

Meet CEC's 2006 Award Winners

J.E. Wallace Wallin Special Education Lifetime Achievement Award

Frederick J. Weintraub

For almost four decades, Frederick Weintraub has provided dynamic leadership to the field of special education, transforming the spectrum of educational opportunities and services for children with exceptionalities and elevating the profession.

Mr. Weintraub's leadership and vision were pivotal in developing the concepts and legislation that established the right to a free, appropriate public education for children with disabilities. His policy analysis provided the framework for this and other principles that are integral components of the *Education for All Handicapped Children Act*. Mr. Weintraub also played a significant role in designing and securing enactment of the *Gifted and Talented Children Education Assistance Act*, Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act*, and Preschool and Early Intervention Services.

In addition, Mr. Weintraub established the nation's most comprehensive grassroots and professional advocacy network for children with special needs—CEC's Children's Action Network (CAN). For 20+ years, CAN has influenced legislative agendas for the education of children with exceptionalities.

Mr. Weintraub also spearheaded the validation of the knowledge and skills beginning special educators require. This information, which provides the standards for preparing and evaluating special educators, are used by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education and are the foundation for special education professional preparation programs throughout the country.

As the Director of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education, Mr. Weintraub was a harbinger of the "research-based practice" concept in special education. His efforts resulted in improved quality of special education research and the dissemination of knowledge to practitioners.

Recently, Mr. Weintraub has helped school systems improve the delivery of special education services. His 2001 publication, *Special Education Guide for California School Administrators*, has received wide recognition and was endorsed by the California Association of School Administrators.

Mr. Weintraub's career and achievements have left an indelible imprint on the policy, profession, and practices for educating children and youth with exceptionalities.

CEC Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year Award

Connie Miller

Connie Miller makes miracles happen. This innovative teacher of middle school students with disabilities from Bowling Green, KY., combines technology, creativity, effective teaching, and a will of steel to ensure her students meet IEP goals and succeed in general education classes.

Ms. Miller is the leader in assistive technology in her district. She uses video self-monitoring, with which, for the first time, her students with functional disabilities learned to read and non-verbal students to vocalize phrases. Also, with her picture communication billfolds, students participate in and take assessments in general education classes, as well as communicate with their parents.

Ms. Miller also was a pioneer in providing access to the general education curriculum. Long before *IDEA '97*, her students were full participants in the general education curriculum. Through joint planning and collaboration with general education teachers, Ms. Miller ensured her students, and her colleagues, experienced success at inclusion.

Ms. Miller's teaching techniques have led to significant gains in student achievement. After being made visually aware of expectations, her students performed IEP objectives with 100 percent accuracy. Also, her students consistently score at the highest levels on statewide achievement testing and receive Distinguished Alternate Portfolio scores.

In recognition of her achievements with her students, Ms. Miller was asked to assist the Kentucky Department of Education in designing instructional activities with appropriate adaptations and supports for every academic standard in the Kentucky Academic Expectations document. Now, all children with moderate and severe disabilities in Kentucky will have an equitable educational opportunity.

Ms. Miller generously shares her expertise with others. As a leader in exemplary program design for children with autism, she is often called on by administrators to advance their district's autism programs. She also serves as a consultant for the Kelly Autism Center of Western Kentucky University. Additionally, Ms. Miller provides training on assistive technology at the district, regional, and state levels.

Ms. Miller is an exceptional special educator. She is the "special" in special education.

CEC Outstanding Research Award

Margo Mastropieri
Thomas Scruggs

Dr. Margo Mastropieri's and Dr. Thomas Scruggs' stellar contributions to special education have helped thousands of children and professionals. This seminal research team has demonstrated time and again that children with special needs can accomplish in their classroom learning what was previously thought impossible.

Drs. Mastropieri and Scruggs are among the few who have successfully conducted research in today's schools. As a result, they have produced some of the most effective instructional strategies for students with disabilities. Their techniques for enhancing the memory of students with disabilities along with their interventions that help students master test-taking, math, reasoning, writing, social, and reading skills have set the standard for interventions and enabled thousands of students to learn the general education curriculum.

This prolific team has also authored some of the most significant works available on instructional design and materials for students with disabilities. They have co-authored nine books, including the widely used *Effective Instruction for Special Education*, and written more than 200 book chapters and journal articles, as well as videos and instructional manuals. Their research has been highly acclaimed in numerous respected publications.

Drs. Mastropieri's and Scruggs' role has extended to the public arena, where they have helped shape public policy regarding students with disabilities. Their commentary and advocacy have enlightened policies regarding the rights and instructional safeguards for at-risk learners, and their work has been cited in testimonies before the U.S. Congress and numerous state legislatures.

Drs. Mastropieri and Scruggs are also superb instructors who have given unstintingly of themselves to their students and colleagues through award-winning teaching, careful mentoring, and constant support. They have inspired the work of hundreds of special education researchers and teachers.

Drs. Mastropieri and Scruggs have received the Samuel Kirk Award for Research in Learning Disabilities and Outstanding Article in Learning Disabilities Research and Practice.

