



***Division on
Autism and
Developmental
Disabilities***

Press Release: Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Announces 2026 Shriver Kennedy Student Achievement Award

(For Immediate Release)

January 5, 2026

The Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) is pleased to announce Jared Erwin as the 2026 Shriver Kennedy Student Achievement Award recipient. This award recognizes students with autism, intellectual disability, or other developmental disabilities who excel in one or more of the following areas: academics, arts, athletics, community service, employment, extracurricular activities, independent activities, technology, and self-advocacy.

Jared Erwin is a graduate of Sinclair Community College's Tartan Transition Option in Postsecondary Education (TOPS) program and a current student in the Respiratory Care associate degree program at Sinclair. Throughout his postsecondary journey, Jared has demonstrated exceptional academic commitment, maintaining a GPA consistently above 3.7 while completing college-credit coursework and meeting rigorous program prerequisites. He is currently pursuing his goal of becoming a respiratory therapist while working as a Respiratory Equipment Technician at a local hospital, where he supports respiratory therapists and gains hands-on experience aligned with his career aspirations.

Faculty and community members consistently highlight Jared's well-rounded achievements across academics, employment, and service. One nominator noted that Jared "proved up to the challenge" of balancing demanding coursework with professional responsibilities, while others emphasized his leadership and service through Scouting America, where he has earned the rank of Eagle Scout and serves in mentoring roles for younger scouts. Widely regarded as a role model by peers, Jared exemplifies perseverance, responsibility, and a commitment to giving back.

This distinguished award is presented by DADD, a special interest association within the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), the largest international professional organization dedicated to supporting students with disabilities. Since 1963, DADD has been a leading voice in educating students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities, contributing to research dissemination, developing professional practice standards, and fostering robust professional networking.

The award ceremony is scheduled for January 16, 2026, at DADD's annual conference in Long Beach, CA. For further information, please contact DeVoshia Mason Martin, DADD Awards Chair, at awardschair@daddcec.com. Additional details about the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities can be found at <http://www.daddcec.com/>.