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## Utah State University Student to Receive International Award

**Arlington, Va., April 11, 2017** –**Heather Raithel**, a student at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, has been selected to receive the **2017 Outstanding Graduate Student Award** from the **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**, the world’s leading special education professional association.

The Outstanding Graduate Student Award recognizes a CEC student member who makes outstanding contributions to CEC and to exceptional children and youth.

Raithel brings a unique range of teaching experiences to her work as a full-time graduate student focusing on transition for students with low-incidence disabilities. During her 14-year career, she has taught in a one-room school house in Montana, in a hybrid online in-person school in Maui, and, currently, in the online Utah Virtual Academy (UTVA), where she is a transition coordinator for high school students with disabilities across the state. During her time at UTVA, Raithel has drawn on her unique background to create one of the country's first online transition programs.

To share what she has discovered through both work and school, over the past two years Raithel has made multiple presentations on utilizing technology in transition planning, including presentations at the Utah CEC conference and the Division on Career Development and Transition conference, all while maintaining her 4.0 grade point average in school.

Raithel will be recognized during the CEC 2017 Convention & Expo’s Student Forum on April 20, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. For more information, visit [www.cec.sped.org/convention](http://www.cec.sped.org/convention).

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*Learn more about the Council for Exceptional Children at [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org).*



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