

Kentucky Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February [XX], 2024 – Rebecca Robertson of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, received the 2024 Yes I Can Award for Transition from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Rebecca will be honored this March along with other Yes I Can recipients at the CEC Convention and Expo in San Antonio, Texas.

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

Rebecca lives with a functional mental disability. Despite facing numerous obstacles, Rebecca embraced her exceptionalities and ignited positive change within her school community. Her ability to advocate for herself and others has been instrumental in ensuring that everyone meets their needs and that their environment is supportive and inclusive.

Rebecca's participation in the Ahrens Work Transition Program has been pivotal in her growth and accomplishments. Within this program, she gained valuable work skills, built her social skills, and gained independence by learning how to utilize public transportation. Equipped with work-based learning experiences, Rebecca has secured work transition experience within the hospitality industry.

Rebecca's unwavering commitment to her personal growth has allowed her to embrace new opportunities and explore the world around her.

Her nominator says, "Rebecca's transformative journey has profoundly impacted the entire school community. Through her remarkable determination and infectious positivity, she put smiles on the faces of everyone she encountered daily. Her warm-hearted nature, unwavering resilience, and exceptional advocacy skills have fostered a more inclusive and compassionate school climate."

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/>.