



For Immediate Release

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## Florida Student Honored with International Award

**Arlington, Va., February 27, 2023** – Ja’Quan Price, of Gainesville, FL, received the 2023 Yes I Can Award for Art from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Ja’Quan 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.

Ja’Quan confronts everyday challenges with grace, dignity, and an artistic flare. As an individual with Autism Spectrum Disorder and a speech and language impairment, his art, warm smile, and gentle demeanor are some of the methods he uses to communicate and share his interests with others. As he sketches or paints, he makes sure to name each being and write their information down before sharing with others. His favorite things to create are dinosaurs and mythical creatures.

When asked, he says that painting makes him happy. Art not only makes him happy while he’s creating it, it makes others happy when it’s shared. He eagerly shares his teachers, family, and fellow students and encourages them to engage with each piece.

Ja’Quan’s teacher, Sidney Lanier, has one of his impressive drawings laminated and hanging above her desk. She says it “reminds me every day to look beyond what my students can’t do and focus on what they can. Each one of us has something special to offer the world.”



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!