COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Courtesy Resolution

LYNNE HARRIS COOK

WHEREAS, Dr. Lynne Harris Cook was a dedicated teacher, teacher educator, researcher, policy expert, and community leader who worked for more than 47 years in the field of special education, sharing her expertise with children and youth with disabilities and their teachers, her students, university colleagues, parents, and her community;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook began her career as a demonstration teacher at Children’s Psychiatric Hospital at the University of Michigan, where she had also served as president of the UM student chapter of Council for Exceptional Children, and she continued teaching children with emotional and intellectual disabilities for six years;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook spent her higher education career primarily at California State University-Northridge, where she was Chair of the Department of Special Education, and at California State University-Dominguez Hills, where she was Dean of the College of Education;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook expanded her influence by working as Director of the National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education and Council for Exceptional Children; Research Associate for the federal Office of Special Education Programs; and Legislative Associate (on matters related to disability) for members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook contributed at many levels and in many ways to the Council for Exceptional Children, including chairing its Professional Standards and Practices Committee, five times serving as a member of its Program Advisory Committee, and four times co-chairing strands or preconvetion programs for the annual CEC Convention & Expo;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook similarly contributed to the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, leading the division as its president, representing TED as its governor to the Council for Exceptional Children, working as the Children’s Action Network (CAN) coordinator, and chairing or serving as a member of several TED committees;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook was a highly regarded and well-loved teacher educator, who not only prepared her students to be superb special educators, but also took a personal interest in their well-being, helping them to achieve their professional dreams, assisting them during difficult times, demonstrating endless patience for their questions, and encouraging them to make a difference in their schools and communities;
WHEREAS, Dr. Cook’s scholarship focused on collaboration, especially communication skills, which she demonstrated through publication of more than 24 related articles in refereed journals as well as a textbook that was recently released in its 8th edition;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook’s passion for special education teacher preparation led to a 20-year program of research on special education teacher supply and demand, resulting in nearly a dozen published articles and more than 20 technical reports;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook demonstrated commitment to improving special education teacher education through her work in accreditation, which included membership on the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Board of Examiners and Appeals Panel, involvement as a program reviewer for universities preparing for national accreditation visits, participation as a folio reviewer for the Council for Exceptional Children/NCATE review process, and leadership as co-chair of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Committee on Accreditation;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook contributed to her community, being a member or chair on boards of directors such as the New Millennium Secondary Charter School, the inclusive school TRIPOD, and the Linden Center, an alternative school for children with emotional disabilities;

WHEREAS, Dr. Cook was recognized for her contributions through several prestigious awards, including the Teacher Education Division/Merrill Award for Excellence in Teacher Education, the TED Publication Award, and four national fellowships;

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved that the Council for Exceptional Children, at the Annual Meeting of the Council’s Representative Assembly in St. Louis, Missouri, the 14th day of April, 2016, and on behalf of the Teacher Education Division and the CEC California state unit, duly recognize and honor Lynne Harris Cook for her tireless work at the local, state, and national levels in schools, higher education, the community, and the Council for Exceptional Children, efforts that significantly and positively influenced innumerable special educators and the lives of the children and youth they are dedicated to improving.