



**Division on
Autism and
Developmental
Disabilities**

Press Release: Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Announces 2026 Teacher of the Year

(For Immediate Release)

January 5, 2026

The Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) is pleased to announce Rosel Joy Sison Dalisay as the 2026 Teacher of the Year. This award recognizes exceptional educators working in some capacity with students who have autism, intellectual disability, or other developmental disabilities.

Mrs. Rosel Joy S. Dalisay is a Special Education teacher at Crow Agency Public School in Montana, where she has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities. Originally trained in elementary education, Mrs. S. Dalisay embraced the need for special education leadership in her school and completed certification in special education while teaching full-time. Her classroom is known for its calm, structured, and inclusive environment, where individualized instruction, hands-on learning, and high expectations support students' academic and functional growth. Serving a community in which most students are Native American, she intentionally embeds Crow culture, language, and traditions into her teaching.

Colleagues and families consistently emphasize Mrs. S. Dalisay's impact on students and the broader school community. One nominator described her classroom as a place where students feel "safe, valued, and supported," noting that her calm presence inspires confidence and engagement. Parents highlighted her ability to recognize students' strengths, collaborate closely with paraprofessionals and specialists, and build trusting relationships with families. These efforts have led to lasting academic progress and increased independence. Through her collaboration, cultural responsiveness, and tireless advocacy, Mrs. S. Dalisay exemplifies the dedication and impact celebrated by the DADD Teacher of the Year Award.

This distinguished award is presented by DADD, a special interest association within the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest international professional organization dedicated to supporting students with disabilities. Since 1963, DADD has been a leading voice in educating students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities, contributing to research dissemination, developing professional practice standards, and fostering robust professional networking.

The award ceremony is scheduled for January 16, 2026, at DADD's annual conference in Long Beach, CA. For further information, please contact DeVoshia Mason Martin, DADD Awards Chair, at awardschair@daddcec.com. Additional details about the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities can be found at <http://www.daddcec.com/>.