

PCTI STUDENT OF THE MONTH

May 2017

An Intelligent Knowledge-Seeking Artist **MELISSA VILLAFANA**

Melissa Villafana is a Clifton local who prides herself on her passion for drawing, painting, and embracing all aspects the creative field. She found the perfect home as part of the Advertising Art & Design program in PCTI's School of Communication Arts.

"I've enjoyed art ever since I could pick up a pencil," Melissa says.

Being named one of PCTI's Students of the Month has been a longstanding dream. The distinction is well-deserved. Melissa is a member of ERASE, Willpower for Girl Power, and serves as a Color Guard captain. She was selected twice for the Circle of Success and has volunteered as a tutor, at her local library, as a food server for Eva's Village, and so much more. She even holds employment with Hobby Lobby, where she works sixteen hours a week.

Melissa ranks in the top ten percent of her class with a GPA of 3.92. She's accumulated a potential fifteen credits to be used towards her college career and has earned the Principal's Honor Roll distinction throughout her time in high school.

When asked about her future career plans, Melissa lights up with enthusiasm. "I want to be a Neuropsychologist," she laughs, "It's been a long time coming."



Her interest in the human brain spurred a desire to explore this incredibly complex field. But knowledge is power and Melissa's penchant for preparedness has her entering Montclair State University's five-year program that combines both Bachelor and Master's degrees in General Psychology within the college of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Melissa looks forward to studying the human brain and applying her anticipated knowledge in the research field. "You discover how brain disorders effect people and provide consultations to patients. I really enjoy helping people so picking this career is the right choice for me," she adds.

As for art, Melissa mentions that it will always be a hobby,

something she's deeply passionate about. "You just don't forget everything you've learned from such great teachers."

PCTI has truly impacted the incredible young woman Melissa has become. "I've evolved as a person by making friends and just getting involved."

Her deeply caring nature will ensure success in the coming years. Congratulations Melissa,

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ranks in the top 10% of her class
- Will graduate with a potential fifteen college credits & Adobe certification
- Selected for Circle of Success, members of ERASE, Willpower for Girl Power, & is a Color Guard Captain
- Employed by Hobby Lobby, works 16 hours a week
- Goal: Graduate from Montclair State University's five-year General Psychology program that combines a Bachelor and Master's degree in Psychology, become a Neuropsychologist specializing in research