



February 2025

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Ahlayah West

Garfield Heights



Ahlayah West, a senior at Garfield Heights High School, is thriving in CVCC's Medical Administrative Specialist (MAS) program, led by instructor Lisa Clements. Initially exploring options like Cosmetology and Culinary Arts, Ahlayah chose MAS because it seemed both fun and valuable for gaining receptionist experience. Her love for technology and socializing made it the perfect fit, and within days of starting, she knew she had made the right decision.

Through the MAS program, Ahlayah will earn certifications in CPR, Microsoft Office Specialist, and Medical Administrative Assisting (CMAA). She plans to enter the workforce immediately after graduation, aiming for a role in a hospital or nursing home—partly inspired by her older brother, who works as a caretaker.

One of Ahlayah's favorite aspects of the program is the "call assignments," where she and her classmates practice real-world phone interactions like scheduling appointments and handling billing. Beyond the classroom, she has embraced opportunities through Business Professionals of America (BPA), where she enjoys networking, professional development alongside her classmates, and competition. In January, Ahlayah showcased her skills at the BPA competitions, placing 1st in Business Law and Ethics, 3rd in Health Research Presentation, and 3rd in Medical Coding. She has now qualified to compete at the State BPA Competitions in Columbus this March!

Reflecting on her growth, Ahlayah shares, "I am much more on top of things this year than last. At CVCC, it's like having a job—you have to stay on top of things. I genuinely enjoy coming to school, especially because I've made great friends. We're always having fun while getting our work done."

Outside of school, Ahlayah balances a part-time job in the fast-food industry while enjoying time with friends, relaxing, cleaning, playing video games, and spending time outdoors with her dog. Keep up the great work, Ahlayah!

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