

For immediate release

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CEC and ATIA partner to deliver needed professional resources to special educators

Arlington, Va. and Chicago, IL, Jul. 20, 17 – The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the **Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA)** have partnered to promote the necessity and the benefits of assistive technology in special education programs. Through their individual missions, both organizations work to ensure that the best products, services, and opportunities are available to all children, youth, and adults with disabilities.

Partnering with ATIA will allow CEC to offer its members a wider variety of practical, high-quality content through webinars and other online resources while receiving credit towards their professional development requirements. “As a former administrator, I know how critical effective assistive technology is for children with disabilities. It is not an option, it is a must and educators need all the support in this area that they can get to deliver a quality education to every child.” said Mikki Garcia, CEC president. CEC already provides its membership with a variety of in-person and web-based professional development opportunities, but this partnership will fill the need for expert information and content on assistive technology. The goal of this partnership is to connect two organizations with similar interests and goals.

“The ATIA board of directors is excited by this new partnership and the opportunities that lie ahead for both CEC and ATIA. There is an ever growing critical need for professional development around assistive technologies as well as a need for organizations like ATIA and CEC to collaborate to reach a broader audience,” said Tara Rudnicki, ATIA Board President and President of North America, TobiiDynavox. CEC and ATIA look forward to working together to promote the importance of assistive technology while supporting all educators and ensuring the success of children and youth with disabilities. The ATIA CEO, David Dikter commented, “We are excited to enter into this new partnership with CEC. Our two organizations have complimentary goals and in the current political landscape both funding and collaborative efforts are critical. We have found a great way to advance both our goals as organizations with this new partnership.”

About CEC

CEC is the professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the educational success of children with exceptionalities that accomplishes its mission through advocacy, standards and professional development. Learn more about the Council for Exceptional Children at www.cec.sped.org.

About ATIA

The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) is a not-for-profit association of manufacturers, sellers and providers of assistive technology (AT)—products, equipment and systems that enhance learning, working and daily living for persons with disabilities. For more information about our assistive technology education and research, please visit www.atia.org.