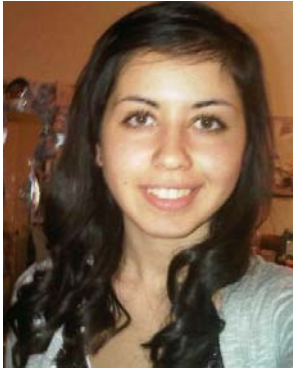


Meet Maryam Ishak Class of 2011



The NJ Stars Program funds college tuition for students who rank in the top 15 per cent of their high school graduating class, if they elect to attend the community college in their county

*Posted
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Maryam Ishak plans to become a dentist, but she could have a career as a diplomat. “In high school I was good at bringing different cliques together,” she said. An honors student and 2009 graduate of Manchester High School in Haledon, Maryam is thrilled to be in the NJ Stars program. “The scholarship is wonderful,” she said. “Students who receive it can focus on doing well in their classes and getting involved instead of worrying about how to pay tuition.”

Maryam will graduate from PCCC with an Associate’s in Arts Degree in Liberal Arts, concentration in pre-professional science. She plans to attend either Rutgers University or William Paterson University to earn her bachelor’s degree and eventually enter dental school. One of her goals is to volunteer her dental services in impoverished countries. “I’d like to make my life very fulfilling and meaningful,” she said.

The multi-talented future dentist speaks four languages, plays numerous musical instruments, is a member of the PCCC Science Club, and serves as vice president of the Student Government Association. “I’ve always tried to be as involved as possible,” explains Maryam. “I love interacting with people and trying new things.”

Though excited about her future, Maryam says leaving PCCC will be bittersweet. “I love the diverse atmosphere at PCCC. The professors are great. I met a lot of ambitious people, and I was able to do many things I never thought were possible. Being at a small school gives you an opportunity to have more of an impact.”

[Read more about Maryam and her “family’s tradition” at PCCC](#)