



For Immediate Release
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Louisiana Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February 7, 2025 - Jacob "Jac" Draper of Livingston, Louisiana, received the 2025 Yes I Can Award for Arts from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Jac 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.

Diagnosed with Autism and ADHD, Jac was able to sketch scenes of incidents at school to bridge communication barriers. Art also became therapeutic, a platform for hyper-focus, and a way to harness excessive energy. He was able to participate in the regular classroom with the aid of a paraprofessional, and art was used as a motivator.

Aside from private art classes at age 5, Jacob is primarily self-taught. He has utilized YouTube drawing and modeling tutorials to improve his natural ability. He has completed high school courses in Art I, Digital Media I, Digital Media II, and AP Studio Art 2D Design. These courses have offered instruction in techniques to better his craft and opportunities to achieve certifications.

Jacob has participated in numerous art competitions and showcases over the years. He has competed in the Livingston Parish Fair over the past four years and recently placed third with his digital art spider. He has submitted artwork for the Livingston Parish 4-H Art and Talent Showcase for the past 3 years; he has been awarded second place for pencil sketching and placed for digital art. He also earned 2nd place at 4-H Achievement Day for the Drug Awareness Poster Contest last year.

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/>.