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Ohio Student to Receive International Award

Arlington, Va., April 11, 2017 – Jordyn Zimmerman of Hudson, Ohio, will receive a **2017 Yes I Can Award** from the **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**.

The Yes I Can program recognizes the accomplishments of 12 students with exceptionalities in six categories: academics, arts, school and community activities, self-advocacy, technology, and transition. CEC is proud to honor Jordyn with this award in the technology category.

Jordyn graduated from Mentor High School in 2016 and is now a freshman at Ohio University where she is studying education with a goal to "assist students who are intelligent internally, but who may need help showing their true potential."

At the age of 19, Jordyn's life took a turn when she discovered she could communicate using a text-to-speech application on an iPad. This discovery cleared the way for Jordyn to advocate for herself at school and shift the focus of her studies to the college preparatory courses she desired. After this change, Jordyn became a cheerleader for the inclusive cheer team and joined the speech and debate team, where she won District Student of the Year.

Jordyn was quick to turn her personal successes into service to others. In 2016, she organized a voice drive for VocaliD's Human Voicebank and interned as an elementary classroom assistant where she taught children about understanding and acceptance of individuals with disabilities.

Now, as a freshman in college, Jordyn has spoken at numerous professional development events and delivered a keynote address at the Building Learning Communities Education Conference in 2016.

Jordyn will receive her award at the Yes I Can Award Ceremony on April 21 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston as part of the CEC 2017 Convention & Expo.

For more information about CEC's annual convention, please visit www.cec.sped.org/convention. For more information about the Yes I Can Awards, please visit <http://www.cecconvention.org/yes-i-can-awards/>.

Learn more about the Council for Exceptional Children at www.cec.sped.org.



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