



*Building A World Where All Individuals Flourish as Valued Members of the Community*

Spring 2018

# Welcome to the CEC!



## Director's Corner

Hello Friends,

Spring is a time of new growth and renewed energy. At the CEC our students and staff continue to develop new programs and expand existing ones. The energy, passion, and dedication to our clients is

demonstrated in all areas of our organization.

As you read our newsletter, you will find updates on our faculty, staff, and clients. April is also Autism Awareness Month, and there are many exiting events taking place in and around Bowling Green. We encourage you to participate in these events and opportunities to support individuals in our community with autism and other developmental delays and disabilities.

On behalf of the CEC, thank you for all you do to help us provide essential services to individuals with autism and other developmental delays and disabilities. Last but not least, your continued support is greatly appreciated and makes an enormous difference to the quality of learning, student engagement, and community involvement we continue to offer.

Best regards,

Mary Lloyd Moore, Ed.D., SLP-CCC  
 Executive Director, Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex

*The Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex at WKU provides a continuum of comprehensive services through university and community partnerships. Services begin with the **Renshaw Early Childhood Center** and continue with the **Communication Disorders Clinic** and **KAP Prime Time group**, culminating with the **Kelly Autism Program Circle of Support and KAP Employment Group**.*

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## April is Autism Awareness Month



April is **National Autism Awareness Month**, and April 2 is the eleventh annual **World Autism Awareness Day**. Organizations around the world celebrate the day with fundraising

and awareness-raising events.

The Autism Society established April as Autism Awareness month over 25 years ago in an effort to not only promote awareness, but to remove barriers and promote self-determination for all. The goal is to create a society where those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are valued for their unique talents and gifts.

One in 68 children is diagnosed with ASD, a sharp [increase](#) from the autism rate from a decade ago. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ASD is the fastest growing developmental disorder. The month of April is dedicated to educating people about the effects of autism and raising money for critical social programs to assist individuals and families affected by ASD to have happier, healthier, and safer lives.

Wearing blue and celebrating the milestones, talents, and contributions of those with autism is a great way to show awareness and to remember the sense of urgency and need that many families affected by autism experience. However, for some, navigating life with autism or a family member with autism can be challenging. It can be a difficult to find acceptance and the critical help they require. Social programs, education, safety, and employment opportunities can be tough to acquire for many families.

Show support for Autism Awareness Month by giving to improve the lives of those diagnosed with ASD, whether it's financially or with your time. Take the time to connect with and understand those we see and interact with every day who are affected with ASD.

## New Year...New Milestones!



The Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex at WKU hosted its inaugural **New Year's Eve Gala** to ring in 2018. The event was held at the Charleston on College Street. The NYE

Gala raised \$21,000 and around 200 guests attended the event. All proceeds benefit the CEC.

The fundraiser celebration included a buffet dinner, champagne toasts throughout the evening, and a CEC student art auction. Dizzorderly Conduct provided music entertainment.

Milestones happen every day at the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex! Thank you to everyone who helped to make this spectacular evening possible!

## CCK Hosts Autism Family Fun Day



The Center for Courageous Kids (CCK) partnered with the Clinical Education Complex, CEC Kelly Autism Program, and Autism Tennessee, for the Autism Family Fun Day on November 18. Children with autism and their family members and friends were invited to the camp for a day of fun that included

horseback riding, indoor swimming, fishing, archery, arts and crafts, bowling, and woodshop. Ninety-six individuals attended the day-long event.

For more information about the Center for Courageous Kids, email [info@courageouskids.org](mailto:info@courageouskids.org), visit their [website](#), or call 270-618-2900.





**CEC Director Appointed to ASD Advisory Council**

Governor Matt Bevin has appointed CEC Executive Director Dr. Mary Lloyd Moore to the Advisory Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dr. Moore will represent citizens-at-large and serve for a term expiring October 15, 2021.

The mission of the Advisory Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders is to “unify and promote initiatives aimed at improving Kentucky’s system of care for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.”



**This is Halloween at the CEC!**

Here at the CEC we love Halloween! As trick-or-treaters filled our hallways, faculty, staff, and students enjoyed the frightful and delightful costumes!

This year the CEC hosted its first *Harry Potter* Party, complete Hogwarts-inspired food and our own version of butter beer. If guests didn’t know which Hogwarts House they belonged to, they had an opportunity to find out with the Hogwarts Sorting Quiz before entering the party. Once inside the Great Hall, everyone could enjoy sitting at their assigned “House” table, or mingle with those from other houses.



