**Louisiana CEC Yes I Can! Awards**

**2018**

The Council for Exceptional Children is a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities. CEC accomplishes its mission through advocacy, standards, and professional development.

The *Yes I Can!* Awards program honors and celebrates the achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities; encourage individuals to seek their highest potential; and increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of those with disabilities.

Nominations may be made by themselves, teachers, principals, related service providers, friends, and parents. **The nominator does not need to be a CEC member.**

The *Yes I Can!* Awards Review Committee will select 1 winner in each of the following categories:

* **Academics:** achievement in a particular subject area such as math, science, reading, social studies, language arts, or foreign language; overall academic achievement; or a high level of achievement on standardized tests.
* **Arts:** achievement in a particular medium such as music, art, drama, dance, or written expression.
* **School and Community Activities:** achievement in organized activities at the school or community level through groups such as school-based clubs/activities (yearbook, theater, debate, tutoring, peer mentoring, social, service) or community-based clubs/activities (volunteer work, Boy/Girl Scouts, places of worship, service, cleanup campaigns).
* **Self-Advocacy:** achievement in assuming practical responsibility for oneself, using knowledge of legal rights, advancing one’s goals, or effectively obtaining appropriate accommodations for oneself or others.
* **Technology:** achievement through the use of assistive and adaptive technology devices and equipment (computerized or otherwise).
* **Transition:** achievement in mastering activities that leads to successful experiences in the areas of work, vocational training, or independent living. Nominations should be made in only one of the three areas.

**State Award Benefits**

Each *Yes I Can!* Award winner will:

* Be invited to attend a special awards ceremony and celebration at the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children Super Conference Convention & Expo at the Cajun Dome Conference Center in Lafayette, LA.
* Receive a check for $100 and a plaque
* Be recognized on the LACEC website (http://community.cec.sped.org/la/home)

This competition is for the Louisiana State Council for Exceptional Children’s Yes I Can! Awards. The state’s winners will be nominated by the chapter for the National competition. If the nominee wins at the National level, they will be eligible for the following:

**National Award Benefits**

Each *Yes I Can!* Award winner will:

* Be invited to attend a special awards ceremony and celebration at the CEC Convention & Expo, and have his or her story featured in a special recognition display in the CEC Membership area in the Convention’s Expo Hall.
* Receive two nights’ accommodations at a convention-affiliated hotel.
* Receive a Yes I Can Award plaque.
* Be featured on CEC’s website ([www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)) and the CEC Convention website (www.cecconvention.org).
* Have his or her story shared and promoted by his/her hometown..
* Possibly be called upon by CEC to share his or her story to promote the *Yes I Can!* Awards program and to generally advocate for children and youth with exceptionalities.

**Each individual nominated for a *Yes I Can!* Award will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment.** Certificates are sent to the nominator, not the nominee.Braille and large-print certificates are available; please see Section B of the Nomination Form.

**Eligibility Requirements**

* Candidates must be 2–21 years of age when they are nominated.
* The nominee must have an identified disability.
* International nominations are encouraged..
* Posthumous nominations are not accepted.
* Past Yes I Can Award recipients are not eligible for re-nomination

**Award Selection Considerations**

* The Selection Committee looks at not only the nominee’s achievements, but also the severity of the nominee’s disability in relation to his or her achievements.
* In the event of a tie, additional weight will be given to the nominee from a CEC member or unit.

**Rules and Instructions for Nomination**

* Each candidate may be nominated in **one category only.**
* **Nominations will be accepted electronically via e-mail to** [**lacecawards@gmail.com**](mailto:lacecawards@gmail.com)**.** If you are unable to submit the nomination materials electronically, please contact <http://community.cec.sped.org/la/contactus> for more information.
* **All materials submitted become the property of LACEC and will not be returned.**
* All nomination materials (including letters of recommendation and additional documentation) must be submitted together, no later than **November 1, 2017. Incomplete nominations will not be considered for selection.**
* All completed submissions will receive a confirmation e-mail within 3 buisness days.
* Awards recipients will be selected in **December 2017**. All nominators will receive notification or the committee’s decisions at that time.
* Each candidate must be nominated by one individual (e.g.,teacher, principal, related service provider, friend, parent). The nominator does not need to be a CEC member.

**How to Complete and Submit the Nominating Form**

* The nomination packet is divided into seven sections. To facilitate review, the nomination packet should be organized as follows:
  + **Section A:** Nominee Category Sheet

Double-check that the nominee’s name is spelled correctly on ALL materials, as it

will be printed on his/her Certificate of Accomplishment.

