

CEC Reflection

As a current undergraduate student entering the teacher credential program this upcoming Fall, I was ecstatic to have the opportunity to attend the 2018 CEC Convention in Tampa, Florida on a student scholarship. Had it not been for the support from the CEC California chapter in awarding scholarships, I would not have been able to engage in a week full of inspiration and professional development opportunities. Attending sessions from “Using Data to Meet Complex Student Needs When Evidence-Based Interventions Don’t Work” to “Specially Designed Instruction in Co-Teaching” has given me insight that will help navigate the new knowledge as I enter student teaching. There was a variety of workshops and sessions that were geared towards teacher candidates or new special education teachers. I found these sessions to be very resourceful in being able to learn the evidence-based practice that should be implemented in the classroom, along with the network opportunity the sessions provided. My favorite session was titled “The Survival Guide for New Special Education Teachers” by Clara Hauth and Catherine Thompson, I found their information so useful that I purchased the book they co-wrote that the session was based on. Along with workshops and sessions, the conference had an expo hall of vendors along with socials to attend. The socials provided an in-depth opportunity to network and further gain knowledge in specific areas. I was unaware of the special-interest divisions within CEC, but now am a member of Teacher Education Division and Division of International Special Education and Services. As a volunteer at the conference working a registration booth, I was able to see the diversity of adults the CEC Convention fosters. From international members to administrators, the conference has such a diverse crowd, but all attendees have one goal; to further extend their knowledge to support students with disabilities in an inclusive environment. I highly recommend that conference to any person who is interested in it. I look forward to

continually being a member of CEC and attending conferences to help further support my career as it develops over time.