



For Immediate Release

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Kansas Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February 27, 2023 – Foster Schwarz, of Hoxie, KS, received the 2022 Yes I Can Award for Technology from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Foster will be honored this March, along with other Yes I Can recipients at the CEC Convention and Expo in Louisville, KY.

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.

Foster is a student in the 21+ Program at his high school in western Kansas. Foster is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and Schizencephaly and is quite familiar with technology, as he has used it throughout his life to aid in communication and accessibility. He loves to socialize with others using modified sign language and by accessing and tablet with AAC applications.

He is familiar with a large array with applications on both his tablet and touch screen computers. He works on vocational skills utilizing technology to make shakes, cupcakes, and snacks. He has also used assistive technology devices to help him make gifts for others in his life. When at school, he utilized various technology to complete work tasks, including doing laundry, shredding paper, sanitizing tables, scanning returned books, and making snacks. He loves to listen to music on his tablet, especially during his various therapies.

Throughout his life, Foster has overcome several surgeries on his hips and knees. Whenever he gets fitted for a new wheelchair, the engineers are always impressed by how easily can maneuver his chair with one hand. He's a pro at using the stair lift to get to home room, and even offers to give friends a ride along.

Erica Carter, a member of Foster's educator community, says "Access to technology has provided Foster with many learning opportunities, entertainment, and independence. Foster has always found his own way to do all that he loves, using many different assistive devices in order to help him. Despite his disability, he has never allowed it to control what he can do- always having a "YES I CAN" attitude!"



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 [Pearson](#) for their continued support of the Yes I Can Awards!