

## **Candidate for Vice President:**

### Harriett Bessette

Harriett Bessette is currently an Associate Professor in the Inclusive Education Department at Kennesaw State University (formerly “Special Education”) with a specialization in high incidence disabilities. She began her career in Special Education as a Resource Room Intern in 1972, which has been followed over the past 3 decades by positions as an LD specialist, a language co-teacher, Elementary Special Education Director and consultant for 3 school districts. Her research interests are largely focused on the intersection of classroom practice and distributed leadership capacity in public schools. She has been a frequent speaker at Title 1, CEC (national), and TED conferences since 2002. Harriett has participated in several Harvard Institutes on Critical Issues in Urban Special Education where she collaborated with scholars across the nation to address accountability and assessment practices for students with disabilities in P-12 schools. Additionally, Ms. Bessette is the Interim Director of KSU’s doctoral and specialist program in Teacher Leadership for Learning and Doctoral Coordinator for the Inclusive Education Department. She has taught courses in assessment, leadership, helping diverse learners reach high achievement levels, and research for the past 16 years and is currently co-authoring a textbook for Pearson on Assessment in Special Education. Harriett holds a M.Ed. in Special Education from Fitchburg State College and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Boston College.

While Ms. Bessette has enjoyed disseminating her research at national conferences, she would very much like to become involved in Georgia’s CEC chapter in order to facilitate research dissemination at the state level. Her aim is to engage others in our state and local communities in conversations pertaining to increasing achievement for students with exceptionalities that will result in better teaching and learning opportunities for everyone. Harriett believes that she can be an engaging leader within GA CEC.