

Texas Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February [XX], 2026 – Amelia Crespo Delgado of Aubrey, Texas, received the 2026 Yes I Can Award for Arts from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Amelia will be honored this March along with other Yes I Can recipients at the CEC Convention and Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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.

Amelia is a neurodivergent student with hearing loss who uses bilateral cochlear implants. Her family moved to Texas from Puerto Rico in order to provide Amelia with the best possible supports for her hearing loss. She attended the Melinda Webb School, gaining essential language and speech foundations, and later became the face of the school's Gift of Sound campaign, promoting the importance of early intervention. Amelia also attended Sunshine Cottage School for the Deaf, which played a very important and meaningful role in her hearing journey.

Through the support of her teachers, audiologists, therapists, and family, Amelia has developed her own artistic voice.

At age 10, Amelia illustrated her first published book, *Bee the One*, written by author Colleen Kugler, featuring characters with diverse abilities so readers could feel seen and included. At age 11, Amelia published her next book, *The Life of a Small Rock*, as both author and illustrator.

Passionate about giving back and advocacy, Amelia has donated drawings to celebrate different types of hearing devices and visited the Sunshine Cottage School for the Deaf to read her book to more than 80 students. She has also visited elementary schools during Diverse Abilities Week, where she shares her story and helps students better understand hearing loss, cochlear implants, ADHD, and the importance of inclusion.

"Her courage educated her peers about inclusion and accessibility, leaving a lasting impact," shares her nominator. "I want kids who wear cochlear implants and hearing devices to see the art and feel proud of their own devices too," says Amelia.

Thank you to Einstein Advocates for sponsoring the Yes I Can Awards.

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/>.



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