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INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE SENIOR ACCEPTED AT JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Emily Cruz focused on a career in the medical field

***Photo attached: Emily Cruz headshot***

PATERNON – Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer announced today that Emily Cruz, a senior in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at International High School (IHS), has been accepted at Johns Hopkins University. Cruz will begin attending the prestigious university in the fall.

“All of us in the district are very proud of Emily’s accomplishment of being accepted to Johns Hopkins University and offer to her our warmest congratulations,” said Shafer. “I also want to congratulate Emily’s mother and stepfather who gave Emily all of the devotion and support that helped her get this far, as well as her teachers and administrators who worked to draw out the best of Emily’s abilities. We all look forward to Emily’s success in college.”

Emily Cruz is a first generation American. Her mother, Cinthia Diaz, came to the United States from Peru when she was 17. Two years later, she gave birth to Emily. Diaz works as a surgical technician at Hackensack Meridian Health. Cruz’s stepfather, Hector Cruz, is from Puerto Rico.

“Growing up, my parents always tried to make sure that I would be educationally prepared. For instance, they would buy me books teaching third grade subject material while I was still in kindergarten,” said Cruz. “This helped to not only prepare me for my future classes, but it taught me the value of education at a young age, and this is something I continue to carry with me.”

Last summer, Cruz worked 100 hours as volunteer at Hackensack University Medical Center, an experience she described as “life changing.”

“It solidified that my career interest lies within the medical field,” said Cruz. “I was able to interact with patients and observe how selfless the medical staff was at the hospital. It was the highlight of my summer.”

Cruz is a member of the National Honor Society member and the Paterson Youth Council.

With regard to her experience in the IB Program, Cruz said, “This has shaped the person I am today by encouraging me to take risks and to take part in different learning activities. I am grateful for everything the IB Program at International High School has taught me, and I will continue to carry on these lessons for the rest of my life. The IB Program has set a strong foundation for me and, because of this program, I am ready and looking forward to the rest of my journey.”

International High School is the only school in Passaic County, and only one of 17 schools in New Jersey, to offer the IB Program.

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