



**Press Release: Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Announces 2024 Teacher of the Year Award Recipient**

*(For Immediate Release)*

January 12, 2024

The Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce Ms. Jessica Minton as the recipient of the 2024 Teacher of the Year Award. This award recognizes Ms. Minton's outstanding commitment to teaching students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities, setting a commendable standard for excellence in inclusive education.

Ms. Minton, a dedicated science teacher at Houston High School in the Germantown Municipal School District in Germantown in Germantown, Tennessee, has been acknowledged for her innovative and engaging teaching methods. Colleagues and nominators appreciate her energy and commitment to creating an inclusive learning environment. Emily Brettell Malloy, one of the nominators, noted, "Whether she's sharing trailblazing teaching and inclusion strategies for all teachers or simply providing a listening ear and safe space for her students, Jessica Minton is a role model for all educators." John Kennon, another nominator, mentioned Ms. Minton's creative and interactive teaching approach across all activities.

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](mailto:j.shurr@queensu.ca). Additional details about the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities can be found at <http://www.daddcec.com/>.