



February 2025

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Darren Fidel

North Royalton



Darren Fidel, a senior at North Royalton High School, is enrolled in CVCC's Digital Design program, led by Melissa Munro. His passion for photography sparked a few years ago when he began capturing nature and outdoor scenes with his Google Pixel phone. That love for photography ultimately drew him to the Digital Design program, where he was excited by the photo studio, creative projects, and hands-on learning opportunities.

After graduation, Darren plans to continue his education at Tri-C, with aspirations to possibly transfer to Kent State University in the future. His ultimate dream is to become a freelance photographer and creative, traveling the world to document its beauty and history.

Reflecting on his time at CVCC, Darren is grateful for how the program has helped him improve his skills, grow his confidence, and build lasting friendships. He appreciates the opportunity to be creative and develop a professional portfolio. "I really enjoy coming here. This program has made me realize what I want to do and achieve. I also need to thank Mrs. Munro—she always goes above and beyond to help her students, including connecting me with job opportunities." His favorite experiences have included working with professional photography equipment, using the in-class studio, and going on field trips to the West Side Market, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Akron Art Museum.

Beyond the classroom, Darren is an active participant in Business Professionals of America (BPA) and SkillsUSA. In BPA, he recently earned two 1st place awards in Advanced Desktop Publishing and Fundamentals of Desktop Publishing. In SkillsUSA, he placed 3rd in the Creative Sculpture Design Contest last year and is preparing to compete in the same competition at States again in March—this time aiming for 1st place!

At North Royalton High School, Darren has also been involved in video game club, board game club, chess club, and choir. In addition, he is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouts BSA. As part of his leadership journey, he recently contributed to a community project at Richfield Heritage Preserve, helping build benches, install grills, and enhance the park for visitors. Way to go, Darren! Keep up the amazing work.

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