**Call for Applications: 2025 Creative Use of AI to Support Exceptional Students Awards**

Are you a passionate educator utilizing innovative AI tools to support exceptional students and promote inclusive educational practices? The National Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) invites you to apply for the **Creative Use of AI to Support Exceptional Students and Inclusive Educational Practices Award**.

Nominate an educational professional for one of three prestigious awards that include:

* Recognition at the 2025 National CEC Conference in Baltimore.
* A $500 cash award in recognition of your outstanding work.

We are looking for teachers who demonstrate:

* **Creative and effective use of AI**: Show us how you use AI innovatively to enhance learning outcomes for students with exceptionalities. This could include personalized learning plans, adaptive learning technologies, AI-driven assessments, or other creative applications.
* **Commitment to inclusive education**: Highlight your dedication to fostering an inclusive environment where all learners can succeed. Share your strategies for integrating AI to support diverse learning needs and promote inclusive practices in the classroom.

If you are breaking new ground in the classroom with AI, we encourage you to apply and share your success story with educators nationwide!

# **Application Deadline: November 15, 2024**

### **How to Apply:** In alignment with Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles, we offer several options for submitting your application. However, feel free to provide other documentation or rationale that best showcases your work. Here are some options:

* **Nomination Letter:** Describe how you or the teacher you are nominating demonstrate the creative and effective use of AI to enhance learning outcomes for students with exceptionalities and a commitment to inclusive education.
* **Bulleted List:** Provide a concise list of key achievements and innovative practices.
* **Video:** Create a short video (up to 5 minutes) showcasing your AI-driven initiatives and their impact on students.
* **Annotated Work Samples:** Share examples of student work (with identifying information such as names redacted) or lesson plans with annotations explaining the role of AI in achieving educational goals.
* **Presentation Slides:** Submit a slide deck (e.g., PowerPoint, Google Slides) that outlines your innovative use of AI and its impact on inclusive education.
* **Infographic:** Design an infographic visually representing your AI initiatives and their outcomes.
* **Case Study:** Write a detailed case study that explores a specific instance where AI significantly improved learning outcomes for exceptional students.
* **Portfolio:** Compile a digital portfolio that includes various artifacts (e.g., lesson plans, student work, photos, videos) demonstrating your use of AI in the classroom.

#### **Please include contact information for yourself and the teacher you are nominating. Submit your application to** [**https://forms.gle/cLZ3VTvPMBbdDdcx5**](https://forms.gle/cLZ3VTvPMBbdDdcx5)

Don’t miss this opportunity to be celebrated among the best in the field at the CEC Conference in Baltimore!

#### **Rubric**

| **Criteria** | **Outstanding (4)** | **Strong (3)** | **Satisfactory (2)** | **Needs Improvement (1)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Creative Use of AI** | Demonstrates highly innovative and effective use of AI tools that significantly enhance learning outcomes for students with exceptionalities. Examples are cutting-edge and show clear, substantial impact. | Demonstrates effective use of AI tools that enhance learning outcomes for students with exceptionalities. Examples are solid and show a positive impact. | Demonstrates some use of AI tools with moderate impact on learning outcomes for students with exceptionalities. Examples show potential but lack depth. | Demonstrates minimal or ineffective use of AI tools with little to no impact on learning outcomes for students with exceptionalities. Examples are unclear or insufficient. |
| **Commitment to Inclusive Education** | Shows a strong commitment to inclusive education with comprehensive strategies that foster success for all learners. Evidence of equity and support for diverse learning needs is clear and compelling. | It shows a commitment to inclusive education, with effective strategies that support diverse learning needs. Evidence of equity and support is present and convincing. | Shows commitment to inclusive education with basic strategies that address diverse learning needs. Evidence of equity and support is present but lacks depth. | Shows minimal commitment to inclusive education with few or ineffective strategies. Evidence of equity and support is unclear or insufficient. |
| **Impact and Outcomes** | It provides clear, measurable, and significant outcomes demonstrating the positive impact of AI on student learning and inclusion. The data and examples are robust and compelling. | It provides clear and measurable outcomes demonstrating the positive impact of AI on student learning and inclusion. The data and examples are solid and convincing. | Provides some outcomes demonstrating the impact of AI on student learning and inclusion. Data and examples are present but lack depth or clarity. | Provides minimal or unclear outcomes demonstrating the impact of AI on student learning and inclusion. Data and examples are insufficient or absent. |
| **Innovation and Creativity** | Demonstrates exceptional creativity and innovation in the application of AI, with unique and original approaches that stand out. | Demonstrates creativity and innovation in the application of AI, with some unique and original approaches. | Demonstrates some creativity and innovation in the application of AI, but approaches are more common or less original. | It demonstrates little to no creativity or innovation in the application of AI, using standard or unoriginal approaches. |
| **Quality of Submission** | Submission is comprehensive, well-organized, and highly engaging. All required elements are present and exceed expectations. | Submission is well-organized and engaging. All required elements are present and meet expectations. | Submission is organized but may lack engagement. Most required elements are present but may not fully meet expectations. | Submission is poorly organized or unengaging. Required elements are missing or insufficient. |