

# CCLD Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities NEWSLETTER



## Members of the CCLD Board of Directors

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**Amber Barnello**  
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## President's Message

**"A master can tell you what he expects of you. A teacher, though, awakens your own expectations." - Patricia Neal**

Welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year! It is amazing how fast the summer months flew by. I confess that June is a month where I always need the entire month to recoup and refresh my body mentally, spiritually, and physically before I actually feel well rested and ready to enjoy summer. I hope you were able to do the same.

As educators, we have such a unique and high-demanding job on all fronts. We have to make sure we meet state standards, address goals on IEPs, accommodate and/or modify on a daily basis, and make parents aware of all things happening at school. Our job is demanding! While demanding, teaching offers some of the best rewards in life that other jobs do not provide. These rewards are not financial, but as Henry Adams stated, "A teacher affects eternity: he can never tell where his influence stops."

As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, take some time to reflect on what Henry Adams said. We do not know where our influence stops. Each day, through our actions and our words, we make an impression upon our students, and they know the teachers who have their backs and want the best for them. On a daily basis, our influence affects how children see themselves as students and as someone in society. We have an opportunity to make a difference and the influence can carry over years later. This influence can happen in so many ways. As you begin mentally preparing for the school year, take time to reflect on your own personal goals and how you hope to “awaken” expectations for your students and influence your class of 2018-2019. This is your year to make the reward of teaching the best it has ever been!

The Colorado Council for the Learning Disabilities anxiously anticipates the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. We are actively working on ways to enrich the lives of teachers, especially in the field of learning disabilities. This fall, we welcome new board members who will fill newly created positions designed to address the needs of our members in the most effective way possible. Here are some highlights to pay attention to as we continue to provide educational opportunities for our members:

- **Professional Development Scholarships:** We award up to \$200 per individual for professional-development scholarships. These individual scholarships total up to \$2,000 annually. These are funds to defray personal conferences expenses. Please check out our website for additional details.
- **Tuition Scholarships:** If you are seeking an advanced degree or certification in the area of learning disabilities, including course work in literacy or math, we offer scholarships to help defray personal educational costs. Please check out our website for these academic opportunities.
- **CCLD Classroom Research Project:** Teachers who successfully complete action research in their classroom may be awarded a \$500 grant for instructional materials for their students. This year, specific funds were donated in memory of a former board member. This contribution will allow us to increase the number of research grants offered for the upcoming Please see our website for more details.
- **Math on the “PLANES”:** This year, we are excited to announce that Steve Leinwand will present on “Making Math Work Far More Effectively for Our Special and Struggling K-6 Students” on February 22 and 23, 2019. Visit our website for additional information and to register.
- **Other Updates:** We will continue to update our website with additional conferences that take place around the state.

Sabrina Raugutt  
CCLD President

## Save the Dates:

- **Reading in the Rockies Conference**  
10/12/18-10/13/18
- **Courage to Risk Conference**  
2/1/19-2/2/19
- **Math on the “Planes”**  
2/22/19-2/23/19

# Meet the Board of Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities

## Sabrina Raugutt, President

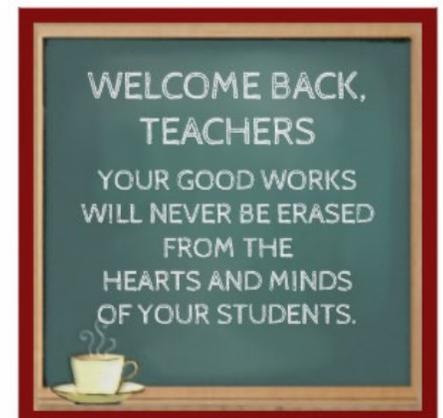
I am Sabrina Raugutt, President for the Colorado Council for Learning Disabilities. I began teaching twelve years ago while living in South Dakota. I was a private school high school special education coordinator for four years before I taught fourth grade. In 2013, I moved to the wonderful state of Colorado, and I have been a middle school learning disabilities specialist in the Cherry Creek School District. With this current job, I focus on specializing instruction and providing intervention in reading, writing, and math and co-teach in math and language arts classrooms. My backgrounds include a B.A. in Elementary and Special Education, a M.A. as an Advanced Specialist in Disabilities, and a Math Specialist Degree. During my free time, I enjoy my private tutor business, as well as spending most of my time hiking, biking, swimming, running, completing triathlons, snowshoeing, skiing, and traveling the world as much as possible.