* + **Section B:** Nominee Information
  + **Section C:** Nominator Information
  + **Section D:** Statement of Achivement
  + **Section E:** Supporting Documentation
    - * **The nomination packet must include two letters of recommendation.**
      * The letters should state **why the nominee deserves the award,** particularly in the area in which the nomineet is nominated, and **any obstacles the nominee has overcome.**
        + One letter must come from a professional educator (e.g., teacher, principal, school administrator, counselor, consultant, educational assistant).
        + The second letter may come from an educator or other individual who knows the student well (e.g., teacher, principal, counselor, parent, student).
  + **Section F:** Additional Documentation (**optional** but encouraged)
    - * Limit: three additional forms of documentation (PDF, Word document, music file, etc. Each of the aforementioned would count as one form of documentation.). **Only three forms of documentation will be judged.**
  + **Section G:** Nominee Photo
    - * **Please include one high-resolution color headshot photo** of the student in JPG, GIF, or TIFF format. The photo must be print-quality.
  + **Section H:** Video Documentation

Videos should be no more than 5 minutes in length.

Videos should support the Statement of Achievement (Section D) indicating why the nominee deserves this award. This video should highlight the nominee’s work/achievements, his or her daily life, or a statement from the nominee about the impact that his or her accomplishments have had.

* Complete the entire Nomination Form (sections A-G), providing specific information about the nominee. The more complete and detailed the information, the better. *Make sure you provide information that addresses the nominee’s achievements in the category in* *which he or she is nominated.*
* Double-check that the nominee’s name is spelled correctly on ALL materials, as it will be printed on his or her Certificate of Accomplishment.
  + **Submit one e-mail with all nomination materials to CEC Headquarters at lacecawards@gmail.com by November 1, 2018.**
  + Additional documentation (e.g., newspaper articles, certificates of achievement, artwork) must be scanned and included as images or PDF files and count toward the three additional documentation limit.
  + Please use the file name to **clearly label** all files submitted (e.g., “John\_Smith\_2012YesICan.doc” or “John\_Smith\_Nomination\_Form.doc” or “John\_Smith\_Recommendation\_1.doc”).

**2018 *Yes I Can!* Awards Nomination Form**

All applications must be typed using a 12-point font. Handwritten forms will not be reviewed.

**All nominations must be received no later than Novenber 1, 2018, email to:** [lacecawards@gmail.com](mailto:lacecawards@gmail.com)

**For Questions**, please email [lacecawards@gmail.com](mailto:lacecawards@gmail.com)

**Section A: Nominee Category Sheet**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please check only ONE category of achievement.**

* **Academics:** achievement in a particular subject area such as math, science, reading, social studies, language arts, or foreign language; overall academic achievement; or a high level of achievement on standardized tests.
* **Arts:** achievement in a particular medium such as music, art, drama, dance, or written expression.
* **School and Community Activities:** achievement in organized activities at the school or community level through groups such as school-based clubs/activities (yearbook, theater, debate, tutoring, peer mentoring, social, service) or community-based clubs/activities (volunteer work, Boy/Girl Scouts, places of worship, service, cleanup campaigns).
* **Self-Advocacy:** achievement in assuming practical responsibility for oneself, using knowledge of legal rights, advancing one’s goals, or effectively obtaining appropriate accommodations for oneself or others.
* **Technology:** achievement through the use of assistive and adaptive technology devices and equipment (computerized or otherwise).
* **Transition:** achievement in mastering activities that leads to successful experiences in the areas of work, vocational training, or independent living. Nominations should be made in only one of the three areas.

**Section B: Nominee Information**

*Please type your responses on the nomination form.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full Name of Nominee**  **(please check spelling)** |  |
| **Street Address** |  |
| **City and State/Province** |  |
| **Zip/Postal Code** |  |
| **Nominee’s Sex** |  |
| **Nominee’s Age** |  |
| **Nominee’s Birthdate** |  |
| **Nominee’s Disability** |  |
| **Parent/Guardian Name(s)** |  |
| **Home Phone** | ( ) |
| **Work Phone** | ( ) |
| **Cell Phone** | ( ) |
| **Parent/Guardian E-mail Address** |  |
| **Nominee’s School and Grade Level** |  |
| **School Phone Number** | ( ) |
| **School Fax Number** | ( ) |
| **School E-mail Address** |  |
| **Principal’s Name** |  |
| **Principal’s E-mail Address** |  |
| **School District** |  |
| **Please indicate whether a Braille or large-print certificate is needed.** |  |

**Section C: Nominator Information**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nominator’s Name** |  |
| **Street Address** |  |
| **City** |  |
| **State/Province** |  |
| **Zip/Postal Code** |  |
| **Home Phone** | ( ) |
| **Work Phone** | ( ) |
| **Cell Phone** | ( ) |
| **Fax Number** | ( ) |
| **E-mail Address** |  |
| **How do you know the nominee?** |  |
| **Are you a CEC member?** |  |
| **If yes, list your CEC ID number** |  |
| **If this nomination is being made by a CEC State/Provincial Affiliate or Division, please indicate the state, province, or division name** |  |
| **Nominator’s Signature** |  |
| **Date** |  |

**The Certificate of Accomplishment will be sent to the nominator, not the nominee.**

**Section D: Statement of Achievement**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Responses to the questions below must be typed and double-spaced in a 12-point font. Please use 8.5” x 11” white paper with one-inch top, left, right, and bottom margins. Handwritten forms will not be reviewed.**

**1. Background Information**

A. Describe in 150 words or less why this nominee deserves to receive this award.

B. Describe in 150 words or less the challenges this student encountered prior to his or her current accomplishments (e.g., difficulty with reading).

