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Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Alexa Ashcraft

North Royalton



Alexa Ashcraft, a student at North Royalton High School, is enrolled in CVCC's Health Careers program under the instruction of Patty Valukievic. Alexa has always considered herself an empath, with a strong passion for serving and caring for others—especially children. With a long-standing interest in becoming a PICU nurse, enrolling in the Health Careers program at CVCC felt like a natural fit. Last summer, Alexa further explored her interest in nursing by attending the Future Nurse Academy at University Hospitals, a two-week program designed to give high school students hands-on exposure to the nursing profession. This experience only strengthened her confidence in pursuing a career in healthcare.

"Alexa goes above and beyond to extend her learning outside of the traditional CVCC classroom," said Ms. Valukievic.

One of Alexa's favorite aspects of the Health Careers program has been connecting with students from a variety of school districts and exploring anatomy—an area she finds especially fascinating. She is also incredibly thankful for her instructor. "I'm so grateful for Ms. Valukievic. Before coming here, I didn't know basics like blood pressure or CPR, and now I feel confident in those skills. She's such a great instructor. I'm also class president, which is really cool—I'm grateful she saw that potential in me." Alexa also recently competed at HOSA Regionals, where she earned 3rd place in Biomedical Debate, qualifying for the HOSA State Conference this April in Toledo. Looking ahead, Alexa is excited to begin clinicals next school year, continue her involvement in HOSA, further building connections within the field, and working towards her CNA certification. After graduation, she plans to attend Kent State University to pursue her nursing degree, with the goal of becoming a registered nurse and working in the PICU after passing the NCLEX.

Outside of CVCC, Alexa is actively involved in the Howley ASPIRE Nurse Scholars Program at the Cleveland Clinic. At North Royalton High School, she serves as President of the Students Against Negative Decisions (STAND) Club and participates in Spanish Club, Key Club, Garden Club, Spirit Club, and Red Cross Club, all while taking AP courses. She also works at Dunkin' and, in her free time, enjoys shopping, spending time with friends, and hanging out with her twin brother. Her advice to students considering CVCC: "Don't be nervous. If there's a program that interests you, talk to the instructor, that's what I did. Explore your options and do your research. Just try, it's been the best experience ever. Plus, it's so nice having a break in the day between your homeschool and coming here. It's a totally different experience." Keep up the incredible work, Alexa!

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