



Council for Learning Disabilities

Annual Report

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010



September 1, 2010

Dear CLD Members,

This annual report to the CLD membership synthesizes accomplishments from July 1, 2009– June 30, 2010. Several tasks – internal to CLD and external to the field of learning disabilities – have kept us busy during the past year.

The CLD Board of Trustees (BOT) conducted significant work during 2009-2010 by:

- Identifying and completing tasks associated with Long-Range Action Plans (LRAPS) of officers and committees that span their tenure on the CLD Board. These plans help the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs plan and complete tasks on both a long-term and short-term basis.
- Continuing a history of conference excellence, as well as initiating discussion and actions on a review of the CLD annual conference structure, facilitation, and planning as part of our organizational mission.
- Engaging in an initial review of short and long-range fiscal and organizational planning. This work continues in strategic planning the Board of Trustees will conduct during 2010-2011.
- Reviewing current practices and possibilities to share best practice information on learning disabilities through our website, publications, and InfoSheets.
- Continuing participation and presence in national advocacy and policy venues concerning learning disabilities.
- Exploring CLD's uniqueness in comparison to other LD organizations and how to link that uniqueness to critical issues and member services in order to best serve current and future membership.
- Reviewing and identifying practices to better communicate with, support, and expand our membership.

CLD's publications and conferences continue to offer a great service for our members. *Intervention in School and Clinic* (ISC) is offered to our members and provides information about current research, issues, and interventions. *LD Forum*, which is included in ISC (and available on the CLD website) includes a Research-to-Practice (R-to-P) column and articles so that professionals can easily access evidence-based teaching practices to quickly apply in their classrooms. *Learning Disability Quarterly* (LDQ) continues to be a top journal in the field. Our annual conference continued to provide a forum for evidence-based information, research, relevant policies, and professional networking.

Our vision to include all educators, researchers, administrators, and support personnel in improving the education and quality of life for individuals with learning disabilities and others who experience challenges in learning has continued to guide the actions of the BOT during the past year. CLD committee work is a driving force that contributes to the work of the organization as it responds to issues in the field. Our Standing Committees continued important endeavors throughout the past year. A few examples of this work follow.

Public accessibility to CLD InfoSheets was made available on our website, as well as publication of a new InfoSheet on College Opportunities. In response to considerations for sustainability, the Communications Committee presented a Green Initiative proposal (an environmentally friendly means to access *Intervention in School and Clinic* electronically). The BOT voted in support of this initiative. Our Liaison Committee chairs have remained active participants in national advocacy and policy efforts, representing CLD during meetings and work activities of the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities and the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities. CLD responded to the proposed revisions to learning disabilities criteria for the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, through a work group led by Dodi Hodges of the Standards and Ethics Committee. CLD continues to be an active voice in information, policy, and issues regarding learning disabilities. Accomplishments from each of CLD's Standing Committees are highlighted in brief committee reports and information that can be found towards the end of this report.

State and regional CLD chapters are an important element of CLD's structure past and present. Active chapters and leaders are listed in this report. The Leadership Development Committee was pleased to host chapter leaders at a luncheon during the annual convention which provided an opportunity to solicit input on CLD activities and initiatives and engage in discussion on changing chapter needs. Many members of the CLD of the Carolinas are active members of the 2010 Local Arrangements Committee for the annual conference in Myrtle Beach. The CLD website provides information on active chapters as well as a link on the membership page to information on starting a chapter. We look forward to our work with chapter leaders who extend CLD's mission and resources at a regional level.

Additionally, CLD has examined conference practices, and is looking at continued excellence in professional development and research dissemination through conferences and other mechanisms. A special ad hoc committee was formed in October 2009, chaired by Vice-President Monica Lambert, to utilize input generated from the BOT on conference structures in initial planning and considerations for a 2011 conference. These discussions led to BOT actions including reactivation of the Standing Conference Committee whose charge is to lead and advise the BOT on conference planning and policies, including a proposal for the 2011 conference. A BOT decision was also made, due to fiscal considerations, to end renewal of the contracted personnel position of Conference Director, effective January 31, 2011. CLD is indebted to Mary Provost for the excellent services she has provided as Conference Director since 2006. Her work and service to CLD have been exemplary.

Governance and fiscal planning were also significant areas of activity of the BOT. The Finance Committee conducted a review of organizational income and expenses to assist the BOT in buttressing CLD's vitality in the changing economic and membership landscapes impacting nonprofit organizations. Building leadership opportunities within CLD for professionals, researchers, and chapter leaders has also remained a core goal for the BOT in sustaining CLD's stewardship for upcoming years. Committee membership was expanded on several committees and nominees solicited for leadership positions within the BOT. This year represented many efforts in building and sustaining the organization's vision and mission both internally and externally.

