
Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrea Elkin
703-264-9481
andreae@cec.sped.org

Winston-Salem Student to Receive Award for Students with Disabilities

ARLINGTON, VA, March 22, 2013— As a student who is twice exceptional, Asha B. Gandhi, 12, soars above her peers academically. Because of her achievements, Asha 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 Asha with this award in the academics 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. “Asha is most deserving of this award for her hard work and perseverance.”

When she started school, Asha’s teachers focused on accommodating her deaf-blindness and other disabilities. By third grade, Asha was exceeding her peers academically and she was placed in a gifted program. Her accomplishments include winning first place in the science fair in kindergarten-2nd grade, as well as placing first in the National PTA Reflections Program from 2007–2010.

While reading is difficult for Asha, her teachers say you won’t see her without a book in her hand. “Never before have I seen a child with such thirst for knowledge. Always inquisitive, always exploring, always reading: that was, and is, Asha,” said Donna Hunt, Asha’s teacher.

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

###