



*All Educators. Every Child. No Limits.*

## **CEC Legacy Proclamation Landis M. Stetler**

**March 2004**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Landis M. Stetler was a dedicated teacher, administrator, mentor, and advocate who worked during his extensive 60 years of service on behalf of the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Stetler was the Florida Governor to the CEC Board of Governors and a member of three national CEC committees;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Stetler was President of the Baltimore CEC Chapter and Advisor to the Florida CEC Federation/Unit for 46 years, expanding student chapters and subdivisions within the state; involving the Florida Federation/Unit in various Florida Department of Education task forces, study groups, etc., thereby ensuring current field input from educators; mentoring new officers and committee chairs; and maintaining the Florida CEC history;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Stetler, as the Florida Department of Education Bureau Chief, developed the first state plan for the delivery of special education in Florida, expanded family support systems, implemented a state-wide professional development system for special educators, and created funding formula options for Florida special education;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Stetler developed the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System designed to provide state-wide support to school personnel in the areas of innovative approaches to education, cutting-edge materials, professional development, and parent support, proving to be one of the most innovative educational programs in Florida;

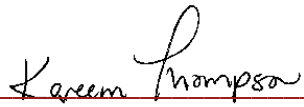
**WHEREAS**, Dr. Stetler founded a Florida coalition of all private and public parent groups and, after retiring, became that group's volunteer lobbyist, providing leadership when Florida restructured its system of laws and rules governing special education;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Stetler is credited with authoring 20 legislative bills, leading to improving the delivery of special education in Florida, including pre-k programming;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Stetler served on many national and regional committees and task forces, fostering agency collaboration, enhancing the coordination of services, and improving outcomes for students in educational settings and transitions to the community; and

**Now, therefore,**

**Be it resolved** that the Council for Exceptional Children conveys deep appreciation and admiration for Dr. Landis M. Stetler's development of a comprehensive special education delivery system across Florida; his effective use of advocacy to pass education and financial impact legislation, improving and expanding special education programs; his mentorship of many CEC members who became leaders at the Florida and national levels of CEC; and for his lifelong advisory role to the Florida CEC Unit.



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Kareem Thompson  
President



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Chad Rummel  
Executive Director