They were excited to have Idaho join the organization and we are looking forward to working with them.

Idaho DLD held its first meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> at the NNU Riley Library. Judy Randleman was elected as president, Karen Smucker as treasurer, and Margaret Gross as secretary. Our president was able to attend the Idaho CEC organizational meeting for the annual fall conference in Sun Valley. We are planning to present a pre-conference workshop at Sun Valley on September 30, 2009, focused on learning disabilities. Idaho DLD members are excited about having opportunities to increase awareness concerning needs and services for youth with learning disabilities.

**If you have concerns and/or suggestions for activities that would be helpful, please let us know.**





# Idaho Council For Exceptional Children

## 2009 Conference

Sun Valley Idaho

October 1st and 2nd, 2009

### "Professionals: Working for Students Today and Education Tomorrow"

#### Thursday Keynote

Thursday, October 1st, 9:00 am—10:30 am

#### Idaho Student Panel: Disability Awareness and the Education Experience

Students speak up about their life and school through the years

#### Friday Keynote

Friday, October 2nd 9:00 am—0:30 am

Idaho CCBD presents

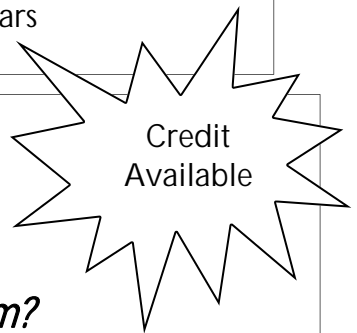
#### Dr. William Jenson

*Tough Kids: Who are they? Why do we have them?  
And how can include them in our schools.*



Dr. William Jenson is a professor and the past-chair of the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. He has authored numerous texts and articles and conducted vast amounts of research exploring children and adolescents with behavior and emotional disabilities as well as those on the Autism spectrum. Dr. Jenson directed the Adolescent residential Unit in Las Vegas and the Children's Behavior Therapy Unit for Salt Lake Mental Health. He has authored and coauthored more than 100 journal articles, chapters, books, and professional papers. He is widely known for his work as the coauthor of the popular Tough Kids series. His interests include management, behavioral assessment, academic interventions and parent training.

Dr. Jenson will define Tough Kids as those children displaying behavioral excesses (noncompliance, arguing, and aggression) and behavioral deficits (social skills, and self-management). He will explore the causes of these externalizing behaviors and will present behavior strategies including coercion evidence based interventions such as the Principal's 200 Club and precision requests.



#### Wednesday Night CEC Social

6pm—9pm

#### Limelight B Salon

Come Join Us to Celebrate Kicking off the Conference with Appetizers No-Host bar, Music, Mini Grant Poster Sessions, and Great Company!!

Check the Idaho CEC website for registration [www.idahocec.org](http://www.idahocec.org)

Rates increase after September 18th

New this year.... Registration on line



Make your lodging arrangements now!

Sun Valley Reservations at 800-786-8259.



## Council for Children with Behavior Disorders Pre-Conference

Wednesday, September 30, 2009  
1:00—5:00 pm, Sun Valley, Idaho

***Common Anxiety Disorders and Phobias: How to recognize the symptoms & strategies to decrease student behavior and increase learning.***

Presented by **Dr. Thomas, Ph.D.**

Dr. Thomas is a licensed psychologist who specializes in individual and family therapy with children and adolescents at Mountain States Counseling and Psychological Services. His particular interest is in children and adolescents that are suffering from anxiety and depression, but also frequently works with issues related to anger and behavioral management.



Dr. Thomas will present information that will help all schools and school staff be more prepared to work with children with Anxiety Disorders. His discussion will focus on:

- 1) The different common anxiety disorders (PTSD, Social Phobia, Separation Anxiety, Specific Phobias, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Panic Disorder) including DSM criteria; as well as similarities to and differences from the other disorders.
- 2) Detailed discussion of associated physiological and behavioral disturbances that often accompanies anxiety. .
- 3) Assessment strategies for use in the school setting. Discussion of behavioral functional analysis, questionnaires, interview, and observation strategies will be included.
- 4) Basic strategies that can easily be implemented in any setting.