## Cassie Harrelson, Treasurer/MOP Coordinator

I am Cassie Harrelson and I am the Director of Teaching and Learning at the Colorado Education Association. I have had the opportunity to work at various grade levels supporting mathematics instruction in general education for students with disabilities and language learners. I began my career in Eagle County, Colorado where I taught both traditional and alternative high school mathematics, supporting students with math difficulties. Next, I went to Aspen School District where I was the Math Specialist for grades 5 – 8, followed by a position in Aurora Public Schools as a Math Instructional Coach for General Education and Special Education K – 12. I have been fortunate to be able to utilize my undergraduate degree in Secondary Mathematics and my graduate degree in Bilingual Special Education in my career. I am also an affiliate faculty member at Regis University teaching a course work in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education as well as Special Education. I am excited to support the collaborative efforts in Colorado to increase outcomes for our students as a board member of CCLD.

## Kathy Oviatt, Courage to Risk Representative

I am Kathy Oviatt. A Colorado native, I graduated from Arapahoe High School and then received my undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Colorado in secondary English education. I spent several years outside of education, managing a retail bookstore and being a stay-at-home mother for my two children, Hannah and Sam. Realizing my true passion was teaching, I returned to education. I earned my Master of Arts in Special Education also from the UNC. After spending over ten years working with students with learning disabilities in the middle school, I currently teach at Northglenn High School as a learning specialist. Working in the high school the past fifteen years, I have taught English and math as well as co-teaching with general education teachers. I found my membership in CCLD allows me to develop my professional skills and to interact with others in the field. Attending Math on the Planes and Courage to Risk have been invaluable to my growth as a teacher and educator. Through CCLD and Adams State, I earned my Math Interventionist Certificate. I am excited to start on my fourth year on the CCLD board and to represent CCLD on the Courage to Risk board.





## Amber Barnello, Communication Director

I am Amber Barnello. I have lived in Colorado for most of my life and graduated from Yuma High School on the Eastern Plains of Colorado. I have taught special education in grades of Kindergarten through 12th grade for the last 16 years. Though most of these years of teaching were in Colorado, I also taught in Nevada and North Carolina. I have found that teaching high school is where my passion lies in that I thoroughly enjoy helping students recognize their path and successfully move into their life beyond high school. Currently, I am a resource teacher at Littleton High School and teach language arts and social studies. Though I do not teach a technology class, I have a passion for sharing my knowledge about it with my students along with social media safety and being an informed media and news consumer. Because of this, I spend much of my free time researching new apps that would be useful for my students in accessing their curriculum as well as the world around them. The rest of my free time I spend with my family, going to Rapids soccer games, and sewing. I am looking forward to my first year serving on the CCLD board.

## Veronica Fielder, CDE Representative

After working for 20 years in K12 schools, I came to work with CDE in August of 2017. I hold a BA in English, an MA in Information Learning Technologies and a Colorado teaching license with endorsements in English Language Arts and Special Education. As a special educator, I am inspired by technology and its ability to create accessible learning experiences for students with special needs. I am passionate about education and feel honored to support Colorado educators with developing systems and employing practices that promote mastery of content and skills for diverse learning communities. When I am not working, I like to read, travel to foreign lands, explore the depths of oceans and the tops of mountains, and gallop horses through the forests of the Rocky Mountains.

The Colorado Professional Institute for Learning Online Together,  
sponsored by the CEA and Adams State University,  
has some great fall course offerings.  
Check them out at <https://www.ceacopilot.org>





# 2018 CCLD Colorado Teachers Making A Difference Award

## Award Recipient Gena Karg



CCLD is honored to award one of the inaugural Colorado Teachers Making A Difference Awards to Gena Karg. Gena currently teaches at Caliche Elementary/High School in Iliff, CO. She was raised in northeastern Colorado and continues to be an active member of the community, living on the family farm.

Gena is the only special education teacher serving students ranging from pre-school through high school. She manages three multi-needs classrooms serving students with multiple and severe needs, emotional disabilities, intellectual disabilities, autism, developmental delays, hearing impairments and specific learning disabilities.