In closing, we would like to invite you to contact a committee chair or BOT member if you are interested in getting more involved in the organization or have ideas to share in support of CLD's mission and vision. You can learn about each of our committees and their charge on CLD's website. There is much work to be done and CLD depends on strong leadership and committed membership in order to sustain and expand our advocacy for excellence in education and quality of life for individuals with learning disabilities. With your leadership, support and membership, CLD continues to be a strong presence.

Respectfully,

Christina Curran
CLD President 2009-2010

Annual Report Submitted on Behalf of the
Board of Trustees, Council for Learning Disabilities

Mission and Vision

Mission Statement

The Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD) is an international organization that promotes evidence-based teaching, collaboration, research, leadership, and advocacy. CLD is composed of professionals who represent diverse disciplines and are committed to enhancing the education and quality of life for individuals with learning disabilities and others who experience challenges in learning. (March 2007)

Vision Statement

Our vision is to include all educators, researchers, administrators, and support personnel to improve the education and quality of life for individuals with learning disabilities and others who experience challenges in learning.

External and Internal Goals (2007-2012)

External Goals

1. Promote the use and monitoring of evidence-based interventions for individuals with learning disabilities and others who experience challenges in learning.
2. Foster collaborative networks with and among professionals who serve individuals with learning disabilities and others who experience challenges in learning.
3. Expand our audience to educators, researchers, administrators, and support personnel.
4. Promote high quality research of importance to individuals with learning disabilities and who experience challenges in learning.
5. Support leadership development among professionals who serve individuals with learning disabilities and others who experience challenges in learning.
6. Advocate for an educational system that respects, supports, and values individual differences.

Internal Goals

1. Ensure efficient, accountable, responsive governance to achieve the CLD mission.
2. Mentor future CLD leaders.
3. Maintain sound fiscal planning and practice.
4. Recruit and retain CLD members.
5. Increase the diversity of our organization

Board of Trustees 2009-2010

Executive Committee Officers

President:	Christina Curran
President-Elect:	Cari Dunn
Vice President:	Monica Lambert
Secretary:	Teresa Montani
Treasurer:	Karen Smith
Past President:	Dan Boudah
Executive Director: (ex officio)	Linda Nease
Conference Director: (ex officio)	Mary Provost

Committee Chairpersons and Editors

Bylaws & Rules:	Monica Lambert
Communications:	Judy Voress
<i>LD Forum</i> Editor:	Cathy Thomas
<i>LDQ</i> Editor:	David Scanlon
Website Editor:	Dave Majsterek
Diversity	Silvana Watson
Finance:	Karen Smith
Leadership Development:	Martha Larkin
Liaison:	Roberta Strosnider
	Debi Gartland
Membership/Recruitment:	Jennifer Williams
Nominations and Elections	Dan Boudah
Research:	Diane Bryant and Brian Bryant
Standards and Ethics:	Dodi Hodges
Technology	Dave Majsterek
Parliamentarian	Tandra Tyler-Wood

Membership

Cost of Membership

Professional Members:	\$75.00
Student Members:	\$35.00

Membership Numbers (July 1, 2010)

Professional Members	493
Student Members	58

Membership Benefits

CLD members receive subscriptions to *Learning Disabilities Quarterly*, the CLD flagship journal, as well as *LD Forum*, the CLD newsletter, including Research to Practice peer-reviewed articles, published five times annually. Additionally, through an agreement with the Hammill Foundation, members have also received an annual print subscription to *Intervention in School and Clinic* (ISC). The *LD Forum* is provided to members as an insert in ISC. Members receive a discounted rate for the annual International Conference on Learning Disabilities and access to the Members Only section of the CLD website (www.cldinternational.org) which provides online access to current and past issues of the CLD journals. Members have online access to **CLD InfoSheets**, a series of brief topical information sheets on key practices and issues in learning disabilities. CLD also provides members as well as the general public, ongoing updates in learning disabilities, such as legislative and NJCLD updates.

Affiliated Chapters

State and Regional Affiliated Chapters

CLD supports and recognizes the efforts of state and regional affiliated CLD chapters. Support is available for chapter programs and/or planning through the Leadership Development Committee. Annually, chapters submitting reports to CLD also receive a “flow through” award of \$ 100.00. Historically, when organizational finances are available, state and regional chapters may apply for Chapter Grants, providing monetary support for chapter activities supporting CLD goals. During the 2009-2010 year three chapters submitted annual reports and received flow through funding. The streamlined CLD annual fiscal budget during 2009-2010 did not allow for chapter grants this fiscal year.

CLD also provides CLD chapters a mechanism for national recognition of exemplary teaching and service in the field of learning disabilities through our yearly awards program during the annual conference.

