



Press Release: *Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Announces 2024 Social Justice Award Recipient*

(For Immediate Release)

January 12, 2024

The Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities is delighted to announce Dr. Staci Carr as the recipient of the inaugural 2024 Social Justice Award. This prestigious award recognizes individuals dedicated to addressing and dismantling systemic inequities based on disability and other marginalized identities. Dr. Carr's outstanding commitment to promoting social justice, both personally and professionally, has made a lasting impact on students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities.

Dr. Carr, an Assistant Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and Technical Assistance Associate at the Center on Transition Innovations, has been at the forefront of advocacy and support for individuals with disabilities. Notably, she served as an expert witness in support of an individual with autism, showcasing her tireless efforts to promote understanding and support for those in need. Nominator Mr. Paul Warner describes Dr. Carr as "truly special" and praised her for sharing her knowledge and talents selflessly. Dr. Karen Akom highlighted Dr. Carr's multifaceted contributions, including teaching, research, and volunteer service roles, as well as her dedication to supporting caregivers, providing social skills instruction, and facilitating a support group for women with autism.

This distinguished award is presented by The Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD), a special interest association within the Council for Exceptional Children—the largest international professional organization dedicated to supporting the needs of students with disabilities. Since its establishment in 1963, DADD has been a leading voice in the field of education for students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities, actively contributing to research dissemination, the creation of nationally recognized professional practice standards, and fostering robust professional networking. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place at DADD's annual conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 18, 2024.

For further information, please contact Dr. Jordan Shurr, DADD Awards Chair, at j.shurr@queensu.ca. Additional details about the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities can be found at <http://www.daddcec.com/>.