



For Immediate Release
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Texas Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February 7, 2025 – Krishangi Shroff of Frisco, Texas, received the 2025 Yes I Can Award for Self-Advocacy from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Krishangi 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.

Krishangi lives with Usher Syndrome, which impacts her vision, hearing, and balance, and dyslexia. She is a fervent disability rights advocate, not only for herself but for others with disabilities. At the age of 11, she testified in front of the Texas State Board of Education to push for inclusive and fair policies that address the challenges that DeafBlind students face. Her testimony led to Texas issuing guidance that recognized dyslexia as a comorbidity for students with sensory disabilities.

Krishangi is an active advocate, addressing and presenting at conferences like the 9th Annual Texas Parent-to-Parent Conference and the Going Beyond vision Loss Summit, organized by the Florida Agency Serving the Blind. She has participated in lobbying on the local and national levels, speaking with her district's board, Texas governors, and federal offices like the Office of Special Education Programs.

"I want everyone to look at me the way they look at children without disabilities. I am full of potential. I am very intelligent. I just learn differently," shares Krishangi.

Her leadership and advocacy have been recognized through the Rarevoices Awards, the President's Gold Achievement Award, and the American Citizenship Awards. She has shared her thoughts, experiences, and creativities in various published works, including *Paths to Literacy* and *Dystinct Magazine*.

Krishangi plans to continue her advocacy work, with plans to launch a podcast and mentorship club for children with disabilities. Her long-term goals include studying law and working to create and pass legislation to support the disability community.

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/>.