## LifeSkills Run/Walk for Autism is April 21



Get your family and friends together for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual LifeSkills Walk/Run for Autism!

The race will take place April 21, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at the Bowling Green Ballpark, home of the Bowling Green Hot Rods. LifeSkills, Inc. is the title sponsor for the event. Proceeds from the event benefit the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex (CEC), a Bowling Green Community/Western Kentucky University partnership.

The CEC provides services for individuals diagnosed along the autism spectrum continuum and their families, while serving as a training opportunity for future professionals in a wide variety of disciplines.

There will be a 4 Mile Run, a 1 Mile Kid's Fun Run, and a 1 Mile Family Walk. The Early Bird Registration fee is \$25.00 and ends March 31. Beginning April 1, both the Four-Mile Run and the One-Mile Fun Walk registration fee will increase to \$30.00, and everyone who registers by Saturday, March 31 will be guaranteed to receive a T-shirt. Teams of five or more people can be created and named on the EventBrite registration site. Use code TEAM5 for \$5.00 off the registration fee.

For more information and to register for the event, visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). Registration will be available beginning Thursday, February 1. Support for the event can also be provided through financial sponsorship, for which the CEC will provide advertisement. Contact the CEC at 270-745-4232 or [runforautism@wku.edu](mailto:runforautism@wku.edu) for a sponsorship agreement form.

Please encourage your friends, family, and members of your organization to participate.

This will be a great opportunity to meet and socialize with the CEC staff and other individuals and families while raising awareness of autism. We hope to see you there!

Click [here](#) for race schedule, map, the link to register for the event, and other race-related details.

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## CEC Director Receives OSP Award



CEC Executive Director Dr. Mary Lloyd Moore received a *Most Prolific Proposer* Award at the Office of Sponsored Program's annual award's reception. The reception was held December 4, 2017 to honor the efforts of

WKU faculty and staff engaged in grant activities during the fiscal year 2017. The *Most Prolific Proposer* Award recognizes faculty and staff who submitted four or more grant proposals as either Principal Investigator or Co-Principal Investigator in FY 2017.

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## CDC is Ready for Spring Semester!

During the fall semester of 2017, the Communication Disorders Clinic provided therapy to individuals in Bowling Green and the surrounding areas. Part of the services included the continued partnership with the Kelly Autism Prime Time after-school program.

CSD student clinicians worked within the program to facilitate growth in pragmatics, or social communication, with each of the participants. It was a wonderful learning experience for the student clinicians and participants. In addition, 22 student clinicians provided speech and language services to over 30 clients at the CEC. The Communication Disorders Clinic is looking forward to another great semester of learning this spring!



## CEC Implements New Training Program

The CEC implemented the *Hanen: More Than Words Program* for the fall 2017 and spring 2018 semesters. The program is funded through a United Way of Southern Kentucky grant awarded to the CEC in the spring of 2017.

*More Than Words* is a parent training program designed specifically for parents of children ages five and under on the autism spectrum with social communication difficulties. Lead by Rebecca Broyles, *Hanen: More Than Words* Certified speech-language pathologist, and supported by Katy Ward, graduate assistant, the program provides parents the tools, strategies and support they need to help their children reach their full communication potential in their daily lives.

on working with individuals and children with special needs, and offer information on community resources and services.

## FRP Receives Kiwanis Grant



The Family Resource Program received a \$1000.00 grant in October from the Kiwanis Club of Bowling Green, KY. FRP Director Shannon Sales

(center) and FRP Advisory Board member Savannah Mills (left) are pictured here receiving the award from Kiwanis President David Doran.

## FRP Special Needs Summit is a Success!



The Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex and Family Resource Program hosted the 2017 Special Needs Summit on October 13. The theme this year was *Today's*

*Vision, Tomorrow's Reality*. Nearly 200 parents, caregivers, professionals, staff, and students, along with 17 vendors, participated in the annual event. A panel of KAP Circle of Support Students answered questions pertaining to their learning habits, social skills, and levels of adjustment to a university environment. The panel also offered advice to parents and caregivers regarding specific needs of autistic children.

The event is also an opportunity for professionals to earn CEUs, Early Care Education Hours, EILA Credits, and First Steps Provider Choice Training Hours.

The Special Needs Summit is designed to educate and inspire. The goal of the conference is to connect members of the special needs community with one another, provide valuable information and strategies

## FRP Will Host Family Fun Day



The CEC's Family Resource Program will host a Family Fun Day Friday, May 4, 2018 from 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The event will take place at the

WKU Houchens L.T. Smith Stadium, and the cost is \$10.00 per child and only \$5.00 per parent. In case of rain, the event will take place in E. A. Diddle Arena.

