



For Immediate Release

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Kentucky Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February 27, 2023 – Lorielys Berrios-Castillo, of Radcliff, KY, received the 2023 Yes I Can Award for Academics from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Lorielys 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.

Imagine you start a new school in a new country. You don't know how to speak the language and you cannot read your first language. Communication on its own would be difficult, worsened only by trying to learn subjects and topics on top of this new language. This was the challenge Lorielys faced when she enrolled in her new school five years ago. She spent the first two years in the classroom learning and growing, but it was during the COVID pandemic that she began to really flourish.

She continued to receive interventions in reading comprehension and fluency while working closely with her special education teachers, learning to self-advocate and effectively use her modifications. Her dedication has paid off, as she has maintained the A/B honor roll status for most of her middle school experience.

Lorielys will carry her motivation and skills into the future, as she wants to go to college to become a vet! She says "I know it will be hard but I won't give up. When something is difficult I try my best. I learned I always want to do better than the goals my teachers set for me. I'm going to prove to myself I will succeed."



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!