

CEC J. E. Wallace Wallin Special Education Lifetime Achievement Award

The CEC J.E. Wallace Wallin Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 1963 to recognize an individual who has made continued and sustained contributions to the education of children and youth with exceptionalities.

In October 1962, John Edward Wallace Wallin, an American psychologist and early proponent of educational services for individuals with exceptionalities, wrote a letter to CEC offering a grant to establish the J.E. Wallace Wallin Award in Special Education. Each year, the award was to be given at the CEC convention to a special education professional who has made a significant contribution to the field — whether in publications, research, development of new concepts or programs, the practical application of improved teaching devices or methods, improved procedures, dynamic leadership, or other key areas.

Once the award was established, Dr. Wallin and the Honors Committee created the following selection criteria:

- The award should be presented to a professional worker who has made an outstanding contribution to the care, education, and rehabilitation of a child/children with exceptionalities.
- The individual should have made a national or international impact on service, research, or education of a child/children with exceptionalities.
- The individual should have demonstrated a sustained interest in a topic area that shows past and future contributions as sustainable.

Recent recipients of the CEC J.E. Wallace Wallin Lifetime Achievement Award include David W. Test, Ph.D., University of North Carolina-Charlotte (2019); Susan A. Fowler, Ph.D., University of Illinois (2018); David H. Rose, Ph.D., Harvard (2017); Ann P. Turnbull, Ph.D., University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (2016); and Martha L. Thurlow, Ph.D., University of Minnesota (2015).