WHEREAS, Dr. Jean R. Hebeler was a dedicated teacher educator, administrator, and advocate who worked during her extensive lifelong career on behalf of the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;

WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler held the position of president of the Teacher Education Division (TED) (1963-64);

WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler served as the chair of the CEC Professional Standards and Practices Standing Committee (1966-68) providing the foundation for the development of CEC’s current professional standards and practice;

WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler served as president of the International Council for Exceptional Children (1972-73);

WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler was the recipient of the 1994 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; the 2003 Frederick J. Weintraub Outstanding CEC Leadership Award; and the 2003 Pioneer Division’s Romaine P. Mackie Leadership Award;

WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler, noted for her political acumen and advocacy, extensive special education experience and leadership, served as an expert witness in federal and state court cases that challenged the exclusion of children and youth with disabilities from educational programming including the landmark federal court cases: the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Children (PARC) v. the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Mills v. Board of Education in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, working with the Maryland State Department of Education, Dr. Hebeler was instrumental in the early stages of teacher preparation program design responding to the immediate need for training special education teachers and the development of standards and state requirements for the certification and preparation of special education teachers;

WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler was honored by the University of Maryland College of Education through the establishment of the Jean R. Hebeler Endowment Scholarship Fund (2000) which provides support to graduate and undergraduate students pursuing degrees in special education;
WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler’s career at the University of Maryland, College Park, included the positions of Professor and Coordinator of the Special Education Program; Chairman, Department of Special Education; and acting Dean of the College of Education;

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Dr. Hebeler, the philosophy and foundation for the special education program at the University of Maryland was established, and the construction of the College of Education’s Benjamin Building was initiated;

WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler, throughout her lifelong career at the University of Maryland, mentored more than 40 doctoral students teaching the importance of appropriate special education programming, professional standards, volunteerism, and advocacy in improving educational rights for children and youth with exceptionalities;

WHEREAS, the graduate students of Dr. Hebeler have assumed leadership roles in local, state, and national positions in special education administration, higher education, and within the Council for Exceptional Children continuing her legacy;

WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler also mentored many young female CEC members to pursue governance positions within The Council by setting an example through her leadership style and positions of prominence within CEC;

WHEREAS, Dr. Hebeler demonstrated throughout her career vision, progressive programming, advocacy, and professionalism as exemplified by The Council’s pioneering founder, Elizabeth E. Farrell;

NOW, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council for Exceptional Children, during the Annual Meeting of the Council’s Representative Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, the 1st day of February, 2019, and on behalf of the CEC general membership, the CEC Pioneers Division, and the Teacher Education Division, and the Maryland Council for Exceptional Children, conveys deep appreciation and profound admiration for Dr. Hebeler’s dynamic leadership during the formative years of the profession of special education, her contributions to The Council, her continued commitment to excellence through professional standards, and her enduring contributions in advancing the rights of children and youth with exceptionalities and their families through quality programs and services, public policy, advocacy, and professional leadership.