COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

 Courtesy Resolution

JAMES J. GALLAGHER

WHEREAS, Dr. James J. Gallagher was a dedicated psychologist, teacher, senior scientist, and seminal researcher, who worked for more than 60 years on behalf of the education of children and youth with gifts and talents, developmental disabilities, and in the field of early childhood education;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher served as President of the Council for Exceptional Children (1967) and was influential in the development of the CEC Division for Early Childhood;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher served as President of The Association for the Gifted (1970) and as the Editor of the Division's journal, Journal of the Education of the Gifted (1981-94);

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher also served as the President of the National Association of Gifted Children, The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, and the North Carolina Association for Gifted and Talented;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Pittsburgh, followed by master's and doctoral degrees in psychology from Pennsylvania State College;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher began his extensive and influential career in the early 1950's as the chief psychologist at the Dayton Hospital for Disturbed Children in Ohio, later teaching psychology at Michigan State University and at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher taught for more than 40 years guiding and deepening the thinking of undergraduates, and mentoring graduate students in special education, gifted education, and educational policy, all of which contributed to shaping a generation of teachers, administrators, and policy makers who carry his legacy forward;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher was appointed as the U.S. Associate Commissioner for Education (1967-1969), and in 1969, became the first Chief of the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped in the then U.S. Office of Education overseeing a wide range of new legislation representing the first major efforts to enable the education of children with disabilities on a national level; outlining the components of the first Handicapped Children's Early Education Assistance Act, which brought a national program of model projects that changed the nature of special education for young children with disabilities; and approving the initial federal funding for Sesame Street and the development of closed captioning technology;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher served as the Assistant Secretary for Planning, Research, and Evaluation for the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) where he introduced the concept of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for all students with special education needs;
WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher became the Kenan Professor of Education and the director of the University of North Carolina’s Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (1970), which under his leadership, became one of the nation’s leading research institutions;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher played a central role in the development of the North Carolina School for Science and Mathematics, which was the first residential school of its kind focusing on students with gifts and talents in science and mathematics at the secondary level;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher served as chair of the North Carolina State Competency Test Commission;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher co-founded the Statewide Technical Assistance in Gifted Education (STAGE) network, which re-designed gifted education programs in North Carolina;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher, through his contributions to the ground-breaking Marland Report of 1972 (the first national report on educating the gifted), contributed to efforts to establish federal policy governing the education of students with gifts and talents and specifically identifying students with gifts and talents as a distinct population with unique educational needs;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher was an integral member of the National/State Leadership Training Institute, which standardized programs for students with gifts and talents across the United States;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher provided to the Division for Early Childhood community his keen sense of how the field of early childhood special education developed and used that wisdom to inspire the field about what could and should be;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher has written more than 200 articles in a wide range of professional journals, as well as 39 books, including co-authoring one of the most widely used textbooks in gifted education, *Teaching the Gifted Child* and the seminal special education text, *Educating Exceptional Children*;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher was the recipient of the Division for Early Childhood 1990 Mary McEvoy Service to the Field Award for his many notable and significant national and international contributions to the field of early childhood special education;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher also received the Gold Medal of the American Psychological Association for Psychology in the Public Interest, the John Fogarty Award for Distinguished Government Service, the Old North State Award (the premier award for public service bestowed by the state of North Carolina), the North Carolina Department of Education Lifetime Award for Exceptional Service, the A. Harry Passow International Award for Leadership in Gifted Education, the Distinguished Scholar and Distinguished Service Award from the National Association for Gifted Children, the Peabody Award from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Education, and the J. E. Wallace Wallin Special Education Lifetime Achievement Award from the Council for Exceptional Children;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher invested much of his academic career as an active advocate for students with developmental disabilities and for children and youth with gifts and talents believing that their right to a public school education was a civil rights issue and later working to ensure that the unique
learning needs of both of these groups of students were provided for with specific education programming and professional support within public schools;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher, throughout his 60-year career, sparked, shepherded, and inspired an era of transformation as a pioneer in the discipline of child development and social policy; as the nation’s premier scholar in the fields of giftedness and developmental disabilities; as a strong advocate for promoting the need for special education programming and services for children with gifts and talents and the provision of early childhood programs and services for children with exceptionalities;

WHEREAS, Dr. Gallagher, regardless of the work in which he was involved, could always be counted on to share a good story or a bad pun and to engage in lively intellectual debate;

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved that, the Council for Exceptional Children, during the Annual Meeting of the Council’s Representative Assembly in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the 11th day of April, 2014, and on behalf of the Pioneers Division, the Division for Early Childhood, the Association for the Gifted, and the North Carolina CEC Unit, conveys deep appreciation and admiration for Dr. Gallagher’s contributions to The Council; to the advancement of the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities, including those with gifts and talents, through his seminal research; to the positive impact on the development of federal policy that provided the framework for gifted education programs and programs and services for early childhood education; and to the influence on the advancement of mandated special education for all children and youth with exceptionalities.