Happy New Year CAN Coordinators!

2015 was a year filled with advocacy victories and 2016 is bound to have more. I am sure all of you have gotten a head start on your personal New Years Resolutions from eating clean and exercising to learning that language you never quite grasped or maybe making sure you make more time for friends and family, but what about in terms of advocacy? This CAN DO focuses on effective resolutions for CAN Coordinators and the Policy and Advocacy Team to be mindful of over the course of the year. Who knows, maybe you'll think of more resolutions to add to the list!

CAN Coordinator 2016 New Year's Resolutions

Aim to Attend: Important Events
With two exciting events where CAN Coordinators come together to talk about advocacy with other special educators as well as socialize with each other, why wouldn't you want to attend? As volunteers we greatly appreciate all the time and effort you put into being a CAN Coordinator and we hope that if you were unable to come to the CEC Convention or Special Education Legislation Summit in the past year(s) you will do your absolute best to attend this years events. These events are a great way to expand your knowledge in the special education policy field as well as network with fellow CAN Coordinators, not to mention a chance to visit another city for a few days. Be sure to check out the CEC Convention website for St. Louis 2016 and hold the date for the 2016 Special Education Legislative Summit in Washington D.C. --July 9-13, 2016--.

Become more Active on Social Media
People around the world are using social media sites now more than ever to communicate and express opinions. CEC benefits from using social media too and we will continue to utilize all our social media accounts throughout the year especially when it comes to advocacy. Setting up a Twitter or Facebook account is easy and it will allow you to follow the Policy and Advocacy team closely as we tackle more policy issues this year. If your state unit or division does not have an account or is less active than desired, take the lead and revamp your units social media flow. Follow CEC!
Did you know that your elected officials use Twitter and Facebook too? Another new way of advocating is by direct tweeting and messaging Congressional members on their social media sites. They also tweet out updates on current legislation.

House of Representatives - [http://govsm.com/w/House](http://govsm.com/w/House)
Senate - [http://govsm.com/w/Senate](http://govsm.com/w/Senate)

**Keep CEC Informed While Utilizing and Growing Your Network**

The best way to help us understand the issues is by telling us. Be sure to alert CEC to any information that could be important for our policy work, even the smallest details can make a difference. Another effective way of obtaining information is by reaching out to your network connections; let them know you take a personal interest in learning about the issues going on in the state/district. Be sure to continue to grow those networks too, keep them thriving and excited to be involved in special education policy work. It is important to make sure your network members are subscribed to the Policy Insider and that they receive Action Alerts the moment they hit your inbox. So keep up the great work in disseminating information and be sure to review past CAN DOs like the November 2015 edition: Keeping Your Advocacy Network Engaged.

**CEC's Policy and Advocacy 2014 New Year's Resolutions**

**It's Time to ENGAGE Our Advocates**

CEC will unveil the new ENGAGE site soon with brand new content and features. This site will become the new way CEC advocates and have their voices heard in Congress with features such as: issue pages, campaigns, tweets to Congress, and more. We want to make sure CAN Coordinators are experts at navigating the ENGAGE site so keep a look out for a very special CAN DO featuring the ENGAGE site.

**Social Media, It's a Give and Take**

The role of being active on social media does not just fall to you but to us as well! In the next year we will be pushing information out through Facebook and on Twitter @CECAdvocacy. Looking back at the Convention, where we launched the first ever app to use during the event and reviewing the amount of tweeting being done at multiple CEC events, it is no surprise that more members are using social media sites to hold discussions and keep their networks/followers updated on policy issues. We will be tweeting and posting interesting and important information regularly. We will also provide exciting ways to make the Special Education Legislative Summit easy to navigate and relevant through online resources.

**Continued Open Communication**

Giving feedback and hearing what you, as coordinators, have as goals will help us to provide you with the necessary resources you need to achieve. Please continue to reach out to us if you have questions, interesting information from your state or unit, or even policy resources we could share with the CAN Coordinators or feature in the Policy Insider. As we are a resource to you, you are also
a resource to us. The CEC Policy Team's doors are always open to you.

Let's keep to these resolutions and work together to make this a great year for CAN!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please email me: Rose Haller-Kaplan, Program Assistant, Policy and Advocacy Services, at rosehk@cec.sped.org or give me a call at 703-264-9498.