

# CEC Celebrates 10th Anniversary

by Ben Wright  
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*A brief look back at CEC's founding and history*

THE YEAR 2011 MARKS THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY of the Christian Educational Consortium. Over ten years, there have been some drastic changes in CEC. "CEC began with six teachers who wanted to offer classes together in our area of expertise in a collegiate style atmosphere," said Mrs. Beverly Clark, the director of CEC.

"CEC began in two rooms off the gym at Eastside Praise. We had about 40 students and outgrew that facility the 1st year. There was a prom, but no graduation. We celebrated with a dinner at Olive Garden."

CEC expanded rapidly, and now has 352 students, with 25 teachers and four part time staff helping to educate the students. CEC also offers sports, a prom, a graduation ceremony, and many other extra-curricular activities, including a yearbook team, a Latin Club, and others. Christopher Mohler, a senior who began attending CEC in 2004, said it's amazing how large the school has become. "It's gotten larger. It didn't have sports teams or anything like that when I came to CEC. The location has moved too. My first five years at CEC were at Bethany Baptist Church."

However, in 2009 CEC moved to the campus of Indiana Wesleyan University Education and Conference Center in Louisville, allowing the school to accommodate many more students. "God has done immeasurably more than we could ask or think," said Mrs. Clark, noting that CEC now can "fully utilize 11 professional classrooms with PowerPoint, TV/DVD/VCR units in each room. We used to have to share 2-3 TVs between all the classes."

Although CEC has grown unbelievably in the past 10 years, its commitment to quality education has been maintained. Sam James, a former CEC student now in college, said that CEC helped prepare him for his college studies. "One of the things I really appreciate about CEC is the emphasis on out of-class work. I probably would have been taken off guard by the amount of outside work that college requires." "CEC did a great job of preparing me for college by giving me experience in working independently," said Katie Mohler, a CEC student from 2002 to 2007. "Having class once a week forces students to prioritize and learn time management. Learning to balance classes with extracurricular activities while at CEC will prepare you excellently for college where so many things compete for your time."

Outside academics, CEC provides the opportunity for homeschooled students to play on sports teams and to socialize with kids their own age. "My favorite parts are probably hanging out with friends and going to CEC basketball games," said Sophomore Caitlin Murray. "I would recommend being involved in all the extra-curricular activities CEC offers," said Katie Mohler. "I know there are a lot more now than when I was a student, and taking advantage of them will not only prepare you well for post-CEC life, but will also be a lot of fun."

"I trust that CEC students have learned to walk more closely with God as they have learned the academics we have taught them," said Mrs. Clark. "Academics are important, but head knowledge without a personal walk with Jesus means nothing." Ultimately, that has been CEC's goal; to provide a quality education for homeschooled students while drawing them closer to Christ. CEC has done just that for ten years, and hopefully will continue to do so for many years to come.