Chapter Presidents 2009-2010

California

Belinda Dunnick Karge

Colorado

Pamela Cochrane

CLD of the Carolinas

Mary Provost

Maryland

Roberta Strosnider

Massachusetts CLD

Stacey Elin Rossi

Minnesota

Carol Svingen

Northwest

Debbi Prigge (Co-President)

Ohio

Laurice Joseph

David Shorr (Co-President)

Prairie

Mary Ring

Texas

Colleen Reutebuch

Virginia

Carol Cox

Finances

CLD is financed currently through membership dues and publication income. Historically, CLD has also utilized, when available, income from the annual conference to support the annual operating budget. Because of economic impacts over the past three years, conference income, has not remained a consistent source of financial revenue for the organization. However, conferences have remained an important element of our mission. Publications income and expenses are also undergoing changes. The Board of Trustees has engaged in an internal review of financial practices and impacts and will continue this work in the upcoming year.

2009-2010 Financial Information

Income		Expenses	
Budgeted Annual Income	Actual Annual Income	Proposed Annual Expenses	Actual Annual Expenses
\$198,653.00	\$172,659.00	\$213,182.00	\$187,804.00

Net Budgeted Loss	Actual Loss	Difference
-14,529.00	-\$15,145.00	-\$616.00

* The annual fiscal year budget was trimmed to address contracted services, and essential expenses and activities. Fiscal impacts in organizational income and expenses prior to June 1, 2010 necessitated a deficit budget proposal. The CLD BOT engaged in continual budgetary review throughout the 2009-2010 fiscal year to minimize losses and further adjust expenses in budgeted costs as viable. The Executive Committee of CLD recommended to the BOT in spring 2010 a need for short and long-term strategic fiscal and organizational planning to guide CLD in the upcoming years.

Overview of Major Activities July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

2010-2011 Election Results

Vice President

Caroline Kethley

Annual Conference Information

The 2009 annual 31st International Conference on Learning Disabilities was held in Dallas, Texas at the Westin Park Central Hotel October 2nd-3rd, 2010. The theme was *LD Round-up: Responsive Assessment and Instructional Practices*. Dr. Daniel Reschley, Vanderbilt University, provided the keynote address, entitled “*Response to Intervention: Overcoming Barriers to Success*.” Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) Chairs were Joyce Rademacher and Jane Pemberton. CLD appreciates the outstanding efforts of all 2009 LAC members in supporting the event. There were 366 conference attendees.



Awards and Recognitions

Outstanding Teachers/Educators of the Year 2009

Kristin Radloff, Colorado Chapter of CLD
Richard Hathaway, CLD of the Carolinas
Cindy Greer, Texas Chapter of CLD

Floyd G. Hudson Award for Service in Learning Disabilities

Kyle Hughes (Colorado)

Outstanding Researcher

Sarah Powell (Vanderbilt University)

Distinguished Lecturer 2009 Annual Conference

Dr. Edwin Ellis

Executive Committee Accomplishments

The Executive Committee's work this year centered on guiding efforts in BOT discussion and action-oriented planning to address structures critical to CLD's vitality. Areas focused around:

- **Finances**: Fiscal analysis of patterns of income and expenses; Short and long-term budget planning; Recommendations to the BOT and incoming President for a budget refinement process;
- **Membership**: Review of contracted services and costs for the membership database; Review and recommendations to the BOT of options for more cost-efficient and integrated database and web services for CLD's changing needs; Support of membership committee activities;
- **Governance**: Compilation of existing contract obligations and agreements for systematic planning and tracking; Completion of the revision of existing Best Practices for BOT roles and responsibilities begun in 2008-2009 by Cari Dunn and Chris Curran and completed in March 2010 by President-Elect Dunn; Drafting of a proposed bylaw change delineating web editor responsibilities as a function of the Technology Committee Chair position (scheduled for membership vote at the October 2010 annual business meeting);
- **Conference Planning and Analysis**: Ongoing planning and preparation for the 2010 32nd International Conference on Learning Disabilities October 8-9th, 2010 by Program Chair, C. Dunn and Conference Director M. Provost; Analysis of trends in CLD's annual conference structures and outcomes for the past several years; Focused BOT discussion and workgroup input on challenges and possible structures for conferences; BOT vote for reactivation of the Standing Conference Committee, beginning July 1, 2010 to facilitate conference planning and policies beginning with the 2011 conference;
- **Communication**: Submission of four President's Messages for inclusion in the LD Forum; Exploration of alternative means of virtual BOT meeting options; Continued support of Standing Committee activities through designated Executive Committee linkages.

While serving as President, Chris Curran received an invitation to attend the Speaker of the House reception honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. She represented CLD at this event in Washington DC on July 26, 2010.

