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## DeLeon Aguilar and Garcia named top two at Davies

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DeLeon Aguilar



Garcia

LINCOLN – Ryan DeLeon Aguilar of Johnston and Brianna Garcia of North Providence are the valedictorian and salutatorian of the William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School Class of 2024.

“I put in a lot of hard work, but at first I couldn’t believe that I was named valedictorian,” said DeLeon Aguilar. “I was super proud of myself and my family was too. They were jumping up and down.”

DeLeon Aguilar, 18, is the son of Carlos DeLeon and Rudith Aguilar. He said the desire to make his family proud was his main source of motivation throughout high school.

During his time at Davies, he studied in the health careers program, with the goal of one day becoming a nurse practitioner.

“When I was younger, I saw my brother struggle with Diabetes, and ever since then, I’ve wanted to make a difference and help people. That’s why I enrolled in Davies, to pursue a career in the medical field, and to assist those in need,” he said.

DeLeon Aguilar is a member of the National Honor Society and earned a gold medal for medical mathematics at the 2024 Skills USA competition. He also was involved in the school’s Music Club, as well as the Running Start dual enrollment program in which seniors can take college classes and earn college credits while still in high school.

When he’s not at school, DeLeon Aguilar spends his time volunteering at his church and participating in local efforts to feed the hungry.

“We should focus on being the positive change in life,” he said.

Upon graduation, DeLeon Aguilar says he will continue to study nursing at New England Institute of Technology.

Garcia said she is undecided on where she will go to college, but said she also plans on continuing down the pathway she chose at Davies.

During high school, Garcia, 18, was in the pre-engineering program, and in college, she intends on majoring in electrical engineering and minoring in music.

Thanks to her enrollment in “Running Start,” she has begun working toward her degree.

Garcia told *The Breeze* that her love of music is an important part of her life, as she has won several solo and ensemble medals from the Rhode Island Music Education Association, including medals in the top ranking of “superior” for her performances on the flute.

Additionally, she participated in the Davies Music Club, and is a part of multiple ensembles such as the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School Wind ensemble and prestigious RIMEA Senior All-State Band.

Aside from her musical achievements, she has earned a spot in the National Honor Society, the National Technical Honor Society and the Rhode Island Honor Society. She has also completed an internship with PrepareRI where she served as a teacher assistant, and has been involved in the “Young Entrepreneurs of Providence” program at Brown University.

Garcia said her parents, Salvador Garcia and Julieta Orozco, were proud and excited upon learning that their daughter was named salutatorian.

Garcia stated she believes her key to success was a mixture of consistency, discipline, and being kind to herself.

“If things didn’t go as planned, I would remind myself that it will all be okay in the end, and it was. I’m really happy with how everything turned out,” she said.

Both DeLeon Aguilar and Garcia mentioned that their favorite parts of high school were the academic opportunities they were presented with, the supportive faculty and, of course, getting to be with their friends.

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**Sofia Barr**

Valley Breeze Staff Writer