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## **New York Student to Receive International Award**

**Arlington, Va., November 8, 2018 – Rebecca Caron**, of Patchogue, N.Y., will receive a **2019 Yes I Can Award** from the **Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)**.

Rebecca Caron’s proudest achievement is the work she has done to help educate young people about Tourette syndrome. She has been a Youth Ambassador at the Tourette Association of America since 2017. Rebecca is an exceptional Youth Ambassador and has dedicated the past year toward building awareness, promoting anti-bullying campaigns, and advocacy efforts. These efforts have even garnered some attention, as she was featured on News 12 Long Island’s “12 Making a Difference.”

As a result of her work, Rebecca has had a large impact in her community. She has spoken to middle school, high school, and even college students. Her hopes are that her presentations can help destigmatize Tourette syndrome and prevent bullying. She has gone to Capitol Hill several times to meet with policy makers about the impact of federal legislation on the health and well-being of people with Tourette syndrome and to advocate for policies that improve the lives of people with this condition.

Rebecca is extraordinary because of her optimistic outlook, despite having faced some challenging moments in her life. She has had times when people have made fun of her, not understanding her tics and movements. She has confronted many of the myths and misconceptions surrounding Tourette syndrome through her work as a Youth Ambassador. No matter what, Rebecca remains both confident and positive.

Once Rebecca graduates high school, she would like to study psychology focusing on Tourette syndrome and eating disorders. She wants to use her own experiences to continue to help others. “Rebecca is truly remarkable and leaves a lasting impression on everyone she meets,” shared her nominator.

CEC is proud to honor Rebecca with this award in the school and community activities category. Rebecca 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.

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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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