WHEREAS, Dr. Bruce Ramirez is a dedicated and exemplary special educator, organizational leader, public policy developer, and author who has worked for more than 40 years on behalf of the education of children and youth with disabilities and gifts and talents and in the field of multicultural and linguistically diverse education;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez serves as Executive Director of the Council for Exceptional Children (2006-present), where he administers and coordinates the Council’s programs and services; directs the operation of the Headquarters Office; coordinates the development and implementation of the organization’s Strategic Plan; monitors the benefits, services, and programs for CEC members; oversees the financial operations; acts to streamline the Council’s governance; manages the coordination of affiliate, unit, and division activities; and works to be responsive to the needs of CEC members and the field;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez received his Ed.D. in Educational Administration and the Education of Exceptional Children from Pennsylvania State University in 1980;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez began his teaching career in 1971 in Bloomfield, New Mexico, where he taught for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez joined CEC in 1976, as Education Specialist, Connecticut Special Education Policy Project and subsequently served as Project Director, American Indian Special Education Policy Project, Assistant Director, Department of Governmental Relations, and Special Assistant to the Executive Director for Ethnic and Multicultural Concerns;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez progressively advanced in responsible positions in the Council including the positions of Director of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education; Assistant Executive Director, Department of Professional Development; Associate Executive Director for Professional Advancement; and Deputy Executive Director, Office of the Executive Director, all of which touched and enhanced every aspect of the Council’s work;

WHEREAS, throughout his career with the Council, Dr. Ramirez articulated a vision of the special education profession and the Council’s leadership role in that profession and has made himself available and offered meaningful counsel to the Council leaders, members and staff;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez invested much of his administrative career toward identifying association and professional trends and issues; advocating for improved federal special education public policy and funding; conducting and supervising research/development and communications; coordinating and directing annual conventions and other continuing education programs; assuring access and equity in services to culturally and linguistically diverse learners with special education needs and advancing best practices for these populations; overseeing the development and revision of professional standards; working to ensure that the implementation of the Council’s restructured
governance was responsive to the needs of the members and the profession; and successfully directing federally supported national projects, including information clearinghouses;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez is an active advocate for students with exceptionalities and for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, working diligently in the public policy area to ensure successful implementation of the landmark legislation, The Education for All Handicapped Children’s Act, P.L. 94-142 and its reauthorizations;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez has devoted much of his profession to the development of appropriate policies, educational programming, and social services for children and youth who are culturally and linguistically diverse, especially the American Indian and First Nations students;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez serves as a consultant and advisor to numerous other national special and gifted education organizations, centers, and projects;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez has written, edited, or co-edited nine books and resource guides and authored numerous articles relating to culturally diverse education, governmental aspects of special education law, special education policy, and education practices and services for American Indian children and youth;

WHEREAS, the University Council for Educational Administration awarded Dr. Ramirez the status of a National Policy Fellow for Educational Administration (1975-76) and in 1997, the Pennsylvania State University and Penn State Alumni Association honored him for his extraordinary professional contributions by conferring the permanent title of Alumni Fellow;

WHEREAS, the leadership and stewardship of Dr. Ramirez during his extraordinary 37-year career at the Council for Exceptional Children have been instrumental in growing the organization’s fiscal health, online learning presence, advocacy and public policy influence, the diversity program, organizational collaboration, external partnerships, and in increasing the stature of the annual CEC Convention & Expo to become the foremost professional development event in special education;

WHEREAS, irrespective of the nature of the work with which Dr. Ramirez is involved, he does it with commitment, compassion, and perfection plus;

WHEREAS, Dr. Ramirez is committed to family, home, the Council, and to the individual CEC members and is a man of great integrity and honor who is extremely proud of his Native American heritage;

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved that, the Council for Exceptional Children, during the Annual Meeting of the Council’s Representative Assembly in San Antonio, Texas, the 5th day of April, 2013, and on behalf of the past presidents of the Council, conveys deep appreciation, respect, and admiration for Dr. Ramirez’s leadership and service to The Council, to the advancement of educational opportunities founded in public policy for students with exceptionalities, and to the positive impact he has had on the enrichment of education, policy, and services directed to children and youth from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and wishes him many years of enjoyable retirement with a most heartfelt pilamaya (which, as Dr. Ramirez knows, means thank you in Lakota).