



The Advocate
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Results of the NCPEID Membership Survey

The mission of the National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPEID) is to promote, stimulate, and encourage legislative mandates, professional preparation, advocacy, and research in physical activity, physical education, and recreation for individuals with disabilities (www.ncpeid.org). NCPEID has significant historical, current, and future impact on shaping the direction of physical education and physical activity for individuals with disabilities. It was founded in 1975 with the vision of quality personnel preparation, research/demonstration, and service related to adapted physical education/activity.

The NCPEID provides valuable resources to assist its members by disseminating professional information to promote the development of quality adapted physical education/activity (APE/A) programs and services across the country. NCPEID offers resources to numerous professional organizations, including information regarding professional preparation programs, guidance documents, as well as, information about legislative activity related to physical education/activity for individuals with disabilities on its website www.ncpeid.org and social media sites @NCPEID (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). NCPEID members receive consistent and timely information regarding advocacy, legislation, annual conference, and Adapted Physical Education National Standards (APENS) for APE/A professionals.

This past spring, a 29 question online *NCPEID Membership Survey* was designed to focus on NCPEID members' beliefs, subjective norms, and intentions in order to better serve our membership. There were 69 participants that completed the survey.



Take-away: NCPEID Strengths

There were several take-aways from the *NCPEID Membership Survey* that demonstrate the positives and strengths of NCPEID membership. The APENS and national certification exam (i.e., certified adapted physical educator) were indicated as a top reason for NCPEID membership. APENS is important for the profession as only 13 states have an APE added authorization/credential. The other states and territories rely on APENS for national certification for APE teachers.

Other strengths of NCPEID include faculty mentors/advisors encouraging graduate students to become involved with the organization. In this survey, 50% of respondents indicated this was how they initially became aware of NCPEID. The NCPEID provides valuable resources to assist its members by disseminating professional information (e.g., resources, advocacy letters) to promote the development of quality APE/A programs and services. Specific reasons that positively impact being a member of NCPEID include a subscription to the academic journal *Palaestra* and access to resources (e.g., website, social media).

Take-away: NCPEID Considerations

From the survey, there were several areas of improvement and consideration for NCPEID membership. Of interest was the critique that resources (e.g., website) needed to be up-to-date and that electronic access to the *Palaestra* subscription was not working. This is especially concerning because these were two of the top four reasons participants continued with NCPEID membership. Keeping up-to-date resources can be difficult for an organization that relies on volunteers to run the website, social media, and host the annual conference. One of the real challenges that impacts the APE/A profession is that NCPEID does not have a dedicated staff who only works for the organization. Some national and state organizations (e.g., SHAPE America, American Physical Therapy Association, American Occupational Therapy Association) have paid professionals to update resources. It is difficult to rely on



higher education APE/A faculty who have many other responsibilities besides NCPEID to manage an organization.

Another concern from the *NCPEID Membership Survey* was that only 55% of participants have attended a NCPEID conference. The NCPEID conference is typically held in Washington, D.C. each summer which may make it difficult for some members to attend. It may be of interest to consider virtual options in the future for conference attendance.

In conclusion, there were many takeaways from the *NCPEID Membership Survey*. The main reasons to engage in NCPEID membership included the APENS exam, subscription to the academic journal *Palaestra*, access to resources, and advocacy. NCPEID members most often become associated with the organization due to faculty mentors/advisors' encouragement. Important improvement and consideration recommendations for NCPEID include making sure resources are up-to-date, expanding virtual conference opportunities, and establishing a mentorship program. The NCPEID Executive Committee and Board of Directions will consider these recommendations to best benefit professionals and to continue to shape the direction of APE/A for individuals with disabilities.