**2020 Georgia CEC**

**Paraprofessional of the Year Award**

**Nomination Information**

The Georgia Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest international professional organization for special educators, works to improve the educational success of individuals with disabilities and/or talents.

The Paraprofessional of the Year Award recognizes a paraprofessional who currently provides direct services to students with exceptionalities. The Paraprofessional of the Year is an outstanding member of the profession whose work exemplifies the best in special education support. His or her work reflects significant educational success for students, continued professional development, and the highest standards of educational quality.

**Award Benefits**

The recipient of the 2020 Paraprofessional of the Year Award will:

* If chosen you and a guest will be invited to attend the awards ceremony/opening session of the IDEAS Conference.
* Be recognized and receive a commemorative, an awards ceremony during the Georgia IDEAS Conference.
* Be featured in a press release and in the recipient’s local newspaper or other media.
* Be profiled on the GA CEC website ([www.gacec.org](about:blank)).

**Award Criteria**

The nominee:

* Must currently participate as a member of a teaching team providing services to Georgia students with exceptionalities.
* May be a paraprofessional who works with students with exceptionalities within inclusive or special education settings.
* Must exhibit exemplary personal and professional skills in supporting students with exceptionalities.
* Must possess work habits that are consistent with CEC’s Mission Statement.
* Need not be a member of CEC.

**Rules and Instructions for Nomination**

* Nominations may be made by a CEC unit or chapter, individual (principal, CEC member, fellow teacher/colleague, student, parent, self), educational organization (school. Parent group, etc.), or community group.
* Only one nomination will be accepted from each CEC unit.

**Nomination Process**

The nomination form should be downloaded from the GA CEC website. Please type responses directly on the form in the gray boxes.

The entire nomination packet should contain the following:

1. Section I – Nomination form
2. Section II – Two letters from colleagues, supervisors, or other professionals documenting the nominee’s efforts in meeting the award criteria.

**Selection Process**

The GA CEC Awards Committee will conduct an individual blind review of each nomination based on the criteria and letters/testimonials.

**Other Information**

GA CEC does not pay the travel costs or conference registration for award recipients. The recipient does not have to be in attendance at the conference to receive the award.

**All nomination packets must be submitted electronically.** Letters of recommendation and testimonials must be scanned and sent along with the nomination form to **georgiacecawards@gmail.com**

Nomination packets must be received by **March 15, 2020.**