

## Michigan Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February 7, 2025 – Amanda Hanshaw of South Lyon, Michigan, received the 2025 Yes I Can Award for Transition from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Amanda will be honored this March along with other Yes I Can recipients at the CEC Convention and Expo in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Yes I Can Awards celebrate and honor the achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities while increasing public awareness of the abilities and aspirations of students with disabilities.

Amanda lives with cognitive impairment. Throughout her academic journey, she has demonstrated immense resilience and determination. She has been an active swimmer since childhood, having participated in her neighborhood swim clubs and her high school's swim team. In high school, she participated in Best Buddies and was a South Lyon High School Sideline Cheer Team member.

Amanda's self-advocacy skills blossomed throughout her schooling. Intending to go to college, she worked with her teachers to make modifications and accommodations to the curriculum and succeeded in her studies. She has started attending the University of Cincinnati's Transition and Access Pathway, where she lives on campus, and has started planning for a future career as a baker or working with animals.

Sue Toth, Director of Special Education at South Lyon Community Schools shares that Amanda's commitment and perseverance has allowed her to flourish and achieve her goals. Her hard work encourages her peers to continue toward their goals.

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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/>.