



For immediate release
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Michigan Student to Receive International Award

Arlington, Va., November 6, 2018 – Alexandra Allers, of Port Huron, Mich., will receive a 2019 Yes I Can Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

Alexandra Allers has benefited enormously from assistive technology. Through her strong will, intelligence, and dedication to learning how to access different technologies, she has had a remarkable high school career.

Being born with a visual impairment meant that Alexandra started using assistive technology at a very young age. She learned Braille and became so fluent that she participated in Braille reading competitions. She was proud that she won the Michigan Regional Braille Challenge, which resulted in being invited to California to compete in the National Braille Challenge, where she won third place at the varsity level. She continues to excel in school with the use of many types of technology such as Braille Note Touch, a laptop with voice output, various Apple products, and other adapted materials.

Early in her school career, Alexandra was known to be a quiet student. Now she is enrolled in Advanced Placement classes for Spanish, English, Science, and Math and volunteers in the National Honor Society. Her positive attitude and modeling of self-advocacy through the use of technology can also be seen outside of the classroom in her participation in marching band, drama, fundraisers such as “Stuff the Bus,” and other extracurricular activities.

Alexandra joined her high school's mock trial team as a freshman, which has inspired her to pursue a career as an attorney. “Unfamiliar with mock trial, I decided to attend the first meeting of the year out of curiosity. There, the advisor assigned me to a prosecuting attorney role,” explained Alexandra. “I was given the case materials and learned how to formulate direct and cross examinations using the witness statements. As I prepared my examinations and arguments for the criminal case, I discovered that many of the responsibilities of an attorney were in alignment with my interests.”

CEC is proud to honor Alexandra with this award in the technology category. Alexandra will receive her award at the Yes I Can Award Ceremony on February 1, 2019, at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, Ind., as part of the CEC 2019 Convention & Expo. 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.

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the educational success of children and youth with exceptionalities that accomplishes its mission through advocacy, standards, and professional development. Learn more about CEC at www.cec.sped.org.

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