

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Joppatowne High School Senior, Franzy Servano, Named Maryland's 2024 Youth Apprentice of the Year**

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) senior Franzy Servano has been named Maryland's 2024 Youth Apprentice of the Year. Franzy, a student with the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program at Joppatowne High School Student, was honored by Governor Wes Moore during National Apprenticeship Week for her outstanding work in the Defense Interns program, where she is gaining real-world experience in cybersecurity and technology.

Through her apprenticeship, Franzy rotates among four defense contractors throughout the year, building expertise in cybersecurity, cloud infrastructure, and troubleshooting. This unique opportunity has significantly shaped her career aspirations, inspiring her to pursue advanced studies in Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics after graduating from HCPS.

"Receiving the Maryland Youth Apprentice of the Year award is an incredible honor," Franzy shared. "This apprenticeship has been a transformative experience, providing me with skills, mentorship, and real-world insights that will guide me as I pursue my future career. To anyone with ambitions or considering similar opportunities: take the leap and apply! You'll never know where life will take you, so greet every opportunity with open arms."

Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson congratulated Franzy on her achievement, stating, "Franzy's dedication to her apprenticeship and her passion for learning are inspiring. Her success demonstrates the power of connecting students with hands-on experiences that prepare them for high-demand careers. We are incredibly proud of Franzy and the opportunities our partnerships offer to students across Harford County."

Franzy's recognition highlights the importance of apprenticeship programs which provide students with the chance to "earn and learn." These initiatives equip students with the skills and confidence needed to excel in their future careers while addressing workforce demands in various fields.

### **About P-TECH**

The P-TECH Program combines the best elements of high school, college and work-based learning. Students are immersed in high school as well as college courses while working in the field of Computer Information Systems or Cyber Security. The program empowers students to pursue advanced education and to be financially successful in a global economy. The program is offered at Joppatowne High School in partnership with Harford Community College and the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command on Aberdeen Proving Ground, offering students paid internships and individualized mentorship throughout their educational journey. The program is open-source, meaning any rising ninth grader may apply.

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