

Community Involvement Activities to Increase Chapter Participation

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The University of Northern Colorado's (UNC) SCEC chapter has been very active in community activities as a way to build the chapter. The major projects the UNC chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children are described below.

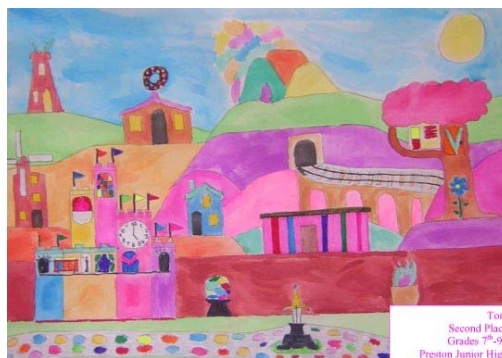
RECOGNITION ACTIVITIES



Each student and one teacher is honored with a star-shaped plaque with his/her name engraved on the front.

STARS OF THE FUTURE: Our chapter developed this award in the 2002-2003 school year for students and young adults with exceptionalities in the Northern Colorado region. Each year we send nomination forms to various school districts and from these we choose recipients based on their accomplishments and the challenges that they have overcome. We have also added a teacher award for teachers who go beyond the scope of their jobs. Each student and one teacher is honored with a star-shaped

STUDENT ART CONTEST: We request Student work is requested from local school districts to recognize the many students with artistic talents. This is our first year for this contest and we received a large number of submissions. All submissions were hung in our Education building add color to the drab walls. Each piece of artwork was submitted was judged by the SCEC members. awarded 1-3 places in 4 age categories. Every participant received a certificate, first – third places received a ribbon, and all first place winners received art supplies of their choosing. This has also become a fund-raiser for the chapter. All 12 winning pieces were included into a calendar. Each student highlighted in the calendar received a free calendar.



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VOLUNTER WORK

BEST BUDDIES: SCEC members work with the Best Buddy organization to enhance the lives of adults with developmental disabilities. They spend time chatting, going on social outings, and just being a “buddy” to one or more individuals.



YES ON 100” CAMPAIGN: SCEC chapter members handed out information in parks to encourage community members to vote for a referendum that would increase services to adults with developmental disabilities.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS: Many of the SCEC members volunteer for a variety of Special Olympics events or volunteer as coaches

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COURAGE TO RISK COLLABORATIVE CONFERENCE: Many of the SCEC members attend this annual conference in Colorado Springs. This conference offers 2 days of speakers and exhibitors focusing on the needs of people with exceptionalities. This enhances the research-based knowledge of the students in the chapter. It’s also a lot of fun! This year we had a panel of students present to teachers on providing positive environments for special education teacher candidates.



SCEC MEETINGS: We bring in speakers to help students learn about the role of a special educator. This experience enhances our meetings and keeps students interested and involved. We meet 2 times per month in the evening so that most of our members can attend.



ATTENDING NATIONAL CONFERENCES: Several of our members have been involved at the national level and attend the National CEC Conference each year. One member is on the Student Standing Committee and others have presented at the National Conference.