## Division on Career Development and Transition Pre Conference

Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Sun Valley, Idaho

***101 Transition Tips and Best Practices for Real Life Situations***

The preconference will provide teachers with a view of 101 Transition Tips from secondary teachers across the nation. Teachers will leave with real life suggestions and activities to work with students, families, and service providers. They will also be given the opportunity to discuss ideas and fine tune ideas they are interested in perusing.

The presenters will highlight transition activities in the following areas:

- Transition Planning
- Student Involvement
- Family Involvement
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Transition Assessment
- Assistive Technology
- Students from Specific Disability Groups

## Division of Learning Disabilities Preconference

Wednesday, September 30, 2009 2009  
Sun Valley, Idaho

This workshop will focus on learning disabilities.  
More information will be available soon.

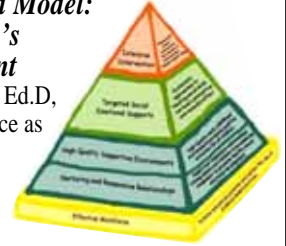
## The Division for Early Childhood

### 2009 Post-Conference

Saturday, October 3, 2009  
10:00 am – 4:30 pm  
Sun Valley Inn, Sun Valley, Idaho

***The CSEFEL Teaching Pyramid Model:  
Supporting Young Children's  
Social Emotional Development***

Presenter **Dr. Pam Buschbacher, Ed.D.**  
CCC-SLP has more than 25 years experience as a nationally certified and state-licensed speech language pathologist. She has an additional 10 years as a Positive Behavior Support specialist serving young children with challenging behavior and communication problems and is recognized as a trainer and consultant for the federally funded Center on Social-Emotional Foundations in Early Learning (CSEFEL) and the Technical Assistant Center for Social and Emotional Development.



Her professional interests and publication topics include support for young children (birth to 8 years) with disabilities in developmentally appropriate environments, communication development/intervention, social and emotional development, early childhood development, positive behavior support, autism, and inclusion. To register for the DEC Post-Conference go to [www.idahoceec.org](http://www.idahoceec.org). For more details contact Judy Woodward, Idaho DEC President Elect 208-438-8154 or [arlenw@pmt.org](mailto:arlenw@pmt.org)



## Idaho the Association for the Gifted Post Conference

Saturday, October 3, 8:30 am —12:00 pm  
Sun Valley, Idaho

***Creative Learning with Creative Lives:  
Biography in the Classroom***

Presenter **Dr. Ann Robinson**

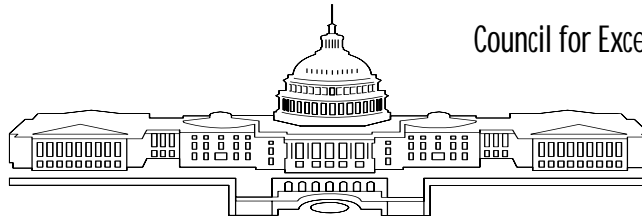
Ann Robinson is Professor of Education and founding Director of the Center for Gifted Education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She is a former editor of the Gifted Child Quarterly, serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association for Gifted Children as the Vice President and received the Early Leader, the Early Scholar, and the Distinguished Service Awards from the Association.



Ann is the President of the Arkansas for Gifted and Talented Education, the Immediate Past President of the Arkansas Association of Gifted Education Administrators, and is active in advocacy at the state and national levels. She has held visiting appointments at Cambridge University, at Brunel University near London and at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

In this session, we will engage in a hands-on investigation of the Center's collection of biographies for gifted learners and participate in creative learning activities from its Blueprints for Biographies guides. Participants will leave the session with a template to create a Blueprint for biography of their own choosing, a bibliography of children's biographies recommended for talented learners in primary, elementary and middle school, and a chart of biography match-ups for popular unit topics in language arts, social studies, science and the arts.

