

New York Student Honored with International Award

Arlington, Va., February [XX], 2026 – Matthew Romero of Bellport, New York, received the 2026 Yes I Can Award for Technology from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Matthew 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.

Born with Arthrogryposis, Matthew has limited use of his arms and hands and utilizes assistive ambulatory devices, such as manual and power wheelchairs. His passion for technology has allowed the fifth grader to flourish, express his creativity, and increase his independence. Through his exploration of technology, Matthew can feed himself, type, write, paint, and more.

He is an active member of his school community and is a member of his school's wheelchair basketball team. He also participates in air hockey and surfing.

His nominator shares, “The words “I Can’t” are not in his vocabulary, rather he says how can I do this? He is the epitome of compassion, selflessness, and humility. I feel privileged to know him and to be part of his journey.”

“I could do anything I can put my mind to,” shares Matthew.

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/>.

