

Ohio Professor Recognized with Lifetime Achievement Award

Arlington, Va., February 27, 2025 – Dr. Donna Y. Ford, Distinguished Professor in the College of Education and Human Ecology, at The Ohio State University, received the 2025 Special Education Lifetime Achievement Award from 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.

Over the past 34 years as a professor, Dr. Ford has written over 300 articles and book chapters, along with facilitating over 2,000 presentations at professional conferences and organizations and in school districts. She has been honored for her contributions to the field of special education by organizations such as the National Association for Gifted Children, the National Association of Black Psychologists; CEC's Division, The Association for the Gifted, the Summer Institute for the Gifted (SIG), and the American Education Research Association (AERA) Research on Women and Education Special Interest Group.

Much of her work focuses on urban education, gifted education, and multicultural education. Dr. Ford has mentored numerous faculty and, as a result, helped them refine their research in gifted and talented education, as well as contributed to their promotion throughout their academic careers. Throughout her career, Dr. Ford has taught thousands of students, providing them with a new understanding of the importance of equity and access to gifted and talented education, and advised many graduate and doctoral students, many of whom have shared the impact that working with Dr. Ford has had on their work.

"Dr. Ford encompasses all of the qualities of a distinguished scholar, leader, instructor, and advocate for culturally diverse exceptional students," writes Renae D. Mayes, Ph.D, one of her nominators. "She's not afraid to be in the trenches doing the work, and she also collaborates with others to find systemic, comprehensive, equitable solutions to societal problems. She is truly a leader, not only in P-12 education, but higher education as well."

Dr. Donna Y. Ford will be recognized this March, along with other CEC Professional Award recipients, at the CEC Convention & Expo in Baltimore, Maryland.

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/>.