Several vendors are expected to attend, including The Kidz Club of Bowling Green, Growing Minds Learning Center, and HIVE (Habilitation, Information, Vocation, and Education). This event is designed for our special needs children and their families to come out and celebrate life. The families love it, and most importantly, the children have a blast. This fun-filled event is the perfect ending to a busy week!

## KAP Receives Donation

The Kelly Autism Program received a \$2,500.00 cash donation from Edward Jo Logsdon and his family. Edward's friends and family at Farmer's Feed Mill Restaurant in Leitchfield, KY hosted Edward's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on September 24.

The birthday celebration was held at the Grayson County Amphitheater and included a benefit concert for autism awareness. Edward's friends and family accepted \$2,500.00 in donations for the Kelly Autism Program.



professionally run UN conference simulations. Over 20 students from WKU attended the AMUN conference as part of the Political Science 300 course and were assigned to committees representing Bosnia and Botswana.

Hunter is KAP *Circle of Support* student majoring in Political Science. He enjoyed the opportunity to understand how the UN operates and learn how countries work together to address common challenges and manage shared responsibilities.

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## Andy Arnold Winner in College Quiz Bowl

Andy Arnold, a KAP *Circle of Support* student and junior from Bardstown, KY, was a winner for the WKU Quiz Bowl Team on Saturday, October 14. The ten-game tournament was held at the University of Louisville. Andy answered the most questions, scoring a 66-point average per game in the tournament. Way to go, Andy!

The WKU Academic Competition Club was founded in November 2009, and received university recognition in February 2010. The team participates in intercollegiate quiz bowl competitions, and hosts high school and middle school competitions.

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## David Merdian Appointed to CCDD

WKU junior David Merdian was appointed to the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities. David is from Louisville, KY and is a student in the KAP *Circle of Support*. He is majoring in Economics with a minor in Legal Studies.

The 16-member, governor-appointed council is comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities, family members of individuals with developmental disabilities, and representatives from major state agencies that serve people with developmental disabilities. Each appointment lasts three years. Congratulations, David! The university will be represented well!

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## Hunter Smith Attends American Model UN

Bowling Green sophomore Hunter Smith participated in the American Model United Nations Conference in Chicago in November. AMUN is a five-day event that allows students to fully participate in realistic,

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## KAP Thanksgiving Celebration!

The Kelly Autism Program Adult Group prepared a fantastic Thanksgiving lunch at the CEC in November. There's always something to be truly thankful for, and we're thankful for our wonderful clients, staff, and friends at the CEC!





## KAP Staff Participate in Panel Discussion



KAP *Circle of Support* Program Manager Sarah McMaine-Render participated in a panel discussion for the Williamson County Schools Disability Services College Fair on October 17. Sarah joined representatives from several Tennessee colleges and universities in Franklin,

TN to discuss support services, housing options, financial aid, and other accommodations for students on college campuses who have disabilities.

Ryan McKenna, a KAP *Circle of Support* assistant program manager, accompanied Sarah to the event. Ryan and Sarah answered questions and spoke one-on-one with parents about the KAP *Circle of Support* Program at WKU.

To make a gift, click the icon below.



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## Upcoming Events and Dates

- Special Needs Expo — March 24
- Autism Awareness Day — April 2
- BG/Warren County Spring Break — April 2 – 6
- Alliance Awards — April 12
- Chick-fil-A Autism Screening — April 17
- LifeSkills Run for Autism — April 21
- Griffs Autism Screening — April 24
- CDC Spring Program Ends — April 26
- KAP Prime Time Program Ends — May 4
- RECC Spring Program Ends — May 4
- FRP Family Fun Day — May 4
- WKU Spring Break — March 12 – March 16
- Finals Week — May 7 – 11

## CEC Staff attend KY CEC



Ryan McKenna, a KAP Circle of Support Assistant Program Manager and Leisa Hutchison, a WKU Communication Sciences & Disorders Clinical Assistant Professor attended the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children (KYCEC) annual conference in Louisville in November.

Leisa is on the Kentucky State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children and has been on several KYCEC committees.

## Grants Awarded:

WHAS Crusade for Children: \$53,000.00  
United Way of Southern Kentucky, \$15,600.00

Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex  
104 Alumni Ave. Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Phone: (270)745-4232 Fax: (270)745-4233  
Email: [cec@wku.edu](mailto:cec@wku.edu) [www.wku.edu/wkucec](http://www.wku.edu/wkucec)