**Press Release:** *Council for Exceptional Children’s Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities* announces 2022 research award recipient

(For immediate release)

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The awards committee of the *Council for Exceptional Children’s Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities* announced today that the 2022 Research Award will be given to Dr. Shawnee Wakeman. Dr. Wakeman is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The research award is presented to those demonstrating exceptional effort and involvement in furthering the cause of persons with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities through research. Dr. Wakeman’s extensive research activity is focused on improving academic access for students with extensive support needs, including numerous published articles and grant funded projects. One nominator, Dr. Alicia Saunders, described her work as making “a significant impact in the area of professional development for general educators, special educators, and paraprofessionals on inclusive efforts for students with ESN.” Another nominator, Dr. Robert Pennington, added that “her work is impactful, and has resulted in the access to and progress in the general education curriculum by students with ESN.” Dr. Charles Wood noted that Dr. Wakeman “continues to make a substantial impact on teachers and their students with extensive support needs.”

This prestigious 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 in the world dedicated to supporting the needs of students with disabilities. Originating in 1963, DADD is a leading voice in the field of education for students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities through research dissemination, active participation in the creation of nationally-recognized professional practice standards, and robust professional networking. The award ceremony will take place at DADD’s annual conference in Clearwater, Florida, in January 2022.

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Information on the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities: <http://www.daddcec.com/>