

PRESENTATION OF THE  
2018  
*JOAN WALD BAKEN AWARD*

Division for Physical, Health, and Multiple Disabilities  
Council for Exceptional Children



# The Joan Wald Baken Award

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- Established in 1997 to honor the memory of the devoted member of DPHD who dedicated herself to individuals with physical and health disabilities.
- Up to two awards are given annually to individuals whose accomplishments represent exemplary advocacy and educational practice.
- The recipient must be involved in directly impacting individuals with physical and health disabilities in schools, hospitals, clinics, homes

# 2018 Recipient of the Joan Wald Baken Award

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**Dr. June Bigge, Ed.D**



# June L. Bigge, Ed.D.

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- Ed.D. Special Education and Administration – 1969, University of Oregon
- Post Doctorate University of Washington – Experimental Education Unit 1975, Severely Handicapped
- MA Special Education – Physically Handicapped – 1961, San Francisco State University
- BA Elementary Education - 1957, Fresno State College

# June L. Bigge, Ed.D.

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- In the late 40's, As a junior high school student, she volunteered two years with the first Kansas state residential program for eight elementary-aged students with severe cerebral palsy.
  - The facility was an old two-story house and curriculum was AAC for “Yes”, “No”, “Maybe”, and “I Don't Know” plus very basic academics and turtle racing on the living-room floor.
  - Staff included one teacher, one PT and, most important a strong janitorial gentleman who could carry the students up and down stairs to and from the residence part of the adapted house.
- She has worked as a classroom teacher of students with physical and health impairments and later as an instructor and professor at San Francisco State University.

# Contributions to the Field

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- Dr. Bigge has consulted with numerous school districts and has been a member of review committees for teacher certification programs.
- Dr. Bigge has authored eleven different books, chapters, and professional articles. She has also presented at nearly 20 different conferences and professional trainings.

# Service in the Field

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- Dr. Bigge has been a member of various state and national organizations for over four decades.
- She has served as past president of the Division of the Physically Handicapped (DOPH, now DPHMD)

# Making a difference...

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- From June I learned the importance of becoming involved at the national and local level in special education policy issues. June often told me, “Create the educational policy you wish to live by. If you don’t write the standards someone else will.”
- June was the lead author of the most celebrated text related to instruction and services for students with physical, health, and multiple disabilities. June’s generous nature extended to professional support of her teacher-colleagues, who were often featured as contributors to her text. These contributions gave her book a “real life” aspect that made it useful for field-based professionals.
- June remains interested and engaged in life, endlessly supportive of the accomplishments of others, and ever-eager to learn and participate.



# Fun Facts About June Bigge

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- June does not cook. Her current living situation provides her with all meals prepared and she loves this!
- June is devoted to her dogs. She seems to favor small breeds whose names are hard to spell - Dachshunds, Shih tzus, and now Chihuahuas.
- June has a beautiful singing voice. For years she has sung in choirs and has performed all over the United States and even internationally. She WILL NOT sing for her friends, however. The only exception that was when a friend of hers in Northern California was very ill. June called her every Sunday and sang hymns to her over the telephone.
- June is an athlete who favored golf and line dancing. She still walks her dogs several times a day.

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Thank you,  
Dr. June Bigge,  
for making a difference in the  
lives of individuals with physical  
and health disabilities!