## CAN Children's Action Network



## Spring 2009 CAN Report

By Misty Knuchell

Special and gifted education policy information has several areas of interest and activity this spring. Of primary concern most recently, the administration released the FY2010 Proposed Budget. They are abolishing funding for 12 programs overall, including the Jacob Javits Gifted and Talented Education program. The Jacob Javits Gifted and Talented Education program is the only federal program serving the 3 million students with gifts and talents in our country. CEC is seeking support in the Senate for legislation "to increase funding for the Javits program and encourages all of its members to contact their Senators and ask them to support gifted and talented education." Please alert them to this issue by sending them a letter addressing Javits!

The budget level funds all IDEA programs. What this means is that it doesn't increase or decrease the amount that these programs were funded in FY2009. The reasoning here is based on the amounts of money allocated to IDEA in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). "The administration believes its request for level funding is appropriate because much of the ARRA dollars will be available in FY2010 for the 2010-2011 school year". As always, CEC will of course continue to advocate on behalf of children and youth with exceptionalities and those who work with them. CEC will advocate for IDEA to be a mandatory program and fully funded.

CEC looks forward to working with most recent appointees to key positions to the U.S. Department of Education. Mr Robert Sherman has been appointed Deputy Undersecretary, and will advise the U.S. Department of Education on college financial issues and other higher education initiatives. "He is a leading expert on college access and financial aid, and previously served as a congressional appointee to the Federal Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, an advisor to U.S. Senator Paul Simon and as part of President Clinton's White House National Economic Council." Mr. Massie Ritsch has been appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for External Affairs and Outreach and will oversee outreach to education associations, foundations and think-tanks. He previously worked as communications director at the Center for Responsive Politics where he served as chief strategist for the organization. Mr. Peter Groff has been appointed Director for the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Center. He is to help "empower faith-based and community groups, enlisting them in support of the agency's mission to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence for all Americans." He has been a member of the Colorado Senate since 2003 and has served as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Government Committee and as a member of the Appropriations, Legislative Council, Legal Services and Judiciary Committees. He currently serves as President of the Colorado Senate.

To date, the U.S. Department of Education has approved nine states for Phase 1 State Fiscal Stabilization Funds. These are funds released as a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) The first three states to receive approval for funds were California, Illinois, and South Dakota. They were

followed shortly by the following five; Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oregon, and Utah. The most recent to receive funding is Wisconsin. According to press releases, these states have provided assurances that they will "collect, publish, analyze and act on basic information regarding the quality of state standard and assessments, progress on removing charter caps, and interventions in turning around underperforming schools. Each state also agreed to report the number of jobs saved through Recovery Act funding, the amount of state and local tax increases averted, and how funds are used."

On a final note, CEC claims victory! "On May 1, 2009, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it will not enforce three controversial regulations, much to the delight and continued efforts of CEC and its members along with many other coalitions. These regulations include: (1) 2297, at final rule, commonly known as the administration claiming rule, which would have eliminated Federal Medicaid payments for the costs of certain school-based administrative and transportation activities, including outreach to potentially eligible students, scheduling IEP meetings and transportation between home and school; and (2) 2237 an interim rule, which would have ceased Federal monies for case management, in certain circumstances; and (3) 2213 a final rule that impacted outpatient hospital services." CMS welcomes comments to these proposed rescissions and "on alternatives that may more constructively address the underlying problems." CEC is in the process of drafting comments in support of the proposed rescissions and will provide comments for all members use soon. They encourage every CEC member and unit to independently submit comments which are due June 1, 2009. You can submit them directly, or through me at fun2educ8@aol.com. Hope you have a great summer!

### Mini Grants Awards



By Phyllis Vermilyea

We received a record amount of mini-grant applications this year and want to thank everyone who submitted a proposal. Idaho CEC was able to approve/grant three of the applications for \$500 each.

They were from all areas of the state: Dan Pilotte for adaptations of materials for adults and secondary teachers from Boise School District; Susan Puga at Nampa School District for adaptive sports equipment for her PREP(Prepared Readiness for Employment Possibilities) students; and Carol Harms at Orofino School District for Expeditions to Numeracy Curriculum for her K-2nd special education students.

