



For immediate release
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Indiana Student to Receive International Award

Arlington, Va., November 6, 2018 – Mason Metzger, of Silver Lake, Ind., will receive a 2019 Yes I Can Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC).

Daily activities, routine for most of us, are sometimes challenges for Mason. But, Mason had a dream, and today he has achieved his dream of becoming a motivational speaker and an inspiration to everyone who meets him.

Mason was diagnosed at birth with spastic cerebral palsy and has received special education services throughout his schooling. He has pushed the limits in terms of physical activity by successfully participating in cycling, skiing, and water skiing. What is most impressive is how he has taken a childhood dream of being a motivational speaker and made it a reality.

Mason was the keynote speaker at the Warsaw Community Schools All Staff Convocation in August 2014, where he spoke to more than 500 professionals about pursuing his dream and enriching the lives of others. The response from the audience was overwhelming and that speech launched his career at the age of 15! Since then, Mason has spoken to over 50 audiences including area elementary, middle, and high schools. In 2015, Mason was invited to be the keynote speaker for the Grace College Disability Awareness Week hosted by the Grace College Chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children.

In addition to these speaking engagements, Mason was also invited to speak on the House floor of the Indiana State House of Representatives in 2017. “Mason delivered an amazing inspirational speech to the Indiana House of Representatives. He told us that through teamwork and unity we can accomplish great things. We were all inspired to work together to get things done to benefit all the people of Indiana. He brought us to laughter and got a standing ovation from the entire chamber,” shared Curt Nisly, Indiana State Representative.

Mason’s inspirational speeches have been centered around a variety of topics, many which stem from his personal challenges and experiences in life. These topics include making an impact, being empowered, overcoming challenges, being a leader, perseverance, working as a team, having a mission in life, and being a teenager with a strong work ethic. Since 2017, Mason has attended Indiana Wesleyan University and started his sophomore year earlier this fall.

CEC is proud to honor Mason with this award in the self-advocacy category. Mason 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.

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.