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This is just the start! Summary of our benefits

Why should you join ACENA?

The second workshop at Grand Rapids, Michigan

We thank Aquinas College

Introducing ACENA

The Association for Conductive Education in North America (ACENA) is the representative organization of the programs and professionals providing conductive education services within the North American Continent. ACENA acknowledges and promotes the practice of conductive education.

This is accomplished through:

- Collaborating in a proactive, organized manner with the community, individuals with motor disabilities and their families;
- Ensuring and identifying the quality standards of conductive education programs;
- Presenting continuing education opportunities for the practice of conductive education;
- Providing networking opportunities for persons involved with CE programs;
- Increased awareness of conductive education as a treatment/educational model for people affected with motor disabilities.

From the President

Welcome to ACENA!

By President Dave Dvorak

We are making history! Approximately one year ago, the conductive education program conductors and administrators of the North American continent conceived the idea of creating an active professional organization. And now we can all proudly say we accomplished what we envisioned. The Association of Conductive Education in North America (ACENA) has been born.

While the first Conductive Education Workshop held at Aquinas College in August of 2005 presented the opportunity for conductive education practitioners to discuss what kind of organizational effort was needed to move CE to new levels, a full year was needed to complete the work. The CE Workshop held at Aquinas College at the end of August of 2006 provided the forum to introduce the new organization, the Executive Committee and the plans for the future.

This is a historic newsletter, the first of a new organization. Each Executive Committee member is providing a brief explanation of work, a follow-up of the CE Workshop is presented, and important membership information is included. This information tells you of the products and services that will come from ACENA.

We are asking you to join ACENA if you haven't already done so. This is the organization you requested and supported a year ago. Now is the time to step up and formally join. We will need every one of you to help build ACENA to the strongest possible North American presence. This presence is how ACENA will truly become the spokesperson for programs and professionals providing Conductive Education services within the North American continent.

ACENA NEWS 2006

Meet ACENA's first Directors

President

Dr. David C. Dvorak has been in public kindergarten through adult and private post-secondary education for almost 40 years. He most recently was the Executive Director of the Conductive Learning Center, where he led the establishment of one of the premier conductive education programs in North America. He is currently providing services to CE programs throughout North America. As the Chief Executive Officer of ACENA, he will use his knowledge and experience to help build a powerful professional organization.

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Secretary

Melissa Larson is one of the first American trained conductors and is excited about helping CE continue to grow and be recognized within the United States. Within ACENA, Melissa has taken the role of Secretary and has enjoyed keeping members up-to-date with information and ideas. If anyone has any questions or would like to join the ACENA mailing list, please contact Melissa.

melissal Larson@acena.org

Director of Finance

Mary Hare is a grandparent of a fifteen year old with CP and has been involved with CE since 1993. Mary and her daughter with the help of three other parents introduced CE programs to families in Tucson, Arizona and established Individual Achievements Association in 1998. Mary brings her experience as the Treasurer and the volunteer Program Director for IAA. She believes in Conductive Education and she is committed to making it available to any family in her community. Currently, IAA provides conductors to CE groups in Salt Lake City, Utah, Albuquerque and Las Cruces, New Mexico. She is honored to be involved with ACENA as the Director of Finance. Anyone interested in being on the Finance Committee may contact her.

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Director of Membership

As Director of Membership, Judit Roth's goal is to assist with the groundwork of building a strong membership where CE professionals and service recipients unite, and potential members understand the benefits of the ACENA membership. Judit is the President of Cerebral Palsy Solutions, Coaching & Consulting, Inc. (CPSCC), the only Conductive Education-focused consulting service in the United States. Also, she is the Executive Director of Pediatric Life Skills Specialists (PLSS) of Virginia Beach, a non-profit organization serving children with Cerebral Palsy. Judit brings fifteen years of experience in the CE field coupled with a Masters Degree in the Art of Teaching from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI. She has been instrumental in establishing several CE programs, as well as the only CE teacher training program in the U.S. Judit is a CET, a PA, a lecturer, and a consultant. For her work in the non-profit world, she was recently honored with the 'Top Forty Under 40' award by Inside Business Magazine.'

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Director of Advocacy

As a Director of Advocacy, Erika Nagy (CET) is looking forward to work on raising awareness of CE, increasing the acceptance of CET as a profession, finding or developing procedures to make it easier to bring the benefits of CE to individuals with disabilities. She has been organizing and running CE programs in the Tri-State Area (New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania) and delivering CE services to families and school districts as an independent CET and as a Co-Founder, Executive Director of ACERSI

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Director of Practice

Andrea Benyovszky is the full-time program director of the Conductive Learning Center. She also works for Aquinas College teaching in the conductor teacher/POHI preparation program and supervising the laboratory school. In addition, she continues to work for the Peto Institute as a representative for Conductive Education in America. Andrea is a senior conductor who also holds a Master's degree in special education. As the Director of Practice for ACENA, Andrea is looking forward to developing and maintaining a Standard Practice Model for Conductive Education programs in North America and continuing her involvement in organizations across America and in other countries.