We look forward to seeing these projects presented at the 2009 or 2010 October CEC conference in Sun Valley as Poster Sessions and encourage everyone who submitted an application that wasn't granted to continue submitting. The next due date is Jan. 1, 2010.

## ★ Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award

The Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award recognizes a CEC member who currently provides direct services to students with exceptionalities. The Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year is an outstanding member of the profession whose work exemplifies the best in special education teaching. His or her work reflects significant educational success for students, continued professional development, and the highest standards of educational quality.

Nominees may be nominated by an individual (principal, CEC member, fellow teacher/colleague, student, parent, self), educational organization (school, parent group, etc.), or community group. The nomination form can be found on the CEC website, [www.idahocec.org](http://www.idahocec.org).



July 13-17, 2009 Boise State University

A leadership, citizenship and career development summer program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities.

2009 applications available online soon at Idaho Training Clearinghouse website: <http://itcnew.idahotc.com>  
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities website: [www.icdd.idaho.gov](http://www.icdd.idaho.gov) or email Tracy Warren at [twarren@icdd.idaho.gov](mailto:twarren@icdd.idaho.gov)



## Idaho CEC Officers

President Karen Gillette, [gillettekaren@msn.com](mailto:gillettekaren@msn.com)  
Past President Michelle Doty, [mddoty@lsc.edu](mailto:mddoty@lsc.edu)  
President Elect Rene Rohrer, [lr2nmny@hotmail.com](mailto:lr2nmny@hotmail.com)  
Vice President Phyllis Vermilyea, [pvermilyea@nsd131.org](mailto:pvermilyea@nsd131.org)  
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CAN Coordinator Misty Knuchell, [Fun2educ8@aol.com](mailto:Fun2educ8@aol.com)  
Membership Maureen Drenker, [drenkerm@pmt.org](mailto:drenkerm@pmt.org)  
Publications Sherrie Bosserman, [sbosserman@gmail.com](mailto:sbosserman@gmail.com)  
[www.idahocec.org](http://www.idahocec.org)

## The Yes I Can! Idaho Awards

The Yes I Can! Awards Program was established to celebrate the achievements of children and youth with disabilities, to encourage children and youth with disabilities to seek their highest potential; and to increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of people with disabilities.

Award Nominees may be recognized in one of the following nine categories:



- **Academics:** achievement in a subject area such as math, science, reading, social studies, language arts, foreign languages, etc. or a high level of achievement on standardized tests, etc.
- **Arts:** achievement in a particular medium such as music, art, drama, dance, or written expression, etc.
- **Athletics:** achievement in motor skills or a particular athletic activity through a setting such as intramurals, Special Olympics, physical education classes, or after-school athletic activities.
- **Community Service:** contributions to the community through activities such as volunteer work, youth work, clean-up campaigns, etc.
- **Employment:** achievement through work experience in either workshop settings or the competitive job market.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** achievement in organized activities through groups such as Boy/Girl Scouts, church, clubs, or other activities
- **Independent Living Skills:** achievement in mastering activities for daily self-efficiency such as personal hygiene, cooking, dressing, use of public transportation, etc.
- **Self-Advocacy:** achievement in assuming practical responsibility for oneself, using knowledge of legal rights, advancing one's goals, and/or effective in obtaining appropriate accommodations for oneself.
- **Technology:** significant achievement through the use of computerized devices and equipment.

Nominees for the Yes I Can! Awards program are for youth up to 21 years of age. Each nominee is eligible in only one category. **All nominations must be postmarked no later than June 14, 2008.** The award winners will be notified in late September.

Download the application from [www.idahocec.org](http://www.idahocec.org)

Send nomination forms for the Idaho Yes I Can! Awards to:  
Barbara Huck at [huckb@weiserschools.org](mailto:huckb@weiserschools.org) or  
Cyndi Cook at [ccook@nsd131.org](mailto:ccook@nsd131.org)  
PO Box 102  
Notus, Idaho 83656



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Idaho CEC Spring 2009 Newsletter

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