

## *CEC LGBTQ+ Caucus of Special Educators*

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Chair: Bryan E. Cichy-Parker, Ph.D.  
Pacific University  
Forest Grove, OR 97123

July 22, 2020

Dear Mr. Rommel, the Staff, and the Board of Directors of CEC:

The members of the CEC LGBTQ+ Caucus of Special Educators want to express our sincere appreciation for how we were received by everyone at the CEC Conference in Portland in February. This letter is being sent to you a bit late (mostly because of the pandemic), but I truly hope its tardiness doesn't take away from the sense of gratitude to you all with which it is (finally) being sent.

Each gift of consideration that you paid to us was noted and appreciated. I'll list a few, but I want to emphasize that, although I can't list every time a kindness was shown, we felt enveloped in good will.

We loved our prominent location near the registration area. It provided us the opportunity to interact with more people than ever before. It was especially wonderful for me as I've worked as a professor in the special education community of Portland and I got to see many former teacher candidates and colleagues that I would not have had the opportunity to run into otherwise. We also were able to direct many convention-goers to the table where the badge labels were and especially to the pronoun labels that you provided. That was such an unexpected touch that really elevated the inclusivity we felt at the conference. (Unsurprisingly at a CEC event, the "She/Her/Hers" labels went quickly 😊.)

Being front and center also afforded us the opportunity to meet so many of CEC's staff and board members. In all honesty, we were all a little star struck that you all paid us so much positive attention and it really had an impact on the enthusiasm for CEC that we felt and were able to portray to all with whom we had contact.

One final commendation is that we were honored that so many of CEC's Board of Directors and even you, Chad, came to our social on Friday evening. The willingness shown by everyone who represented CEC's headquarters to commune with us and look out for our interests was so heartening for all of us.

Thank you again, and, COVID Gods willing, we'll see you all in Baltimore!

Sincerely,



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