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**Contact:**  
Rick Morris, 703-625-8734, [rmorris@smithharroff.com](mailto:rmorris@smithharroff.com)  
Annie Baldauf, 703-264-9435, [annieb@cec.sped.org](mailto:annieb@cec.sped.org)

## **Illinois Student to Receive International Award**

**Arlington, Va., November XX, 2018 – Jonar Sardon**, of Worth, Ill., will receive a **2019 Yes I Can Award** from the **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**.

Jonar, a first-grader, is the youngest 2019 Yes I Can Award recipient. A remarkable attribute of his, is that even though he has a hearing impairment, music and dance have become his motivator to improve his academic and functional skills. In turn, Jonar has motivated his peers to engage more with music, and he has motivated both school staff and peers alike to increase their ability to sign within the classroom.

Even though he is a relatively quiet student, he has blossomed over the last school year and significantly improved his communication skills, movement coordination, balance, imitation, and dance skills. Jonar has motivated his peers to engage more with music and, through his signing—he has pushed staff and students to increase their knowledge and ability to use manual sign language, too.

Not only has Jonar inspired his peers, but he is always willing and at the ready to help his peers, especially when they show any fear or nervousness when it is time to sing and dance during movement breaks. When you see Jonar sing and dance, you can see the amazing progress he has made over the last year. His achievements and determination to reach his goals is beyond impressive to those that work with him.

CEC is proud to honor Jonar with this award in the Arts category. Jonar 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](http://www.cec.sped.org).

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