



For immediate release

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Louisiana Student to Receive International Award

Arlington, Va., November 7, 2018 – Colin Schultz, of Denham Springs, La., will receive a **2019 Yes I Can Award** from the **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**.

When Colin Schultz was born, his parents were told that he would not be able to eat or speak and that he would face extreme physical as well as intellectual limitations. Today, Colin is excelling in academics as well as extracurricular activities.

Colin has been an honor roll student since starting school. His Advanced Placement Chemistry/Physics Teacher commented that he shines in the class discussions with insightful observations and the ability to articulate difficult concepts with a sense of humor. He always walks into the room with a smile on his face, ready for a challenge or to proudly demonstrate what he learned. His attitude is contagious to those around him.

Colin participated in SWELL (Students with Excellent Learning Levels) in elementary school and BETA club in middle school. He has talents in the area of visual art and was enrolled in honors classes and advanced placement classes for his entire high school career

Colin is currently a freshman in college, and he has never used his exceptionality as an excuse. Just the opposite, through perseverance he has developed excellent communication skills and work habits while continuing to receive speech therapy. Not only has he excelled in academics, but he has been a varsity soccer player on his high school's starting team and is now playing on his college team.

In Colin's words, "For me, I feel as if the achievements that I have accomplished have made me who I am today. They have inspired me to work hard for what I want and never give up. Early in my life with my disability, I could have chosen to give up and accept being labeled as a person with a disability. Although I technically am, the achievements that I have accomplished have allowed me to look past the term disabled and prove that I am as normal as every one of my peers."

CEC is proud to honor Colin with this award in the academics category. Colin will receive his 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.

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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.