

Alumni Spotlight

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Arianna Bennardo

Class of 2023



Arianna Bennardo, a 2023 graduate of Twinsburg High School and former student in CVCC's Construction Trades program instructed by Paul Yuravak, is a shining example of how early career exploration can shape a student's future. After hearing positive experiences from others, Arianna decided to attend CVCC, drawn to the hands-on learning environment that mirrored her own interests. Having spent years helping her dad renovate their home, she felt that Construction Trades was a natural next step and the perfect opportunity to turn a personal passion into a professional pathway.

Today, Arianna is a third-year student at Kent State University (KSU), majoring in Construction Management. Her college career has been filled with achievement and leadership: she has participated in six student competitions, completed four internships with general contractors across Ohio, and serves on both the Construction Management Student Organization Board and the Dean's Advisory Board at KSU.

Arianna credits much of her success to the strong foundation she built at CVCC. The combination of classroom instruction and real-world application prepared her well for college-level coursework and field experience. Entering KSU, she already had a solid understanding of safety, print reading, and estimating—skills she continues to apply in service projects through organizations like the Appalachia Service Project and Habitat for Humanity.

Her most meaningful accomplishments, however, extend beyond academics. In the past two years, Arianna has helped build four homes in Tennessee for families facing financial hardship or recovering from natural disasters. Leading a team of fifteen peers on these projects, she credits her time at CVCC, and especially the guidance of Mr. Yuravak, for helping her develop the leadership and confidence needed to take on such impactful work.

Reflecting on her journey, Arianna shares that her experience at CVCC taught her lessons that go far beyond the workshop. The program instilled in her a strong work ethic, a sense of purpose, and a passion for helping others. "I would not be the leader I am today if Mr. Yuravak had not pushed me to take part in situations I was not yet comfortable with. He saw greatness in me through a pane of glass when all I saw was a mirror."

Her advice to current and future CVCC students is to embrace every opportunity to get involved, even if it feels intimidating at first. She believes growth happens outside of your comfort zone and credits participation in SkillsUSA and other leadership activities for helping her become the confident, capable leader she is today. Keep up the incredible work, Arianna! We can't wait to see where your career in construction takes you next.

Written By: Makayla Robertson, CVCC Media Specialist

