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Puerto Rico Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February 27, 2023 — Eduardo Lebron, of Vega Baja, PR, received the 2023 Yes I Can Award for Transition from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Eduardo will be honored this March along with other Yes I Can recipients at the CEC Convention and Expo in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Yes I Can Awards celebrate the achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities, encouraging these individuals to seek their highest potential and increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities.

Eduardo has championed many situations in his life, with sugar, spice, and everything nice. Eduardo has Autism Spectrum Disorder and a verbal communication delay. He is an excellent student but needs to learn and discover new things at his own pace and with some support from his family, school, and a beloved assistant who transitioned to his teacher in high school.

During his high school transition program, Eduardo was given the opportunity to explore many different vocational skills to find an interest he could turn into a career once he graduated. He discovered his calling in eleventh grade – baking! The instructors who helped discover his innate talent quickly became his "Pastry Chef Godfathers" as they taught him new recipes, kitchen skills, and decoration. Outside of school, Eduardo dove into pastry and dessert-making videos, and was able to share his talent by supplying desserts for family and friend's parties.

After graduating, Eduardo decided it was time to share his gift with a broader audience by creating his own business, E-Sweets Journey. He and his family promote his beautiful, delicious creations on social media. Eduardo says "some of the goals I want for the future are [to] keep growing my business, have my own motor home, and live alone at the age of 24."

Eduardo's mother is very proud of him and all he's accomplished. She says "Eduardo is a living example that when we focus on the abilities of a person and when adequate support is provided, people can reach his full potential. Through his hard work he is raising awareness in the community that a person with an autism diagnosis can have a fulfilled and productive life."

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to high-quality education that is inclusive and equitable for individuals with disabilities. Learn more about CEC at https://exceptionalchildren.org/.

Thank you to <u>Pearson</u> for their continued support of the Yes I Can Awards!