



## The Advocate Winter 2025 Newsletter

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### Message from NCPEID President



Dear Members,

First, allow me to extend a warm and hopeful Happy New Year to each of you. As we embrace the possibilities of 2025, I am grateful for our shared progress and energized by what lies ahead. This past year, under our strategic plan, we have strengthened our organizational framework and advanced our search for a new website host, enhancing how we serve you and our mission.

The NCPEID remains a vigorous advocate for the physical education and recreational needs of individuals with disabilities. We are committed to preserving our legacy and enriching it through innovative programs and transformative research. Together, we are

creating a more inclusive world where physical activity is accessible to all.

I am excited to formally invite you to our **Annual Conference, scheduled for July 10-12, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel at Reagan National Airport, Washington D.C.** This gathering will be a cornerstone for knowledge exchange, networking, and celebration of our achievements.

I am profoundly thankful for the dedication and hard work exhibited by each of you. The NCPEID Board of Directors has been instrumental in integrating NCPEID into our professional journeys. Your commitment and advocacy in your disciplines, along with your participation in our APE Collaboratives and attendance at our annual meeting are the driving forces behind this organization's success. To continue our momentum, new officer positions are now open—please consider volunteering to help lead our efforts.

The NCPEID Board deeply values your membership and the vibrant spirit you bring to our community. Your feedback is vital for our growth and effectiveness. Please share any suggestions to improve our operations or meetings at [NCPEID@gmail.com](mailto:NCPEID@gmail.com).

Together, let's continue to champion the rights and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Warm regards,

Dr. Iva Obrusnikova  
President, NCPEID

**NCPEID ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
July 10-12, 2025  
Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport, Washington D.C.

**Call for Abstracts**

Deadline to submit is  
March 29th, 2025  
<http://www.ncpeid.com>

**SESSIONS**

- Poster Presentations
- Free Communication Presentations
- Round Table discussions
- Emerging Scholars Symposium



#### Let us Celebrate your Accomplishments

NCPEID is now accepting nominations for awards to be presented in person at the Annual conference July 10-12. Awards include:

- Claudine Sherrill Lifetime Achievement Award
- Hollis Fiat Scholarly Contribution Award
- William A Hillman Distinguished Service Award
- Congressional Award
- G. Lawrence Ratliff Research Award
- David P. Beaver APA Professional Young Scholar Award

For more information on the awards please visit <https://www.ncpeid.org/awards>

Award nominations are open until **March 23 by 5:00pm EST**



#### Join the NCPEID Executive Committee or Board of Directors

We are now accepting nominations for the NCPEID Executive Committee (EC) and Board of Directors (BOD) positions for the 2025 election cycle. If you or someone you know is interested in serving, we invite you to submit a nomination.

Nominations are being sought for the following positions:

- President-Elect
- Member at Large (2 positions)
- Student representative
- Research Consortium Chair
- Policy and Advocacy Chair

**Nomination Process:** Nominators or self-nominees should provide the following information about the nominee: name, email address, affiliation, and a brief bio (maximum 250 words) summarizing qualifications, experiences, and background relevant to the specific position.

Nominations are due **April 1, 2025**. For more information on the positions go to <https://www.ncpeid.org/leadership-elections>. Please contact **Iva Obrusnikova with questions at NCPEID@gmail.com**



#### Let us Help you achieve your APENS CAPE (Certified Adapted Physical Educator) Certificate

The APENS Study Group will provide valuable preparation for educators seeking to become Certified Adapted Physical Educators (CAPE).

The study group meets once per month at **5:30pm PST; 7:30pm CT; 8:30pm EST** to focus on various standards using a "gamification" approach.

- **February 10**, California State University, Long Beach will host Standard 3, which addresses Exercise Science.
- **March 10**, the University of Utah will concentrate on Standard 6, Unique Attributes of Learners.
- **April 7**, Wayne State University will lead Standard 8, centered on Assessment.
- **May 12**, Wayne State will host the study group for Standard 9, which deals with Instructional Design and Planning.

These sessions aim to enhance understanding of the APENS standards and support educators in achieving their professional goal of becoming CAPE certified through collaborative study and discussion. For more information, contact **Melissa Bittner at [Melissa.Bittner@csulb.edu](mailto:Melissa.Bittner@csulb.edu)**.



#### Updating and Strengthening the Adapted Physical Education National Standards (APENS)

The APENS Committee (**Chair Leah Ketcheson, Members, Melissa Bittner, Scott McNamara, Brock McMullen, Andy Pitchford, and Emily Young**) is hard at work with areas of focus for this year.

