



For Immediate Release

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The Council for Exceptional Children Presents Dr. Bill Bogdan with Lifetime Achievement Award

Arlington, Va., January 23, 2023 — William K. (Bill) Bogdan, Ed.D., was named recipient of the 2023 Special Education Lifetime Achievement Award by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This award recognizes an individual who has made continued and sustained contributions to positive outcomes for children and youth with exceptionalities.

When Dr. Bogdan began his journey as a special education teacher in 1974, he quickly realized the importance of the community he found in the local chapter of the Ohio CEC Unit. He says, “In those early days of my career, I thank my lucky stars for the support, networking, and friendship I received.” Since that initial experience, he has filled his resume with 30+ years in administration, and local, state, and national leadership positions, including many within CEC units, divisions, and the international organization. His contributions in the classroom, administration, community, and CEC, have made a lasting, positive impact on countless lives.

Dr. Bogdan has leveraged CEC in unique ways as a platform to impact special education and special educators. While his positions within CEC are too numerous to list, they include numerous positions within Ohio CEC; CEC President (1999-2000), during which the organization underwent a radical governance transformation; Yes I Can (YIC) Foundation Board Chair (2005-2007) and YIC awards ceremony emcee for four years, during which, by highlighting the achievements of students with disabilities, he sought to raise the reputation of special educators; co-author of the 2019 “State of the Profession: Special and Gifted Education in the New Millennium,” the landmark national study that served as a data-driven foundation for CEC leadership activities in public policy, standards, and professional development; one of the initial members of Leadership Development Committee (March 2018-August 2021); Chair of the Leadership Development Program Subcommittee (LDPS) and Co-Chair of Fundraising and Development Committee.

As LDPS Chair, Bogdan combined his mastery of developing, impactful, effective programs, visionary thinking, and selfless willingness to support and mentor others, to create Leadership CEC, an experience-based program designed to support new or emerging unit/division leaders in gaining a deeper understanding of the CEC organization, CEC governance, and unit/division leadership functions and competencies (knowledge, skills, abilities).

Dr. Bogdan has spent 51 years in the field of special education and received multiple awards for his work. Along the way, he has made countless friends and formed impactful bonds. To say he is beloved by many in this professional community is an understatement. His nomination came to the CEC Honors Committee from the then-sitting president, Danielle Kovach, with endorsements from three past CEC presidents - Jim McCormick (2005), Jamie Hopkins (2006), Dr. Mikki Garcia (2021).

Jamie Hopkins wrote “Throughout his career, Dr. Bogdan has demonstrated a consistent commitment to individuals with exceptionalities. He works tirelessly to promote the dignity and worth of all individuals,



regardless of disability, family status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic background. He is a true visionary leader who never stops dreaming of what can be.”

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/>.