CEC Outstanding Leadership Award

H. William Heller

Dr. H. William Heller has made extraordinary contributions to CEC, special education, and the lives of students with exceptionalities. In his 46 year membership in CEC, Dr. Heller has worked at all levels of the association to advance its mission and enhance its reputation as a leader in the field.

Dr. Heller's work has taken special education to new levels. He chaired the Professional Standards Committee, which developed CEC's Code of Ethics, Standards for Professional Preparation, and Standards of Practice. This work formed the basis for the standards of practice and personnel preparation for special education and are explicated in CEC's best-selling book, *What Every Special Educator Must Know*. Additionally, Dr. Heller developed standards for the Early Childhood through Young Adulthood Exceptional Needs Specialist certificate awarded by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. He also served on CEC's Presidential Commission on the Conditions of Special Education Teaching and Learning, which produced recommendations to achieve quality conditions.

Additionally, Dr. Heller lent his expertise to CEC's publications. As co-editor of *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, Dr. Heller ensured the journal focused on the practitioner, and he transformed *CASE-In-Point* from a newsletter to the *CASE-In-Point Journal*.

Dr. Heller is further known for his mentorship. He has opened countless doors to new researchers, teachers, and students, helping them enter the profession, advance their careers, and gain leadership skills through service to CEC.

Dr. Heller's work continues. Recently he collaborated with governments and school boards on programming and support for special education programs, facilitated a mentoring campaign for teachers experiencing challenges, developed a dual certificate teacher program, and recruited persons with disabilities into teaching. His Institute for Exceptionality will provide knowledge of the post-secondary educational and career goals of students with disabilities.

Dr. Heller was awarded a Presidential citation for exemplary performance as Vice Chairman of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals and the TED/Merrill and Wallin Lifetime Achievement awards.

Susan Phillips Gorin Award

Joan Levine

Joan Levine is a dedicated and caring professor and advisor, unflinching in her commitment to the students of California State University, Fullerton, and the members of CEC. Dr. Levine established the student chapter at CSU Fullerton. Dr. Levine not only is a tireless recruiter for the student chapter, she also ensures students are involved in worthy and interesting activities. Dr. Levine saw that CEC's student members had key roles in the Best Buddies program, includes students in professional development activities, and frequently sends electronic messages to the members. She also works with CEC's Chapter 188 to coordinate fundraising opportunities and support students who wish to attend CEC's Annual Convention & Expo. Dr. Levine has accepted the challenge of not only preparing students to serve children and youth with exceptionalities, but also to develop the skills to fulfill leadership roles in their professional associations. Through Dr. Levine's guidance and inspiration, student CEC members understand the concept of service to the community and scholarship amongst themselves.

Furthermore, the range and quality of Dr. Levine's professional activities is exemplary. She has served on numerous advisory and community partnership committees and is the campus's liaison to the office of Disabled Student Services. Dr. Levine is a member of the Education Partners Advisory Committee for the Orange County Department of Education and the Learning Disabilities Association state board. She also serves on the advisory committee for the Anaheim Union High School District. Additionally, Dr. Levine has compiled an invaluable book, *Learning Disabilities, A Guide to Resources for Children and Adults in the Orange County Area*. She also participates in activities that support families and children with special

needs, such as volunteering for the Special Games and answering questions on a Web site from parents who have concerns about their children.

Dr. Levine is an outstanding teaching supervisor, and students who work with her feel supported and cared about as a person first, and a teacher second.

Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Cynthia Chambers

Cynthia Chambers, who is pursuing her doctorate in special education, represents outstanding scholarship and research as well as a passion for supporting children with disabilities and their families. Ms. Chambers has already made significant contributions to the field. She has had several practice-based articles published in CEC's journals, and she served as editorial assistant for the *Young Exceptional Children* series. Ms. Chambers has also presented at several CEC conferences, educational agencies, and civic clubs.

Ms. Chambers has held numerous leadership positions in CEC. Most recently, she was a member of Program Advisory Committee and the Standing Committee on Students. Through these positions, she helped design and implement student activities at CEC conferences. Ms. Chambers also reestablished an inactive student CEC chapter and served as chapter president at Vanderbilt University. Ms. Chambers has also spoken at several campuses to share information on CEC and the benefits of membership.

Ms. Chambers consistently seeks opportunities to expand her experience and enhance the lives of children with exceptionalities. While in her doctorate program, she supports families as a program interventionist. She also works with schools to identify areas of need and build consistency in interventions across environments. As an undergraduate, Ms. Chambers served as a respite caregiver, student director of Best Buddies, and volunteer at camps for children with disabilities.

Ms. Chambers has been selected for membership in Pi Lambda Theta, Kappa Delta Pi, and Alpha Lambda Delta; and she has received the Doctoral Training Early Childhood, Peabody Professional Graduate, and Outstanding Academic Student and Student Coordinator of the Year awards.

Ms. Chambers is a leader who demonstrates all the qualities of an exemplary special educator.