Teaching in an isolated, rural farming community has its unique challenges, but Gena sees the advantages of this learning environment. She reflects, "One of my favorite parts of teaching students in a K-12 school is that I have the opportunity to truly know my students, faculty and families. The year-to-year interactions with my students creates trust and ensures students meet all milestones necessary to become lifelong learners and responsible adults."

Laurie Kjosness, Director of Student Services, RE-1 Valley School District remarks, "Gena is an outstanding teacher, a teacher leader, a mentor teacher. I have only worked with a handful of people who give as much attention to student success as she does."

Jennifer Kokes, a parent in the community, states, "She is a model teacher and superb model for any teacher, but most especially special education teachers. She significantly contributes to the continuous improvement in special education instruction, beliefs, values, and programs throughout the region. Along with academics, Gena embeds communication, problem solving, teamwork, character and perseverance. Our own son's academic growth, in both elementary and high school, far exceeded what is considered typical growth. Until working with her, he struggled academically. After being placed with her, his growth increased dramatically."



## 2018 CCLD Colorado Teachers Making A Difference Award

### Award Recipient Michelle Freddolino

CCLD is honored to award one of the inaugural Colorado Teachers Making A Difference Awards to Michelle Freddoline, a teacher/ intervention coach at the Academy for Advanced and Creative Learning in Colorado Springs. Ms. Freddoline transitioned into special education after an exciting career in law, instructional technologies, and coaching. In addition to a degree in special education, she has an endorsement in Gifted and Talented. She was instrumental in starting the Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented in Colorado Springs.



Michelle reflects, “ I am in a position to tirelessly work to cultivate and instill in my students both a desire to seek knowledge and love of learning. I connect with my students to create learning opportunities that challenge students to produce thoughtful work demonstrative of their understanding. By collaborating with peers at the district-level, I can educate others about the unique challenges associated with our population: gifted, typical, gifted with disabilities and students with disabilities who are gifted.”

Teresa Brown, Dean of Students, states, “ Her incredible knowledge of interventions and how they work with particular types of learners is a resource on which our teachers rely, as is her willingness to seek out programs and resources to support teachers and students alike,

Nikki Myers, Academy Director, talks about her exceptional talent to engage students with unique challenges through participation in a Robotics Club. She used robotics to show one student how to channel his strengths in engineering while still learning how to stay patient with himself; working through stress, and understanding his own strengths and areas of difficulty much more clearly.”

**Check out our website at <http://cocld.org>**

**To explore scholarship and grant opportunities.**



*Maximizing Learning for Every Student Across All Content Areas*

October 12th & 13th, 2018 in Vail, CO!

**For Educators:** Reading in the Rockies aims to provide a time and place for teachers to learn, collaborate, and relax in a beautiful environment. Our topics and our speakers address relevant, essential and distinctive topics to build your capacity to support student success, improve your teaching skills, expand your thinking and continue to cultivate your knowledge with practical application strategies. This year is no exception, and we're looking forward to it! IDA-RMB's mission is to deepen your professional development with explicit instructional strategies to increase your students' academic success in both reading and writing. Our content will be relevant for your students, conducted by professionals with classroom experience, and can be used right away.

**Community and Family:** As a parent, how can I help my child? Education is the key and knowledge is power! This conference provides the inspiration, information and tools to help you support your struggling reader and writer. We hope to see you there!

**[Online Registration Is Now Open!](http://idarmb.org/ritr-registration)**

Register at

<http://idarmb.org/ritr-registration>

# *COURAGE to RISK*

*February 1-2, 2019:*

*A Collaborative Conference for  
Special Education*

*At the Broadmoor, Colorado Springs*



The Courage to Risk Conference is a collaborative conference comprised of a variety of organizations committed to the educational success of students with diverse learning needs. The mission of the CTR conference is to provide quality educational experiences to parents, students, teachers, and community members; to provide networking experiences for participants; and to motivate those working with students with diverse learning needs. The CTR committee seeks to accomplish this by planning a conference in Colorado for educators, and families of students with diverse learning needs.

*For more information and to register, visit the Courage to Risk website at*

*<https://www.couragetorisk.org>*

