

2018 CASE EARLY CAREER SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR AWARD – THE “G” AWARD

DUE JUNE 30, 2018

PROPOSAL ABSTRACT: Kevin Gersh, a CASE exhibitor/supporter and member, sponsors an annual award to a member of CASE who is early in his/her career as an administrator. The award is a night on the town (limo, dinner, movie, child care) up to a value of \$1000. The selection process would be done by the CASE Awards committee (Membership Committee). The night on the town would be designed around the winner’s home community by Kevin Gersh in consultation with the award winner. NOTE: AWARD DOES NOT INCLUDE AIR FARE

THE GERSH AWARD

The Early Career Special Education Administrator Award will be presented to a Special Education Administrator who is *a member of CASE and in their first five years administering special education programs and/or services, and who embraces 5 of the pre-selected values of the 17 Gersh Values.*

The Gersh Values were created by members of Gersh Academy in an effort to recognize those values most important in their staff members and members of the community. Members of CASE would nominate a Special Education Administrator in their district/school who exemplifies the Gersh Values by telling their story and how they support their teachers enabling them to go above and beyond for children with disabilities.

The winner will be determined by the CASE Award Committee. This award is a thank you to this administrator for sticking his/her neck out to better to support their teachers to enable them to make a difference in the lives of the students they serve. Nominations should be sent with a detailed description of why this person is being nominated for the award and how they exemplify the 5 pre-selected Gersh values. Nominations would be directed to the CASE Awards Committee Chair for consideration.

GERSH VALUES

1. **“Heart” is at the core of what we do:** Be passionate. Don’t be afraid to show how much you care. Your emotions are a powerful tool – use them! Treat each student like your own child; treat each other with compassion and empathy; trust your gut and do what you know is right. Create a feeling of warmth in every interaction you have; be nurturing and supportive. Above all, never forget why every little thing matters: you are changing people’s lives.
2. **Lead by example:** It’s not what you *say*, but what you *do* that matters most. Have integrity; act as if the whole world is watching you. Be willing to do anything you ask someone else to do; nobody is too good for any job or task. Pitch in and help – lend a hand whenever possible. Always strive to do the right thing; be the way you would want those around you to be.
3. **Be honest:** Be frank and accurate in your assessments; don’t keep secrets or hold important information back. Admit mistakes. Don’t lie to yourself or others -- the truth is important, even if it hurts. Build trust by being direct and truthful always. Accurate information is the key to everything we do, so share it.
4. **Think outside the box:** Traditional approaches are not always the best; be willing to use alternative methods and to try new things. Be creative and imaginative. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes. Invent and adapt; create something unique and beautiful. The fact that it has never been done before doesn’t mean anything except that you can be the first to do it, so dream and visualize what could be instead of only seeing what is.
5. **Always use a collaborative approach:** Listen first. Empathize and seek to fully understand alternative opinions and perspectives, then partner in developing and agree on solutions. Find and work from common ground. Strive to clarify concerns and expectations; respect other people’s differences and utilize each other’s’ strengths and expertise; seek out alternative ideas or perspectives. Work together to find the best possible solution.

Nomination Form (Due June 30, 2018)

Information about Person Making the Nomination	
Name of Nominator	
Email	
Phone number	
CASE/ CEC ID #	
Nominee Information	
Name of Nominee	
Email	
Position and School/ District	
Phone	
School/ District Address	
Years in Education	
Years in Special Education Administration	
CASE/ CEC ID #	

Provide a narrative that includes a description of how the nominee exemplifies the 5 core values described on the previous page. Narrative should be between 300-600 words. In addition, complete the chart below by inserting short phrases from your narrative that reference how this person exemplifies each of these 5 core values. **Include the nominee’s resume and up to three letters of recommendation (must have at least one letter of recommendation in the nomination packet).**

Why this person is being nominated? (300-600 word narrative):

GERSH VALUE	Phrase from Narrative/Example
1. “Heart” is at the core of what we do	
2. Lead by example	
3. Be honest	
4. Think outside the box	
5. Always use a collaborative approach	

All nominations are due by June 30, 2018. The recipient will be recognized at the CASE BOD/Member meeting November 7-8 in Biloxi, Mississippi which is just before the Annual Fall CASE Conference, November 8-10, 2018.

Please send nomination form and any supporting documents (electronically if possible) to:

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