The Executive Committee would like to recognize those Standing Committee Chairs and editors exiting their terms of service to the BOT on June 30, 2010. These individuals are to be commended for their service and support of CLD. They include: Dan Boudah (Immediate Past President and Nominations and Elections Committee Chair); Diane and Brian Bryant (Research Committee Co-Chairs); Martha Larkin, (Leadership Development Committee Chair); Dave Majsterek (Technology Committee Chair and Web Editor); David Scanlon (LDQ Editor) and Jennifer Williams (Membership Committee Chair).

Standing Committee Summaries

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has two major ongoing responsibilities: CLD publications and the website. *Learning Disability Quarterly (LDQ)* and *LD Forum* have provided members with timely research and important news about organizational matters, respectively. The Communications Committee solicited applications for a *LDQ* editor with a 3-year term. Diane and Brian Bryant will begin as *LDQ* editors on July 1, 2010. Cathy Thomas continues as the *LD Forum* editor. The *LD Forum* established a review board to improve the quality of our two columns, Research to Practice and 5 Ways to... A list of our reviewers was published in the January issue of *LD Forum*. Manuscript submissions to *LD Forum* have continued to increase, with several manuscripts in various stages of review/revision. Dave Majsterek continued to shepherd CLD's website as editor, providing members with timely information about the organization.

The Committee responds to issues as they arise during the year. This year a Green Initiative was considered. CLD members receive *Intervention in School and Clinic* as a valuable CLD membership benefit. Currently, members have free access to the electronic version through the members only section of the CLD website and also receive a print copy of the journal. CLD, the Hammill Institute, and Sage are working to decrease the environmental impact of association publishing while still ensuring access to essential journal content. Therefore, effective with the January 2011 issue of *Intervention*, active members will continue to have free electronic access to current and past issues of the journal; however, a print copy of the journal will no longer be mailed. Additional information and an announcement will be included in the September, 2010 *LD Forum*.

Finally, the committee responded to a BOT action, providing public accessibility of InfoSheets. InfoSheet author guidelines are available on the CLD website and a new InfoSheet on College Opportunities was published.

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee continued to collaborate throughout the year and met at the annual conference. The committee continues to identify issues and topics of importance for CLD action and activity. A committee member, Claudia Rinaldi, served as a 2009 conference strand chair for diversity.

Leadership Development Committee

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) is charged with the identification and nurturing of potential new leaders for national CLD and local chapters. At the 2009 conference, the LDC sponsored a session for doctoral students and early career researchers and was honored to have Dr. Reid Lyon of Southern Methodist University present. The LDC also supports chapter leaders in their efforts through recognition of outstanding educators identified from regional chapters and the recognition of a national outstanding service provider. Award winners and chapter information were listed earlier in this report.

Liaison Committee

The Liaison Committee had yet another busy year, maintaining a high level of advocacy by collaborating with sister organizations to inform decision-makers and consumers. The chairs attended monthly meetings of the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities and related advocacy meetings and responded to requests for sign-ons to Congress as well as to the US Department of Education, particularly surrounding the upcoming reauthorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (aka NCLB) and The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (aka IDEA). The chairs also represented CLD at the two weekend meetings of National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities (NJCLD), as well as the NJCLD Symposium on *Comprehensive Assessment*, involving local CLD members in the latter. The committee continued CLD's work as partners with the Division on Learning Disabilities in the Council for Exceptional Children's Advanced LD Standards Project. The chairs informed the membership of hot topics in the LD field and on the horizon through presentations at the CLD conference and website.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has met throughout the year. The committee worked on completing a new membership brochure, available in electronic PDF format and suggested a structure and sample letters for electronic vs. post renewal reminders. Committee members also sought to highlight the benefits of CLD membership by collecting personal quotes and stories concerning the value of CLD membership. The committee members expect to have this work completed this summer and available during the fall of 2010.

Research Committee

The CLD Research Committee (RC) had a very productive year. The RC organized the annual "Must Reads" panel at the conference in Dallas that was well attended. In follow-up the RC generated a paper submitted to LDQ from the Must Reads Panel at the fall conference. The committee also oversees the annual Outstanding Researcher Award. Based on committee reviews, the winner was selected and presented with the award in Dallas. Revising the minimum standards for the description of participants in learning disabilities research has been identified as a scholarly project of the committee on behalf of CLD.

Standards and Ethics

The Standards and Ethics committee chair led a workgroup that submitted input to proposed DSM-V revisions on learning disabilities criteria. The committee welcomes interested new members.

Technology Committee

Dave Majsterek, continued to serve as both Technology Chair and Web Editor. The committee chair participated in initial discussions with a consultant during the fall of 2009 along with the Communications Chair, Executive Director, and President on a review of current web format and integrated database alternatives. Requested web content changes made by BOT members were completed.

*Note: Committee activity of the Nominations and Election, Bylaws, and Finance Committees is included in information addressed earlier in this report.