



2017 Awards Program & Nominations

These awards are presented each year at the DEC International Annual Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families.

Please submit your nominations by May 15th, 2017.
Award winners will be announced in early July 2017.

Rose. C. Engel Award for Excellence in Professional Practice

The **Rose. C. Engel Award for Excellence in Professional Practice** will be awarded to a DEC member who is a practicing professional and whose primary role is serving young children with special needs and their families. This special award is given to honor Rose Engel, DEC's first president, whose leadership has shaped DEC as an organization. Nominees are expected to meet the high standards of professional practice set by Rose Engel.

Nominees for the Rose C. Engel award shall meet the following criteria:

- Be a current member of DEC.
- Be a practicing professional whose primary role is serving young children with special needs and/or their families.
- Have made significant contributions to the field at the local level that have improved, or will improve, the lives of young children with special needs and their families.
- Have, through their work, provided evidence of knowledge and skills consistent with recommended practices in the field.
- Demonstrate high ethical and professional standards.

The individual honored with this award will receive: a plaque during the opening ceremony of the International DEC Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, a cash award, and complimentary conference registration.

To nominate an individual for the Rose C. Engel award, prepare a nomination portfolio containing the following:

- A letter of nomination indicating the award for which the person is being nominated;
- An overview of the individual's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria established for this award;
- Two additional letters of a nomination;
- The individual's resume or curriculum vitae

Mary McEvoy Service to the Field Award

The **Mary McEvoy Service to the Field Award** is given to a parent, community member, or professional who has made notable and significant national or international contributions to the field of early childhood special education. It is given in memory of Mary McEvoy, who was a leader in the early childhood special education field.

Candidates for the Mary McEvoy Service to the Field Award shall meet the following criteria:

- Be a parent, community member, or professional in an agency or an organization in the field of early intervention or in an area that directly impacts early intervention.
- Have made significant contributions, on a national or international level, which have improved or will improve the lives of young children with special needs, their families, or those who work on their behalf. Contributions may be in direct service, leadership, policy, research, advocacy, or publications. These contributions should be consistent with the overall goals of DEC.

The individual honored with this award will receive: a plaque during the opening ceremony of the International DEC Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families and complimentary conference registration.

To nominate an individual for the Mary McEvoy Service to the Field Award, prepare a nomination portfolio containing the following:

- A letter of nomination indicating the award for which the person is being nominated;
- An overview of the individual's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria established for this award;
- Two additional letters of nomination;
- The individual's resume or curriculum vitae

J. David Sexton Doctoral Student Award

The **J. David Sexton Doctoral Student Award** is given to a DEC member and doctoral level student who has made contributions to young children with special needs and their families through their efforts in research, higher education, publications, policy, and information dissemination.

This award is named for J. David Sexton, in honor of his passionate commitment to doctoral leadership preparation. David was revered as an outstanding mentor by those who were fortunate to learn from and with him. The Sexton award is given to a doctoral student who embodies the leadership characteristics David possessed and worked unselfishly to nurture in others.

The doctoral student award is supported by David's colleagues, friends, and family to ensure his contributions to DEC and to leadership preparation live on through a new generation of scholars and leaders in the field.

Nominees for the J. David Sexton Award must meet the following criteria:

- Must be students enrolled at the time of nomination, in a doctoral degree program in early intervention, early childhood special education, or other disciplines related to service for young children with special needs and their families.
- Students may be nominated who will be graduating from a pre-service program the spring or summer prior to the fall conferring of the award.
- Student must be a DEC member.
- Student portfolios will be reviewed for activities experienced during their current graduate program using the following criteria:
 - A. Demonstrated scholarship as evidenced by a 3.5 grade point average or higher.
 - B. Level of involvement in research related activities such as grant writing, grant awards, data collection activities, data analysis activities, and research project development, coordination, and/or implementation.
 - C. Level of involvement in teaching at the college/university level.
 - D. Level of involvement in writing manuscripts for publication, e.g., published manuscripts, manuscripts submitted for publication, written project reports disseminated to professional groups, and manuscripts in progress.
 - E. Level of involvement in local, state/provincial, and national or international presentations, workshops, and in services.
 - F. Level of involvement in policy development through active membership in organizations committed to helping young children and their families at the local, state/provincial, and or national and international level.

To nominate an individual for the J. David Sexton Award, prepare a nomination portfolio containing the following:

- A letter of nomination indicating the award for which the person is being nominated and an overview of the individual's accomplishments related to the criteria established for the award;
- Two additional letters of nomination from faculty members in the program in which the degree is to be awarded. The letters should provide evidence of the student's skills in college level or research experiences in early intervention and/or early childhood special education;
- The student's resume or curriculum vitae;
- A 300-400 word summary of professional philosophy and goals written by the student

Kathleen W. McCartan Award

The **Kathleen W. McCartan Award** is given to an undergraduate or master's level student who has made demonstrated significant commitment and contributions to enhancing the lives of young children with special needs and their families through professional activity with the field of early childhood care and education. It is given in memory of Dr. Kathleen McCartan, who was a leader in the field of personnel preparation and served for many years as a valued member of the Executive Board of DEC.

