



December 2024

# Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

## I'yana Howard

### Garfield Heights



I'yana Howard, a senior at Garfield Heights High School, is currently enrolled in the Health Careers program at CVCC, where she is mentored by instructor Patty Valukievic. I'yana's interest in the healthcare field was sparked by her grandmother, a phlebotomist at the Cleveland Clinic, and when the opportunity to join CVCC was presented, pursuing a career in health felt like the perfect fit. Among her favorite subjects in the program is anatomy, which she finds captivating. I'yana has a deep appreciation for Mrs. Valukievic, who she describes as *"strict in the best way."* She values the constructive criticism Mrs. Valukievic provides, explaining, *"She takes the time to break down what went wrong and why, always making sure we fully understand. She's straightforward, but it helps us grow."*

After graduation, I'yana will attend Ursuline College's Breen School of Nursing on a full scholarship to pursue her goal of being an RN! This incredible opportunity comes through her participation in the Howley Aspire Nurse Scholarship Program at the Cleveland Clinic, which provides a full scholarship to students who complete the program. The program provides hands-on learning experiences, mentorship from Cleveland Clinic nurses, and support through weekly sessions focused on clinical skills, academic success, and professional development. I'yana aspires to specialize in autoimmune diseases.

Outside of her academic pursuits, I'yana is an active member of the Step Team at Garfield Heights High School and seeks out shadowing opportunities to gain hands-on experience in healthcare. Her advice to future CVCC students is to take their program seriously: *"Take notes, study, and put in the effort—it's a lot of work, and it's not always easy, but I promise it's more than worth it."* Keep up the great work, I'yana!

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