



For Immediate Release

Contact: Annie Drinkard, 703-264-9455, [adrinkard@exceptionalchildren.org](mailto:adrinkard@exceptionalchildren.org)

## **The Council for Exceptional Children Recognizes University of Missouri Professor for Achievements in Special Education Research**

**Arlington, Va., January 19, 2023** — Tim Lewis, Ph.D., a Curators' Distinguished Professor of Special Education at the University of Missouri, in Columbia, MO, was named a recipient of the 2023 Special Education Research Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). The award recognizes a CEC member whose research has had a direct impact on practice, programs, or policy needs and has improved positive outcomes for children and youth with exceptionalities.

Dr. Lewis's prolific research career spans over the past 30 years. He is one of the country's leading researchers in the area of emotional and behavior disorders. His applied studies have increased understanding of school factors associated with problem behavior as well as provided a roadmap for conducting intervention-based research.

His research continues to make a significant impact on the understanding of prevention and has provided direction to educators on how best to meet the needs of children with, and at risk for, emotional and behavior disorders (EBD). Dr. Lewis' contributions to the field, particularly in the area of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), cannot be understated as he is one of the drivers of over 30,000 schools in the U.S. adopting PBIS.

Mentorship and training future researchers is one of Dr. Lewis's greatest strengths. He has secured federal leadership training grants and chaired over 25 doctoral dissertations, according to Dr. George Sugai, Emeritus Professor in the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut. He has also secured over \$80 million in grants to support his work, primarily from the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, but also from the state of Missouri and the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Lewis has not only done the research, but he has spent an equally important amount of effort sharing information with others. He has presented research to federal legislators in Washington, D.C., conducted workshops and presented state and national keynotes to educators, and even developed training materials for school and state level implementation teams internationally.

"I do not believe that anyone else of his generation has created such a change in the way that we look school-wide discipline and prevention for students with challenging behaviors" says Dr. Terrance M. Scott, Director, Center for Instructional and Behavioral Research in Schools.

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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/>.