

New York Professor Recognized with Research Award

Arlington, Va., February XX, 2026 – Dr. Paul Morgan, Empire Innovation Professor and Social and Health Equity Endowed Professor at the University at Albany, SUNY, received the 2026 Special Education Research Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This award recognizes a CEC member whose research has had a direct impact on practice, programs, or policy needs and has improved positive outcomes for children and youth with disabilities and/or gifts and talents.

Dr. Paul Morgan also serves as the Director of the Institute for Social and Health Equity at the University of Albany, SUNY. His research focuses on how health and education systems can more effectively identify and support students with, or at risk for, disabilities.

“At a time when special education policy is under unprecedented critical review, Morgan’s emergence as a leading scholar who provides scientific clarity about identification could not be timelier,” writes Michael M. Gerber, PhD, from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

His work has had a profound impact on practices, programs, and policies in special education, improving education outcomes for children and youth with disabilities, particularly those from historically marginalized populations. His work has been cited by countless organizations and institutions, such as the World Bank, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5 and DSM-5-TR), and in several federal and state policy initiatives.

“His research program not only advances scholarly knowledge but also meaningfully influences how schools identify and support students with disabilities,” said Daniel P. Hallahan, PhD, from the University of Virginia. “Through rigorous science, powerful dissemination, and sustained policy engagement, Dr. Morgan has had a direct and demonstrable impact on practice, programs, and policies—resulting in improved outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children and youth.”

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

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/>.