

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

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ASD MEMORANDUM #272 (2008-2009)

April 13, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF 2009 "YES I CAN!" WINNER, BRYAN ARNOLD

ASD Goal: *Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by honoring and recognizing exceptional students.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

Steller Secondary School and King Career Center student Bryan Arnold was named a 2009 "Yes I Can!" award winner by the Council for Exceptional Children, an international organization for special education teachers.

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Each year, CEC honors 27 students who have excelled despite their disability. A selection committee looks at what the nominees have achieved in relation to their disabilities, and the impact of these achievements on the students and their communities.

Arnold was chosen in the Self-Advocacy category for a movie he produced about living with muscular dystrophy and acceptance of people like him. This movie was aired during the local Labor Day telethon and on the Channel 2 Newshour this past fall.

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"Winning this award shows that overcoming your challenges can bring great things," said Arnold, who traveled to Seattle earlier this month to accept the award. "I have gotten many e-mails from across the state from teachers that have shown my movie to their students. The teachers have said I have made a difference...the award is just icing on the cake."

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This is a request to officially recognize Bryan Arnold for his outstanding and admirable achievements in his efforts to educate his fellow students.

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CC/HS/DS

Prepared by: David Shurtleff, Communications Specialist

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Approved by: Heather Sawyer, Executive Director of Communications