



NEWS RELEASE

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Dulaney High senior earns Infinite Potential Commendation from The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

Miriam Talalay is one of only five youth in the nation to receive this honor

TOWSON, MD – Miriam Talalay, a senior at Dulaney High School, is one of only five individuals in the United States to be honored with an Infinite Potential Commendation from [The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award](#).

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global, personalized youth development program for 14- to 24-year-olds that complements formal classroom learning and focuses on setting progressive goals that build essential life skills such as resilience, confidence, creativity, leadership, civic competence, and communication. There are three progressive levels of the Award that when successfully completed lead to a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award. The Award challenges young people to develop new skills, get physically active, cultivate a sense of adventure in the outdoors, and volunteer in their communities.

Talay received the Infinite Potential Commendation for her exceptional work on her Award program. [A video about her](#) is being featured on Award USA's social media channels and website.

"We are delighted to recognize the contributions of these five extraordinary young people," said Buffy Higgins-Bear, CEO of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award USA. "We are inspired by their efforts and celebrate the impact of their work for themselves and their communities. We are honored to hear their stories of achievement and celebrate their persistence, resilience, personal development and community involvement."

Talalay has completed her Bronze and Silver Award. To fulfill the volunteer requirement, she spent more than 3,000 hours fostering more than 200 animals through the Maryland SPCA.

“Through the Award, I have learned to think bigger,” said Talalay. “The Award made me realize that I am part of an international community. I love knowing that, as I work toward my goals, others around the country and around the world are working toward their goals. The Award kept me motivated and organized.”

Talalay has been recognized by Governor Larry Hogan of Maryland and the nonprofit organization Points of Light for her contributions to animal welfare. In 2021, she also earned a President’s Volunteer Service Award and U.S. Congressional Award for Voluntary Service and Personal Development (Gold Medal).

(Editor’s note – A photo of Miriam Talalay accompanies this release.)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation’s 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).