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FEATURED

## Central Falls student Woods selected as cancer scholar

By LUZJENNIFER MARTINEZ Valley Breeze Deputy Editor luzjennifer@valleybreeze.com

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Kaylyn Woods

CENTRAL FALLS – Central Falls resident Kaylyn Woods was recently selected to participate in the Rhode Island Future Generation of Cancer Scholars program, and she says she’s ready to learn all about cutting-edge medical innovations.

Woods, a 10th-grade biomanufacturing technology student at Davies Career and Technical High School, will shadow leading cancer clinicians from Rhode Island Hospital, Miriam Hospital, and Hasbro Children’s Hospital for six weeks this summer.

As a Lifespan Cancer Institute, Brown Cancer Center, and Papitto Opportunity Connection initiative, the program is highly competitive and provides mentorship for the next generation of cancer scholars.

“I’m looking forward to having them ask students what they think about the technology and what’s out there,” Woods said.

She will be employed by Lifespan and receive an hourly wage throughout the duration of the program, which is only offered to 20 students each year.

Woods is the third student from Davies to be selected for the program, which will officially begin July 8.

She told *The Breeze* that her interest in the field was sparked after learning about the pathology of cancer in her pathways to medicine class.

“I wanted to know exactly what cancer is on a deeper level, and expand my knowledge in the field,” she added.

She also learned about the profound effect cancer can have on patients from her mother, who worked on the oncology unit of a hospital.

“I want to help those who want to survive and empower them by saying, ‘your story is not over yet, keep going,’” she stated.

Woods was also accepted into Brown University’s pre-college program, which will allow her to take college-level classes over the summer.

While she has no specific end goal yet with participating in the cancer scholars program, Woods hopes to establish bonds with others that share her same mindset.

For those who feel stumped in life even at an older age, Woods says it is never too late to start anything because the brain is always developing, which allows us to continue learning.

“What you do today matters,” she said.

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**LuzJennifer Martinez**

Deputy Editor