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Director of Program Operations

Patti Herbst is the mother of a 19-year-old son with quadriplegic C.P. who recently graduated from the Center for Independence CE program and now attends Southern Illinois University - 5 ½ hours from home! Patti is a certified public accountant and has been the Executive Director of the Center since 1998. She has participated in 4 successful Due Process Hearings involving CE; currently contracts with 14 local school districts to include CE in the children's IEP and provides over \$450,000 in annual scholarships to ensure CE participation of financially disadvantaged children in the Chicago land area. Patti is knowledgeable in the struggles CE program face and, as Director of Program Operations, is committed to strengthening CE models in North America through improved efficiency, communication, awareness and revenue streams.

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Director of Continuing Education

Borbala Goda is Director and senior Conductor at ConductAbility Inc. in California. 1999 she has worked in the Claremont Unified School District integrating CE into a typical public school special education classroom. Borbala works in teams with special education teachers, speech and language therapists, assistive technology specialists, and other professionals. She also runs private after school programs and full-time summer intensives. She works with wide age range of students, between the ages of 5 - 20. Borbala's goal as the Chair of Continuing Education is to keep Conductors connected and to help them professionally by using the forum on our website to answer specific questions. She is interested in keeping Conductors informed about assistive technology and what can be used in the classroom. Her priority is to organize the next workshop which will help the Conductors, related professionals and program administrators who work in the United States and Canada.

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Director of Communication

Erika Bartos received her degree in Conductive Education and Teaching from the Peto Institute of Budapest in 2000. Since 2001 she has worked in the USA as a conductive education teacher. In 2004, she was one of the founders of IICE, Inc. a non profit company which provides and organizes the year around conductive ed. program for The GRACE Center in South Carolina which reaches children in the Low Country and Coastal Georgia region. Erika's main goal as ACENA's Director of Communication is to set up new ways of communication within the CE field in North America through developing a multi functional website and an informative annual newsletter. ACENA's plan is to make information exchange between centers and conductive education teachers more convenient, so we can all improve and enjoy the benefits of working together.

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<u>Membership Benefit Category</u>	<u>Actual Benefits</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-members</u>
Networking	Chat room access	FREE	Not available
Manuals	Standard of Practice Manual	Fee	Not available
	Standard of Procedures	Fee	Not available
Professional Development	Annual conference	Lowest possible price	Full price
	Teleconference for CETs, PAs	Fee	Not available
	Quarterly updated list of upcoming online continued education courses through other organizations	FREE	Not available
Access	Member directory	FREE	Not available
	Fundraising packet (solicitation letters/grant samples)	Nominal fee	Not available
Newsletter	1 st issue	FREE	Free
	Annual newsletter	FREE	Not available
Research	Compiled research articles on disk	Nominal fee	Not available
	Due Process Information on disk	Nominal fee	Not available

ACENA is committed to sharing information!

As an ACENA member you have access to the most up-to-date research and Due Process /IEP information relating to the field. Let ACENA pull valuable data together for you! Only available to ACENA members!

ACENA is committed to communication!

Membership gives you the opportunity to network with CE professionals in North America. Let ACENA get you in touch with fellow professionals sharing your concerns and issues!

ACENA is committed to helping you!

Don't re-create the wheel...let others share their expertise on issues you are facing in your practice!

ACENA is committed to professional development!

ACENA provides ongoing opportunities for continuing education to all members!

ACENA is committed to keeping our Annual Conductive Education Conference fee low!

ACENA Members will attend the annual conference at the lowest possible price!

Report on the Second Annual North American Conductor and Program Administrator Workshop

**By Clare Avery
CLC, Grand Rapids MI**

The second annual North American Conductor and Program Administrator Workshop was hosted by the Conductive Learning Center on the campus of Aquinas College on August 30 and 31st. Sixty participants from thirteen of the United States and from Canada attended presentations aiming to provide professional development to further the future of Conductive Education in North America.

Welcoming the workshop participants were Ed Balog, Provost and Acting President of Aquinas College, Nanette Clatterbuck, Chairperson of the School of Education, and John Ritch, President, Conductive Learning Center Board of Directors. Doctors Ildiko Kozma and Erzsebet Balogh of Budapest, Hungary included the workshop in their visit to the CLC to present plenary sessions about current conductive education practice. Dr. Nigel Paneth of Pediatrics and Epidemiology and Chairperson of the Department of Epidemiology from Michigan State University Professor presented on the causes and implications of cerebral palsy in children. Andrea Benyovszky, program director of Conductive Learning Center presented on Peto Model Implementation in North America.

Following the plenary sessions, parallel sessions, including topics on fundraising, parents' perspectives, and program implementation, were held. Robbie O'Shea and Patti Herbst presented on the new certification available through Governor's State University on the Principles of Conductive Education, designed for professionals working in a conductive education setting. After the presentations, the workshop participants divided into two group forums, one for conductive education teachers and one for program administrators. During the forums, participants shared experiences and ideas to support each other's endeavors in conductive education.

At the 2005 workshop, the first steps towards forming a professional organization for those involved in conductive education were taken. We are proud to say that after 12 months of collaboration, the first official meeting of the Association for Conductive Education in North America (ACENA) Executive Committee was held. We are so excited about the possibilities this organization holds. The 2006 workshop was successful in providing information and support for professionals committed to providing opportunities for independence through conductive education.

We thank Aquinas College and appreciate the work they have done to host the second workshop!

Association for Conductive Education in North America

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