May 16, 2016

Dear State Directors of Special Education:

I am writing on behalf of the State Education Agencies Communication Disabilities Council (SEACDC). SEACDC participants may be affiliated with the SEA through a technical assistance center, university training program, an appointed representative, or full time staff of the SEA.

The SEACDC conducts quarterly conference calls, maintains a list serve to keep participants connected to national perspectives, and conducts an annual meeting each November prior to ASHA. Each event includes guest speakers, evidence-based practice resources, and a discussion of current issues facing states regarding practices and policies for speech-language pathologists. Participants have shared that the ability to exchange ideas and resources has contributed to improved operations in their respective states.

The SEACDC will hold an annual meeting on Tuesday, November 15 and Wednesday, November 16, 2016, in Philadelphia, PA. The annual meeting intentionally precedes the annual American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention to provide opportunities for meetings with ASHA Board members and various committees, and to reduce travel costs for SEA staff.

Topics for training and discussion on November 15th and 16th include:

* State Systemic Improvement Plans
* Professional Learning
* Treatment Taxonomies for School-aged Population
* Supervision and Mentoring – Supports for SLPs
* Language Sampling Techniques and Authentic Assessments
* Autism ABA and Social Communication Engagement

Participants may also register to attend the pre-conference session which is held on Monday, November 14th to participate in training and discussion on– ***ESSA and IDEA: The role of the SLP***. Previous years’ attendees have commented that the travel cost is minimal when compared to the information provided and its impact on the provision of technical assistance and administration of programs.

For more information about activities of the council I invite you to visit our website at [www.seacdc.org](http://www.seacdc.org) or contact me at cassel\_t@cde.state.co.us or at 303-866-6114. A meeting registration form is attached and is available at [www.seacdc.org](http://www.seacdc.org). It is my hope that you will consider appointing a representative from your state or territory to participate in SEACDC events.

Take Care,



Tami Cassel MA. CCC-SLP

President

State Education Agencies Communication Disabilities Council