COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY
Courtesy Resolution

Frances Partridge Connor

WHEREAS, Dr. Frances Partridge Connor was a dedicated teacher, scholar, author, administrator, and advocate who worked during her extensive lifelong career on behalf of the education of children and youth with physical and learning problems;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor was the founder and first president of the Rockland County CEC chapter (New York);

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor served as the Chair of the CEC Professional Standards and Practice Committee, the CEC Honors Committee, and the CEC Oral History Project;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor held the position of President of three CEC divisions: Teacher Education Division (TED) (1956-57); Division for Physical, Health, and Multiple Disabilities (DPHMD) (1973-74); and the CEC Pioneers Division (CEC-PD) (1993-94);

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor served as President of the International Council for Exceptional Children (1963-64);

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor was the recipient of the 1982 CEC J. E. Wallace Wallin Lifetime Achievement Award which recognizes an individual who has made consistent and sustained contributions to the education of children and youth with exceptionalities and the 1992 Frederick J. Weintraub Outstanding CEC Leadership Award;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor’s career at Teachers College, Columbia University included the positions of Chairman, Department of Special Education; Director, Research and Demonstration Center for the Education of the Handicapped; Director, Research Institute for the Study of Learning Disabilities; and the Richard March Hoe Professor of Education;

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Dr. Connor, the special education department at Teachers College, Columbia University was awarded multiple research and personnel preparation grants enrolling the largest number of graduate students in the nation during the 1980’s;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor throughout her twenty-three year career as Professor of Special Education and Chairman of the Special Education Department at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, mentored many teachers, administrators, researchers, and scholars teaching the importance of public policy, volunteerism, and advocacy in improving opportunities for children and youth with disabilities and led a group of pioneering faculty members in establishing Teachers College, Columbia University as one of the nation’s foremost destinations for students in the field and a national research hub;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor’s teaching, writing, and advising always insisted that research results be put into action in the classroom for the benefit of the improvement of educational programming for children and youth;
WHEREAS, the graduate students of Dr. Connor have assumed leadership roles in local, state, national and international positions in higher education and within the Council for Exceptional Children continuing her legacy;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor was very involved in local New York organizations and associations including those with a focus of early childhood education, architectural design and accessibility, services for families, and educational programming for children and youth having cerebral palsy, brain injury, physical disabilities, learning disabilities, and mental retardation;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor initiated a program for children with cerebral palsy at the New York State Rehabilitation Hospital and established the special education program at the University of Georgia, Athens;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor, noted for her political acumen and advocacy, was a member of the five-person committee that assisted in the closing of the Willowbrook State School, New York, which helped lead to the passage of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act of 1980;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor served in many advisory capacities throughout her distinguished career including the President’s Commission on Employment of the Handicapped; the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation; and the National Advisory Committee of the United States Bureau for the Education of the Handicapped, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor was a Delegate and Member of the Steering Committee for the White House Conference on the Handicapped;

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor was the editor of Education Issues for Low Incidence Populations, a CEC publication and served two terms as the Associate Editor of Exceptional Children:

WHEREAS, Dr. Connor authored over fifty articles involving the education of exceptional children, the evaluation of special education programs and services, and the provision of services and supports to families, and co-authored three United States Department of Education Reports describing the selection and preparation of teachers of exceptional children;

NOW, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for Exceptional Children, during the Annual Meeting of the Council’s Representative Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri, the 15th day of April, 2016, and on behalf of the CEC general membership, the CEC Pioneers Division, the Teacher Education Division, and the Division for Physical, Health, and Multiple Disabilities of the Council, conveys deep appreciation and profound admiration for Dr. Connor’s dynamic leadership during the formative years of the profession of special education, her demonstrated commitment to excellence in scholarship and practice, and her enduring contributions in advancing the quality of life for children and youth with exceptionalities and their families through education, public policy advocacy, and professional leadership.