- A **first** priority is the re-validation of APENS standards and test questions. The committee is focused on ensuring these standards remain aligned with current research, best practices, and the evolving needs of APE professionals. This comprehensive process will involve valuable input from educators, researchers, and practitioners to maintain the rigor and relevance of the certification exam.
- The **second** priority is enhanced marketing and outreach efforts. To increase awareness of APENS certification at both the state and national levels, the committee is planning targeted marketing strategies. These initiatives include leveraging social media platforms and distributing promotional materials at conferences such as SHAPE America and state events.
- A **third** priority focuses on asynchronous online options for educators in underserved areas, often referred to as "APE deserts." To address the limited access to professional development in these regions, the committee is exploring the creation of flexible, self-paced learning modules.



#### University Collaboration with OSEP-Funded Parent Centers

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL) has a longstanding partnership with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)-funded Parent Training and Information Centers, particularly WI FACETS. Wisconsin's designated center (see full nationwide list [here](#)). These centers aim to provide training, resources, and information to parents of children with disabilities to support the educational needs of their children.

For over 15 years, UWL Adapted Physical Education (APE) faculty have actively participated in WI FACETS Training Webinars, focusing on enhancing parents' understanding of APE service delivery. [Click here](#) to read the full article. For more information contact **Brock McMullen at [bmcullen@uwlax.edu](mailto:bmcullen@uwlax.edu)**



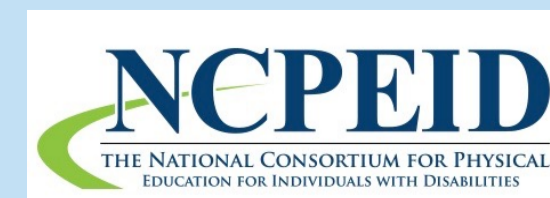
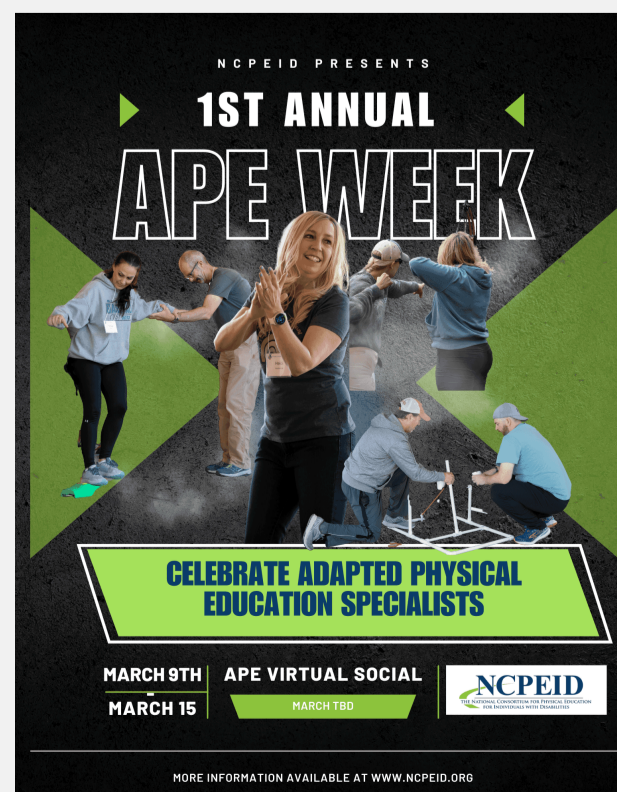
#### Join Project Connect

Project Connect brings current state APE group leaders and representatives of states without an APE group together to collaborate. The goal is for states with organized APE groups (e.g., California and Virginia) to support the development of groups in states that don't currently have that connective strength and assist more states with adding an endorsement or credential, or adopting the CAPE. If you'd like to represent your State to develop an organized APE group or share your experiences at the State level, please email Brad Weiner at [Brad.M.Weiner@gmail.com](mailto:Brad.M.Weiner@gmail.com). Meetings occur monthly using Zoom and are recorded for convenience.



#### Membership Has Its Privileges

NCPEID members can now access Palaestra through the NCPEID website. Click on Resources and scroll down to Palaestra Journal. To access the journal you will need to log in to the NCPEID website using your NCPEID username and Password. Once logged in, you can follow the instructions to access all current and past issues of Palaestra.



#### Contact Info:

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Connect with Us:

