

For Immediate Release

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## **Indianapolis Teen to Receive International Award for Students with Disabilities**

**ARLINGTON, VA, March 22, 2013**—Michaela “Mickey” Deputy, 15, has overcome many challenges in life with a positive attitude, now using that attitude to make a difference in her community. Because of her achievements, Mickey will receive a 2013 Yes I Can! Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) at the Yes I Can! Award Ceremony on Friday, April 5, at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio, as part of the CEC 2013 Convention & Expo.

CEC is an international membership organization composed of special and gifted education professionals who work to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy.

Each year, the Yes I Can! program recognizes the accomplishments of 21 students. Awards are given in seven categories: academics, arts, athletics, school and community activities, self-advocacy, technology, and transition. CEC is proud to honor Mickey with this award in the school and community activities category.

“The Yes I Can! Awards were developed to recognize the accomplishments of students with disabilities who have achieved remarkable things,” says CEC President Christy A. Chambers. “Mickey is most deserving of this award for her hard work and perseverance.”

In Mickey’s short life, she has undergone heart surgery due to complications of Down syndrome, as well as survived leukemia. Since 2008, Mickey has been extraordinarily active in her community, consistently speaking about her story as a leukemia survivor and volunteering throughout her community. To celebrate her 16th birthday, Mickey will participate in the 2013 Nike Women’s Half-Marathon in San Francisco, as the first leukemia survivor who has Down syndrome to register.

She was chosen to appear on promotional materials for the Governor's Council on People with Disabilities in 2009 and chosen as a Riley Hospital for Children Champion/Ambassador in 2012. Mickey also served as a fashion model for Down Syndrome Indiana; participated as a volleyball manager at school; delivered supplies on a mission trip to Nicaragua; and worked as a spokesperson for the Indiana Blood Center, among a variety of other accomplishments.

“Her indefatigable spirit and inspiring resolve to better the world around her convince even the most skeptical,” said Timony Lankford, Mickey’s nominator. “At school, Michaela offers her friendship not only to her classmates, but to early elementary students struggling to feel comfortable in the veritable sea that is school. I believe her list of accomplishments speaks for itself and her effect on community members is simply astoundingly.”

For more information about CEC’s annual convention, please visit [www.cec.sped.org/convention](http://www.cec.sped.org/convention). For more information about the Yes I Can! Awards, please visit [www.cec.sped.org/yesican](http://www.cec.sped.org/yesican).

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