



Press Release: Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Announces 2024 Kennedy Shriver Student Achievement Award Recipient

(For Immediate Release)

January 12, 2024

The Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce Cameron Birch as the recipient of the 2024 Kennedy Shriver Student Achievement Award. This award recognizes individuals with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities who excel in one of the following areas: academics, arts, athletics, community service, employment, extracurricular activities, independent activities, technology, and self-advocacy.

Cameron, a 17-year-old high school student from North Carolina, is recognized for his excellent achievements in school. Nominators commend his dedication to learning and note his remarkable growth as both a student and a young man. According to his teacher, Amber Radford, Cameron is "an outgoing, conversation-initiating, kind young man who is happy to be at school each day with friends and teachers." Laura Standfield, another nominator, highlights Cameron's consistent care for others and his positive demeanor, mentioning that he "is always considerate of everyone and has a great smile on his face every day."

This distinguished award is presented by The Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD), a special interest association within the Council for Exceptional Children—the largest international professional organization dedicated to supporting the needs of students with disabilities. Since its establishment in 1963, DADD has been a leading voice in the field of education for students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities, actively contributing to research dissemination, the creation of nationally recognized professional practice standards, and fostering robust professional networking. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place at DADD's annual conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, on January 18, 2024.

For further information, please contact Dr. Jordan Shurr, DADD Awards Chair, at j.shurr@queensu.ca. Additional details about the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities can be found at <http://www.daddcec.com/>.