



For Immediate Release
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Ohio Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February 7, 2025 – Obed West of Akron, Ohio, received the 2025 Yes I Can Award for Self-Advocacy from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Obed 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.

Obed lives with Dyslexia and Tourette Syndrome (TS). Upon learning of his diagnosis of Tourette Syndrome, his first response was about getting involved and advocating. With his perseverance and determination, West has risen as a leader within the TS community, meeting with political leaders in Ohio and Washington, DC, and mentoring fellow advocates.

“Having crossed paths with Obed five years ago, initially as a clinical director and now as VP of Medical Affairs at TAA, I have witnessed the remarkable qualities that make Obed truly exceptional.” shared Dr. Hermetet, who has worked closely with Obed since his TS diagnosis. “His openness, kindness, and unwavering engagement were apparent from our first meeting in Akron.”

Obed secured a scholarship to Malone University after competing at the Junior Olympics for Track and Field. He has also been awarded the Manhood Award from the Akron Council #547 of the Knights of Columbus for exceptional scholarship and leadership.

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/>.