



Press Release: Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Announces 2024 Tom EC Smith Early Career Award Recipient

(For Immediate Release)

January 12, 2024

The Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce Dr. Seyma Intepe Tingir as the recipient of the 2024 Tom EC Smith Early Career Award. This award recognizes early career faculty that are contributing to teacher education in a significant way.

Dr. Seyma Intepe Tingir, an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education at the University of Maryland, is recognized as a welcoming, creative, and collaborative teacher educator, researcher, and student mentor. Nominators, including peers and students, commend her for her dedication to exceptional teacher education and student support. Dr. Gulnoza Yakubova highlighted Dr. Intepe Tingir's "innovative approaches both in her teaching and scholarship" and her commitment "to connecting research and practice." Dr. Dawn Martin emphasized her collaboration with a diverse range of faculty, staff, and students, actively contributing to the climate of inclusive teacher education programming. Students attest to the positive impact of her classes, with one noting, "once I started her class and completed her class, I saw a change in the way I was teaching and felt more confident in helping my students."

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/>.