C. Describe in 150 words or less this nominee’s exceptionality/exceptionalities.

D. Describe in 150 words or less the current type of special education services provided to the nominee (e.g., general education class with special education consultation, inclusion, special education classes).

**2. Describe the student’s accomplishments *in the category in which he or she is nominated*.**

(Consider creativity, innovation, and significance of the student’s accomplishments to the individual and others.)

A. Describe in 150 words or less the nominee’s achievements and accomplishments in his or her category of nomination. You can add appendices demonstrating examples of the nominee’s achievement.

B. Describe the setting in which the accomplishments occurred (*i.e.,* home, school, community, work).

C. Describe in 150 words or less the impact of the nominee’s accomplishments on him or herself and others.

**3. Systems Supports**

A. In 100 words or less, describe how your community or school system supported this nominee.

Please note that if the nominee is selected as a recipient, the responses to the questions above may be used by CEC for awards and publicity purposes.

*For publicity purposes, please fill out the following information.*

News Outlet Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Section E: Supporting Documentation**

1. **The nominations packet must include two letters of recommendation.** One letter must come from a professional educator (teacher, principal, school administrator, counselor, consultant, educational assistant, etc.). The second letter may come from an educator or other individual who knows the student well (teacher, principal, counselor, parent, student, etc.).

The letters should state **why the nominee deserves the award,** particularly in the area in which the nominee is nominated, and **any obstacles the student has overcome.**

2. Suggested supporting documentation for each category:

* **Academics—**school transcripts, report cards, accelerated programs, academic awards, work samples, statement of change in student’s academic achievement
* **Arts—**copies of artwork, event programs, CDs or DVDs of music, dance performances, drama performances, etc.
* **Community Service—**certificates, record of activities, awards, statements from group leaders
* **Employment—**employment history, performance reviews, statements from employers/transition officers/co-workers, certificates, awards
* **Extracurricular Activities—**record of activities, statements from activity leaders, certificates, awards
* **Independent Living Skills—**record of progress made in acquiring skills, statement of achievement from teacher or coach
* **Self-Advocacy—**statement of how the student educates others (teachers, students, community) on their needs or the needs of others with disabilities; examples of the accommodations the student has requested to enhance learning and accessibility
* **Technology—**record of technology used, how it has impacted the student or others, skills the student has learned through technology use

**Section F: Additional Documentation (Optional)**

Following are suggestions for additional documentation that may be provided:

Limit: three additional forms of documentation (PDF, Word document, music file, etc. Each of the aforementioned would count as one form of documentation.). **Only three forms of documentation will be judged.**

* Candidate’s personal comments on achievement **(highly recommended)**
* Newspaper articles
* Documentation of other awards or recognition for achievement
* Other relevant information about the nominee

**Section G: Nominee Photo**

* + - * **Please include one high-resolution color headshot photo** of the nominee in JPG, GIF, or TIFF format. The photo must be print-quality.

**Section H: Video Documentation**

Videos should be **no more than 5 minutes in length**.

Videos should support the Statement of Achievement (Section D) indicating why the nominee deserves this award. This video should highlight the nominee’s work/achievements, his or her daily life, or a statement from the nominee about the impact that his or her accomplishments have had.

The following are suggestions for nominee video content for each category:

**Academics**—display/discussion of school transcripts, report cards, accelerated programs, academic awards, work samples, statement of change in student’s academic achievement.

**Arts**—copies of artwork, event programs, recordings of student’s musical performances, dance performances, drama performances, and so on.

**School &Community Activities**—record of activities, statements from activity leaders, visual display of certificates, awards.

**Self‐Advocacy**—statement of how the student educates others (teachers, students, community) on their needs or the needs of others with disabilities; examples of the accommodations the student has requested to enhance learning and accessibility.

**Technology**—nominee using their technology in everyday situations, record of technology used, how it has impacted the student or others, skills the student has learned through technology use.

**Transition**—employment history, performance reviews, certificates, awards, statement of achievement from employers/co‐workers/teachers/coaches/transition officers, record of progress made in acquiring work, vocational, or independent living skills.

Videos should be uploaded to YouTube or another video sharing service, and the link should be provided with the nomination.

Here are some videos to use as a guide:

**Karlyn Frahm-2016 Yes I Can Award Recipient in the transition category (shows a day in the life**) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0Mrn9mS-ww>

**Alex Campbell-2016 Yes I Can Award Recipient in the self-advocacy category (highlights his achievements)** <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B6Oz8XqQoJX0LWFqWlBMWFV3ems&usp=drive_web>

Please e-mail [lacecawards@gmail.com](mailto:lacecawards@gmail.com) with any questions.

Thank you for your nomination for a 2018 Yes I Can Award.