



For Immediate Release
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California Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February 7, 2025 – Kenya Rodriguez of Riverside, California, received the 2025 Yes I Can Award for Technology from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Kenya 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.

Kenya is hard of hearing. When she started receiving Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) support in school during her freshman year of high school, she embraced the hearing assistance technology and actively engaged with other students with hearing loss. She eagerly shared information on her hearing aids and other assistive technology with others, encouraging them to use their own. Using her own experiences, Kenya served as a resource and encouraging voice for her peers.

Kenya is an active and involved student, participating in honors and AP classes, playing on her school's volleyball team, and seeking out leadership opportunities in her classes.

"Her achievements and use of technology are reflected in the classes she has taken and the grades she has maintained in her classes," Sarah Galvan, one of her teachers, shares, "Kenya is truly an exceptional student who has actively risen to the challenges of high school."

Kenya utilizes technology such as hearing aids, microphones in class to hear her teachers and peers, and a Phonak Dynamic Soundfield System.

"These tools have not only enhanced my learning experience but also empowered me to participate more fully," shared Kenya.



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/>.