

The Council for Exceptional Children Names Special Education Teacher at Kern High School District the 2022 Teacher of the Year

Arlington, Va., Jan. 24, 2022 — Kevin Crosby, M.A., a special education teacher for grades 9 through 12 with the Alternative Instructional Methods (AIM) Program at Kern High School District in Bakersfield, California, received the 2022 Teacher of the Year Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). The award recognizes a CEC member who provides direct services to children and youth with exceptionalities and exemplifies the best in special education teaching.



From ability groups when working on individualized education program (IEP) goals to group instruction when introducing life skills lessons or exploring hands-on science activities, Kevin teaches his students in multiple ways to maximize learning and works to provide alternative methods of instruction that allow his students to make academic gains while working outside of the classroom.

Significantly, he facilitated the creation of the Falcon Autistic Solar Team, a solar energy club where his students travel to other schools in Bakersfield and serve as peer-tutors about how solar energy works. He also created the Falcon Coffee Company at Independence High School to help teach vocational skills to his students and provide opportunities for social interaction with their general education peers.

Through his highly structured classroom, his creative science club, and his functional coffee shop, Kevin demonstrates his love of teaching with his knowledge and expertise in behavior analysis and communication, his effective development of a classroom team, his innovative projects that incorporate all aspects of the State Standards across many areas of the curriculum, his effective teaching strategies for this specialized population, and his exceptionally child-centered program.

“Over the past 19 years, Kevin has made an outstanding impact on the lives of students throughout Kern County,” said nominator Julie Willis, a special education teacher at Kern High School District. “His enthusiasm for teaching, for his students, and for learning itself is contagious; being in his classrooms for any length of time always reminds me of why I went into the educational profession.”

Kevin was recognized in January at the CEC Convention & Expo and 100th Anniversary Celebration in Orlando, Florida.

[LINK TO AWARDS VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/uiSNH2p2wJc>]

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the professional association of educators dedicated to



advancing the educational success of children and youth with exceptionalities through advocacy, standards, and professional development. Learn more about CEC at C:\Users\sharonr\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\Downloads\exceptionalchildren.org.

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