



September 2026

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Callista Lei Rountree Twinsburg



Callista Lei Rountree, a Twinsburg High School student enrolled in CVCC's Media Arts program, has always been drawn to the arts. Her older brother's positive experience at CVCC, and his ability to transition directly into a career after graduation, inspired her to consider the school. Ultimately, Callista knew she wanted to pursue a career in the arts and was excited by the creative opportunities CVCC could offer. Through Media Arts, Callista has found a place where she can express herself while developing valuable professional skills. One of her favorite projects so far was a music video she wrote, directed and edited alongside her classmates. "The Media Arts program has allowed me to express myself in a creative way. I used to struggle with the motivation and anxiety around school, but that shifted here because I'm doing what I love and constantly have the opportunity to be myself and express who I am through different forms of art. Now I want to show up and express myself."

Callista earned her Adobe Certified Professional certification in Digital Video using Premiere Pro last school year and continues to work toward additional certifications. She has also gained hands-on, real-world experience through a work-based learning opportunity with The Cleveland Film Company. After meeting the company's team while they were working on a project at Twinsburg High School, Callista introduced herself and later reached out about potential work-based learning opportunities. Since then, she has jumped in wherever needed when she can—from assisting with production setup and interviews to communicating with clients, managing traffic and helping with other aspects of the production process. The experience has given her valuable exposure to professional equipment and real-world production environments, and some of the footage she helped capture has even been featured in client demos! After high school, Callista hopes to pursue a career as a music video director, combining her passions for music, storytelling and visual art. Outside of the classroom, Callista serves as the student leader of the GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) club at Twinsburg High School, a student organization that provides support and community for LGBTQ+ students and allies. She has been involved with the club since her freshman year and says it will be bittersweet to pass the leadership role on to someone else when she graduates. When she's not at school, Callista is often creating in some form—painting, making jewelry, playing music or working on film—or enjoying time outdoors. She hopes to become involved with Summit Metro Parks this year and is passionate about preserving the beauty and history of the world around her, from art and nature to the stories and memories that can easily be lost over time. For students considering CVCC, Callista encourages them to take the opportunity to explore what the school has to offer: "It is such a welcoming space here, and the Media Arts program specifically has allowed me to be creative while also being professional. I couldn't recommend the program more." Keep up the great work, Callista! We're so excited to see all the amazing things you create and accomplish.

Written By: Makayla Taylor, CVCC Media Specialist



8001 Brecksville Rd.



www.cvccworks.edu



info@cvccworks.edu



CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CAREER CENTER