

CCSD NEWSMAKERS

ECTA senior honored by the president for volunteer efforts

by Anthony Springer Jr., CCSD Communications

Since 1995, thousands of young people nationally have been honored with the *President's Volunteer Service Award*, presented by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. In 2013, one Clark County School District student joined the ranks.

Maggy Jean-Francois, a senior at East Career Technical Academy (ECTA) received the award on behalf of President Barack Obama after completing nearly 300 hours of community service between her sophomore and senior years at Sunrise Library and Desert Springs Hospital.

Jean-Francois was initially drawn to volunteering as a way to combat boredom after school.

"I chose the library [first] because I was tired of going home and doing nothing," she said. "I was able to help the kids out and I fell in love with it."

Her duties at the library vary from day to day. "Sometimes I read to them or help with their homework," she said of the work done. "I also help plan the events they do with the kids. On Valentine's

Day, they helped kids decorate hearts. It was a lot of fun."



At the hospital, her target demographic is at the opposite end of the spectrum from the library, but Jean-Francois enjoys it all the same.

"I love it a lot," she said about her days at Desert Springs Hospital. "I usually help seniors. I feed them and take them for walks. Sometimes I just have conversations with them. A lot of them are lonely because no one comes to visit them. It's really cool and a lot of them are really nice and funny."

Though she didn't get the scholarship that award winners sometimes receive, being able to share the good news was satisfaction enough.

"I didn't get the scholarship [I applied for] but I was happy I got awarded for something and was able

to tell my mom.”

After graduation, Jean-Francois plans to attend college. To date, she’s been accepted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the University of Nevada, Reno. She hasn’t officially made a choice, but said she’s leaning toward staying in southern Nevada to major in biology.

“I really want to be a doctor when I grow up,” she stated of her future plans, before adding that she’d like to work with both adults and children.

Before her dreams of college and medical school can be realized, Jean-Francois has to finish high school. She credits the environment and staff at ECTA for her development as a student.

“The teachers take time to help you. At this school I take time to learn instead of just doing the work.

“My counselor (Antoinette Wise) helped me a lot,” she continued. “I always ask her for advice and she gives it to me pretty well. And my English teacher, Mr. Stewart. He helped me with my writing.”

How confident is Jean-Francois in her goals? When sounded out, her email address: “doctor to be.”