

PCTI STUDENT OF THE MONTH

December 2017

The Power of Perseverance DENISSE VARGAS

Denisse Vargas is a kind young woman who's long dreamed of working with children. This Clifton local eagerly embraced her passion as a member of the School of Education and Human Services.

"My mom was a teacher so she always practiced her lesson plans on me. It was something I grew up around. I was always in the classroom."

Denisse was recently inducted into both the World Language Honor Society and the National Honor Society. She was selected for the Circle of Success and has been involved in LEAP, SkillsUSA, the Future Educators Association as Vice President, ERASE, History Club, and the GSA. She's a student ambassador and a class representative and volunteers as a Teacher's Assistant in the Innovative Educational Programs of Paterson, as well as at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, and much more.

Denisse ranks in the top seven percent of her class with a GPA of 4.06. She has the potential to graduate with seventeen college credits!

One of her greatest ambitions was to be nominated as a student of the month, which she achieved! A notable quality of this warm-hearted Bulldog is her dedication to pushing past her comfort zone. Denisse thoroughly enjoys working with



children, but when it comes to expanding her educational horizons, she's willing to try something different. "I can always pursue a career as a teacher. It will always be there, but I've also discovered a passion for medicine and pediatrics."

When asked how she arrived as this conclusion, Denisse replied that working with the Head Start program gave her

a different perspective. "I went from learning about speech pathology, to medicine, to eventually combining it with my desire to help children," she explains. "I'm an active learner, so a career path as a Pediatrician should keep me occupied for quite a while."

Denisse has applied to Montclair State University, Rutgers University, William

Paterson University, and Seton Hall University. She will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Biology and will eventually obtain both Master's and Doctorate degrees.

This ambitious young woman has some powerful advice for her fellow classmates. "PCTI lit this fire in me for learning. I don't want to have any regrets in life, and the only way to truly achieve that is to step outside the box and try new things, to go for something - even if it scares you."

Congratulations on your accomplishments, Denisse! Your stellar work ethic will ensure success in all future endeavors.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ranks in the top 7% of her class
- Will graduate with a potential 17 college credits
- Selected for WLHS, NHS, & Circle of Success
- Vice President of FEA; involved in LEAP, SkillsUSA, ERASE, History Club, & GSA; student ambassador & class representative
- Volunteers as Teacher's Assistant in Innovative Educational Programs of Paterson and at St. Anthony of Padua Parish
- Goal: Graduate from a university with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, obtain Master's & Doctorate degrees, become a Pediatrician