

## Kansas Professor Recognized with Chapter Advisor Award

Arlington, Va., March 3, 2026 – Dr. Lisa Didion, Assistant Professor, received the 2026 Outstanding Student Chapter Advisor Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This award recognizes a college/university CEC Student Chapter Advisor who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to engaging students in their CEC Chapter and guiding their educational, personal, and professional development in the field of special education.

Lisa is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Special Education at the School of Education and Human Science at the University of Kansas. She has been an active CEC membership since her university years, having served as the President of the student CEC chapter of the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2006 and more recently, as the Vice President of Iowa CEC from 2020 to 2023, and a member of the Professional Development Committee for Kansas CEC since 2024.

As the faculty advisor for KU's CEC chapter, Lisa has been noted for her passion for advocacy and student empowerment. Members of chapter have noted that she has worked to ensure that students have the opportunities for leadership that she had in the past and has encouraged many to step up and serve. Several of her nominators have thanked Lisa for her mentorship and the ways that she has gone above and beyond for her students, even those that are not assigned to her.

"Her mentorship has helped me grow not only as a student but as a future educator. She models professionalism and consistency, and she is always open and honest in her communication. Whether she is guiding us through event planning or offering advice during a tough week, Dr. Didion makes each of us feel like we matter," shares Grade Reeder, a current member of the KU SSEC.

Lisa's nomination was supported by the entire Department of Special Education's Research and Development Committee at the University of Kansas. Her colleagues note her dedication to her students, and her commitment to fostering an environment that empowers students to lead and flourish, as well as her advocacy for individuals with exceptionalities in the classroom and beyond.

"Her ability to mentor future educators while maintaining high standards of professionalism and compassion is truly remarkable," shares Lisa A. Dierker, Ph.D. "Lisa's commitment to student growth and leadership is evident in her actions."

Didion will be recognized this March, along with other CEC Professional Award recipients, at the CEC Convention & Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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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/>.