



April 2026

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Julia Jurkiewicz

Independence



Julia Jurkiewicz, a student at Independence High School, is enrolled in CVCC's Sports Medicine Exercise Science program, instructed by Shawn Fahey. While Julia always knew she wanted to pursue a career in the medical field, she wasn't quite sure which path was right for her. Attending CVCC felt like the perfect opportunity to explore her options—especially after hearing positive feedback from her older brother, who is currently a year ahead in the same program. Now, Julia couldn't be more confident in her decision. She has loved her experience in the program and is strongly considering continuing in this field after graduation, with plans to further her education and pursue a career as a physician assistant. Drawn to the relational side of healthcare, Julia enjoys interacting with others and making meaningful connections.

"Being in a hands-on learning environment has made learning so much easier—I feel so much more prepared for life after high school," she shared. "It's a heavy workload, but I know it's preparing me for college and beyond, so I appreciate it. Mr. Fahey is an incredible instructor. Going from lectures to hands-on labs and seeing what we've learned applied in real life has made such a difference. He really takes the time to make sure we understand the material."

One of Julia's favorite experiences so far has been a recent field trip to the University of Mount Union, where her class explored the Department of Exercise, Sport, and Nutrition Sciences. Spending the day on campus with her classmates learning, exploring, and sharing lunch together made it a memorable and impactful experience. She has also enjoyed being involved in HOSA—Future Health Professionals this year.

Julia's hard work has not gone unnoticed. She was recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) at CVCC and is also a member of the National Honor Society (NHS) at Independence High School. Outside of the classroom, she stays busy competing in volleyball and track at Independence, as well as playing club volleyball for Academy Volleyball Cleveland (AVC). She is also an Eagle Scout through Scouting America (Boy Scouts of America), a testament to her dedication and leadership. In addition, Julia works at a nursing home and as a lifeguard. With what little free time she has, Julia's perfect day includes grabbing a fun drink in the morning and ending the evening at the beach, watching the sunset. Her advice to students considering CVCC? "Go for it! If you have any interest in a program, explore it now while it's offered to you for free rather than waiting until college." Way to go, Julia! We're so proud of all you've accomplished and can't wait to see what the future holds.

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