



For Immediate Release

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The Council for Exceptional Children Recognizes University of Utah Professor for Student Advisory Achievements

Arlington, Va., January 19, 2023 — Dr. Shamby Polychronis, was selected as a recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Student Chapter Advisor Awards by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This award recognizes a college/university CEC Student Chapter Advisor who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to engaging students in their CEC Chapter and guiding their educational, personal, and professional development in the field of special education.

Dr. Polychronis has been a special education teacher, professor, instructor, and advisor over the past 24 years. Her volunteer resume is extensive, having held leadership positions in her state CEC unit, as well as various committees and boards. Now, she lends her knowledge and skills to the University of Utah's Student CEC Chapter Advisor. Over the past three years, she has grown the chapter from 1 student to an impressive 42.

To encourage her students' involvement in their professional community, she has facilitated fundraisers to raise funds for their CEC Convention registration. Dr. Polychronis connects her students with members of CEC who can help support them as well.

She places a significant importance on community involvement. When a Utah elementary student with a disability committed suicide in despair of being bullied, Dr. Polychronis guided her student chapter officers and members to research children's books on students with disabilities and bullying. The chapter selected three books for upper elementary, middle school, and high school students and then raised funds to purchase sets of library books to give to schools throughout northern Utah.

In addition to her duties at University of Utah, Dr. Polychronis teaches an introductory special education course for peer tutors at a local high school, which encourages and recruits more special education teachers to enter the field.

Dr. Polychronis's former student advisee, Morgan Nelson, M. Ed., says "Shamby's commitment to the field of special education and building diversity and respect for all people is major. Shamby is one of the most amazing people I know and is a wonderful advocate. She has encouraged and inspired me to be the teacher and advocate that I am today."



The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to high-quality education that is inclusive and equitable for individuals with disabilities. Learn more about CEC at <https://exceptionalchildren.org/>.