**Press Release:** *Council for Exceptional Children’s Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities* gives award to exceptional student

(For immediate release)

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The awards committee for the *Council for Exceptional Children’s Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities* announced today that the 2022 Shriver-Kennedy Student Achievement Award will be given to William Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald is currently a public speaking and communications major at the Think College program at Winthrop University. He has been selected for his exemplary achievement, leadership, and service, including attaining Eagle Scout ranking at the age of 15, making him the youngest Eagle Scout with Down Syndrome, and starting the nonprofit William’s Community Support Program, focused on feeding the hungry, among other noteworthy activities. According to nominator, Dr. Jenny Root from Florida State University, “There are many things at which William Fitzgerald excels!” Mr. Fitzgerald describes his goal as that of an advocate for laws that support people with disabilities in reaching their goals and dreams. And notes, “I think I am setting a good example for inclusion everywhere.”

This prestigious 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 in the world dedicated to supporting the needs of students with disabilities. Originating in 1963, DADD is a leading voice in the field of education for students with autism, intellectual disability, and other developmental disabilities through research dissemination, active participation in the creation of nationally-recognized professional practice standards, and robust professional networking. The award ceremony will take place at DADD’s annual conference in Clearwater, Florida, in January 2022.

For more information, contact: Dr. Jordan Shurr, DADD Awards Chair: j.shurr@queensu.ca

Information on the Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities: <http://www.daddcec.com/>