Nominees for the Kathleen W. McCartan Award shall meet the following criteria:

- Must be students, currently enrolled at the time of the nomination in an undergraduate or master's degree program in early childhood special education, inclusive or unified early childhood, or other disciplines related to service for young children with special needs and their families. (Students who will be graduating in the spring or summer prior to the fall presentation of the award may be nominated for the award).
- Must demonstrate high levels of scholarship, leadership, and service.
- Student portfolios will be reviewed for activities accomplished during the Current undergraduate or graduate program, including:
 - A. Demonstrated excellent scholarship (at least 3.5/4.0 are equivalent).
 - B. Involvement and service to young children with special needs and their families, communities, early childhood programs, and/or university/college programs.
 - C. Leadership experiences or positions within the university / college program, professional organization, early childhood program, or community, that influence the lives of young children with special needs and their families.
 - D. Membership and/or active involvement in professional or other community organizations/groups that serve young children with special needs and their families.

The individual honored with this award will receive: a plaque given during the opening ceremony of the International DEC Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, a cash award from the McCartan family, and complimentary conference registration. The amount of the cash award is determined by the McCartan family and will include a 1-year membership or renewal membership in DEC.

To nominate an individual for the Kathleen W. McCartan Award, prepare a nomination portfolio containing the following:

- A letter of nomination indicating the award for which the person is being nominated and an overview of the individual's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria established for the award;
- Two additional letters of nomination from faculty members within the program, professionals who have benefited from the student's service or families who have benefited from the student's

work or service. At least one of the letters must be from a faculty member. Recommendations should focus on the student's contributions and service to the field through scholarship, leadership abilities, and service activities;

- University/college transcript;
- The student's resume or curriculum vitae (if the award is to be a surprise, the nominators may submit an abbreviated resume or biography)

Merle B. Karnes Award for Service

The **Merle B. Karnes Award for Service** is given to a DEC member who has made a significant contribution to DEC in areas of leadership, service, research, advocacy, or publications. The award is given in honor of Dr. Merle Karnes, who served for years as a member of DEC Executive Board and was the founder and first editor of the Journal for Early Intervention.

Nominees for the Merle B. Karnes award shall meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of DEC for at least five consecutive years at the time of award.
- Have made notable and significant contributions to the Division or its members in the areas of leadership, service, research, advocacy, or publications. These contributions should be national or international in scope or impact and be consistent with the overall goals of DEC.

The individual honored with this award will receive: a plaque during the opening ceremony of the International DEC Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families and complimentary conference registration.

To nominate an individual for the Merle B. Karnes award, prepare a nomination portfolio containing the following:

- A letter of nomination indicating the award for which the person is being nominated and an overview of the individual's accomplishments, as they relate to the criteria established for the award;
- Two additional letters of nomination;
- The individual's resume or curriculum vitae

DEC Parent/Family Award

The **DEC Parent/Family Award** is given to a DEC member and parent who has made significant contributions through service to the field and community. This award is given to demonstrate the importance of recognizing parents and families who are making a difference in the field.

Candidates for DEC Parent/Family shall meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of DEC for at least five consecutive years at the time of the award.
- Have made significant contributions in promoting and helping parents and families through one or more avenues:
 - A. Advocacy for improving services for families of young children with special needs and/or supporting their voice and advocacy at the local community, state or national level. Development of materials, resources or models that support families in meeting their child's and family's priorities.
 - B. Leadership in developing policies or guidelines that ensure families are able to access services appropriate for their young child.

The individual honored with this award will receive: a plaque during the opening ceremony of the International DEC Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families and free conference registration.

To nominate an individual for DEC Parent/Family Award, prepare a nomination portfolio containing the following:

- A letter of nomination indicating the award for which the person is being nominated;
- An overview of the individual's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria established for this award;
- Two additional letters of nomination;
- The individual's resume or curriculum vitae

DEC Award for Mentoring

The **DEC Award for Mentoring** is given to a DEC member who has provided significant guidance to the development of students and/or new practitioners in the field. This award is given to demonstrate the importance of training and guiding the next generation of leaders in the field.

Candidates for DEC Award for Mentoring shall meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of DEC for at least five consecutive years at the time of the award.
- Have made significant contributions towards training, guiding and mentoring students or practitioners in the field.
- Have, through their work, provided evidence of knowledge and skills consistent with recommended practices in the field.

The individual honored with this award will receive: a plaque during the opening ceremony of the International DEC Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families.

To nominate an individual for DEC Award for Mentoring, prepare a nomination portfolio containing the following:

- A letter of nomination indicating the award for which the person is being nominated;
- An overview of the individual's accomplishments as they relate to the criteria established for this award;
- Two additional letters of nomination;
- The individual's resume or curriculum vitae