

Ohio Teacher Recognized with Rising Star Award

Arlington, Va., February XX, 2026 – Jillian Lindrose, an Intervention Specialist for grades K-1 at Northridge Elementary School, received the 2026 Rising Star Special Educator of the Year Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This award recognizes a CEC member teacher in the first five years of their special education career who has shown exceptional potential for leadership in teaching, service, and scholarship.

“I have observed her impact on colleagues who are both new and veterans in the field, and it is substantial. Jillian is a rising star and showing exceptional potential for leadership and service,” shares Jennifer Webb, CEC-Ohio Past-President.

Starting her career in 2022, Jillian has stood out for her willingness to go above and beyond, both for her students and in her commitment to the special education field. Managing a caseload of students with diverse needs, she provides specially designed instruction and works collaboratively with general education teachers to support each learner.

Jillian is an active member of CEC-Ohio, participating in professional development, conference planning, and statewide programs that the unit offers. She actively seeks out new opportunities to learn and apply evidence-based practices to uplift her students.

“Jillian exemplifies the very best of our profession and has shown exceptional potential for leadership, service, and scholarship in just the first few years of her special education career,” shares Laura Sebastian, Special Education Research Associate with the University of Cincinnati. “Her blend of passion, positivity, and professionalism positions her as a future leader in our field: someone who will continue to make an impact on the lives of students with disabilities and on the broader special education community.”

Lindrose 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/>.