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Kentucky Student to Receive International Award

Arlington, Va., November 6, 2018 – Danielle Pruitt, of Lexington, Ky., will receive a **2019 Yes I Can Award** from the **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**.

Danielle Pruitt is an inspiration to every middle school student. She holds herself to the highest academic expectations, never allowing her disability to prevent success in any endeavor she chooses.

“The reason I have these complications is I have a disease called SMA,” explained Danielle. “SMA stands for Spinal Muscular Atrophy. SMA limits my ability to move, which limits my ability to do things like everybody else. However, my brain works perfectly normal and I can talk very well. Because of this, I like to be treated like everybody else in school.”

Despite physical limitations, she maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout middle school, earned stellar scores on the PSAT (including over 90 percent in every sub-category), and scored a MAP Math score of 266 (98th percentile) and a MAP Reading score of 237 (88th percentile). Danielle is currently a freshman at Lafayette High and is enrolled in the Pre-Engineering Program.

CEC is proud to honor Danielle with this award in the category of academics. Danielle will receive her award at the Yes I Can Award Ceremony on Feb. 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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