



**The 2010
North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children
Yes I Can! Awards Program**

*Please read all criteria and guidelines carefully before completing the following application.
Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the Selection Committee.*

The *Yes I Can!* International Awards Program was established in 1981 to celebrate the achievements of children and youth with disabilities; to encourage children and youth with disabilities to seek their highest potential; and to increase public awareness of the abilities, aspirations, and personal qualities of people with disabilities.

Each year children and youth with disabilities are recognized for their accomplishments through the *Yes I Can!* Awards Program. *Yes I Can!* Awards nominations will be accepted in the following categories:

- ◆ Academics
- ◆ Arts
- ◆ Athletics
- ◆ Community Service
- ◆ Employment
- ◆ Extracurricular Activities
- ◆ Independent Living Skills
- ◆ Self-Advocacy
- ◆ Technology

Each individual nominated for the *Yes I Can!* Awards Program will receive a Certificate of Achievement personally inscribed with his/her name suitable for framing. Certificates will be mailed for all nominees in each category in January 2010. The top award recipients will be presented with a plaque at the awards ceremony and luncheon.

The top award winners will be notified in mid December 2009 and invited to attend a special awards ceremony luncheon and celebration of success, which is held in conjunction with the North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Conference. The NCCEC conference will be held January 27-29, 2010 in downtown Wilmington, NC. The awards luncheon will be held on Thursday January 28, 2010. At this luncheon the "Yes I Can!" award winner will be invited to say a few words along with the person making the nomination.

To nominate:

- ◆ Nominees for the *Yes I Can!* International Awards Program must be children and youth up to 21 years old.
- ◆ Each nominee is eligible in only ONE category.

Send nomination forms to:

**Jennifer Diliberto
Greensboro College
815 West Market Street
110 Proctor East
Greensboro, NC 27401-1875**

****ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN December 1, 2009.**

If you have any questions, please email Jennifer Diliberto at nc.cec.sped@gmail.com

YES I CAN! INTERNATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

To nominate a child or youth with a disability for *Yes I Can!* International Awards, follow the directions below:

1. The nominator must complete a nomination form, providing specific information about the nominee. The more complete and detailed the information, the better.
2. In the event of a “tie” in one of the categories additional weighting is given to nominations from a CEC unit.
3. Each applicant must be nominated in **one category only**.
4. Please **type** all information. The Selection Committee will not review handwritten forms.
5. Please answer all questions.
6. Photos, and news clippings that help to support the nomination are encouraged and may be submitted.
7. Certificates will be sent directly to the nominator.
8. All nomination materials (including supporting documentation) must be submitted and mailed in the same packet.
9. **Please submit application and nomination materials to:**

**Jennifer Diliberto
Greensboro College
815 West Market Street
110 Proctor East
Greensboro, NC 27401-1875**
10. Nomination forms must be postmarked **no later** than December 1, 2009.

NC-CEC Yes I Can! Awards Nomination Form

Applications must be typed using a 12 point font. Handwritten forms will not be reviewed. Electronic versions of this form available on our website: <http://nccec.coe.edu> or by emailing Jennifer Diliberto at nc.cec.sped@gmail.com.

All nominations must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2009. Mail to:

**Jennifer Diliberto
Greensboro College
815 West Market Street
110 Proctor East
Greensboro, NC 27401-1875**

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, foreign language, etc. or a high level of achievement on standardized tests, etc.

_____ **ARTS** – achievement in a particular medium such as music, art, drama, dance, or written expression, etc.

_____ **ATHLETICS** – achievement in motor skills or a particular activity through a setting such as intramurals, Special Olympics, physical education classes, or after-school athletic activities

_____ **COMMUNITY SERVICE** – contributions to the community through activities such as volunteer work, youth work, clean-up campaigns, etc.

_____ **EMPLOYMENT** – achievement through work experience in either workshop settings or the competitive job market

_____ **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY** – achievement in organized activities through groups such as Boy/Girl Scouts, church, clubs, or other activities

_____ **INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS** – achievement in mastering activities for daily self-sufficiency such as personal hygiene, cooking, dressing, use of public transportation, etc.

_____ **SELF-ADVOCACY** – achievement in assuming practical responsibility for oneself, using knowledge of legal rights, advancing one's goals, and/or effective in obtaining appropriate accommodations for oneself or others

_____ **TECHNOLOGY** – significant achievement through the use of computerized devices and equipment

Yes I Can! Awards
Section B: Nominee Information

Full Name of Nominee (please check spelling)	
Street Address	
City	
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	()
Parent/Guardian E-mail Address	
Nominee's School	
School Phone Number	()
School Fax Number	()
School E-mail Address	
Principal's Name	
Principal's E-mail Address	
School District	
Please check if a Braille certificate is needed.	

Yes I Can! Awards
Section C: Nominator Information

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominator's Name	
Street Address	
City	
State/Province	
Zip/Postal Code	
Home Phone	()
Work 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 Achievement will be sent to the nominator, not the nominee.

Yes I Can! Awards
Section D: Background Information

Name of Nominee: _____

1. Background Information

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

Has the student's educational services changed in the past two years? If yes, describe those changes in 50 words or less.

(Section D continued on next page)

Section D—Continued Name of Nominee: _____

2. Describe the student's accomplishments *in the category in which he/she is nominated*. (Consider creativity, innovation, and significance of the student's accomplishments to the individual and others.)

A. Describe the student's achievements and accomplishments in 150 words or less. You can add appendices that show examples of the student'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 student's accomplishments on him- or herself and/or others.

3. Systems Supports

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

Yes I Can! Awards
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). The second letter may come from an educator or other individual who knows the student well (teacher, principal, counselor, parent, student). The letters should state:
 - A. Why the student deserves the award, particularly in the area in which the student is nominated
 - B. Any obstacles the student has overcome

2. Suggested student 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, CDs of music, dance performances, drama performances, programs
 - Athletics—awards, teams participated in, statements from athletic directors or P.E. teachers
 - 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/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/accessibility
 - Technology—record of technology used, how it has impacted the student or others, skills the student has learned through technology use

Yes I Can! Awards
Section F: Additional Documentation (Optional)

Following are suggestions for additional documentation that may be provided:

1. Candidate's personal comments on achievement (**highly recommended**)
2. Newspaper articles
3. Documentation of other awards or recognition for achievement
4. Other information about the nominee