



CEO Shares

By: Alison E. Heron, MBA, CAE

Dear ACLP Community,

As summer ends and the vibrant colors of autumn approach, it's an opportune moment to reflect on the exciting changes and developments that lie ahead for the ACLP community. This transitional season brings new programs and initiatives that I am eager to share with you.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to announce the launch of our new member's only needs-based grant program. This pilot program, funded by Disney, marks a significant step in our ongoing commitment to supporting Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLSs). We aim to award grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to help support or develop new or existing initiatives serving diverse, underserved populations. This

essential funding aims to foster impactful work, encouraging creativity and innovation in our field. Applications for this pilot program will open later this fall.

Alongside the launch of our new pilot program, we're thrilled to share updates to the ACLP website to enhance your experience and keep you informed. This fall, you will notice a refreshed look with an improved header and footer for better navigation and accessibility. We're also introducing our new AI assistant, Scout! Scout is here to provide instant, intelligent support and answers to your questions. Whether you need information about our programs or help navigating resources, Scout will offer prompt and accurate assistance. We believe this innovative tool will greatly simplify your interactions with the ACLP and help you make the most of the resources available to you.

Furthermore, the Child Life Certification Commission will move to its own dedicated microsite! This new platform will establish a clear distinction between our two organizations while offering comprehensive information about the certification process, recertification process, requirements, and updates. We believe this resource will be incredibly valuable for those pursuing certification, maintaining certification and for anyone seeking to stay informed.

You spoke, and we listened! The ACLP Forum is making a return this fall! The enhanced platform, now built on updated technology, will provide a more intuitive and engaging experience for our members. While the Forum will have a refreshed look and feel, it will retain the core features you valued — such as enabling easy question-and-answer exchanges and the ability to create private groups based on shared interests or affinities. We believe these improvements will significantly enhance your experience as an ACLP member, fostering greater collaboration and connection within our community.

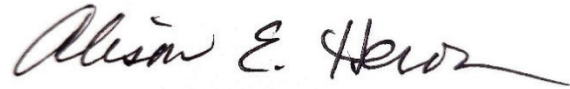
As we move into the fall, our staff and committees will be taking the time to pause

and evaluate several of our existing programs. We will thoroughly review our mentorship program, international scholarships, and diversity scholarships to ensure they align with current needs and best practices. The evaluation aims to offer recommendations to the ACLP Board of Directors on how to enhance these programs' impact. We are hopeful that this reflective process will help these initiatives continue to support our community and advance our shared mission effectively.

These updates and initiatives reflect our unwavering commitment to growth and improvement, fueled by your dedication and

passion. As we embrace the coming season, I encourage you to explore these new resources, engage with our community, and keep driving progress in our field.

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement. Together, let's make this fall productive and inspiring.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison E. Heron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alison E. Heron, MBA, CAE, CEO

