



NEWS RELEASE

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Dulaney High and Western Tech juniors selected as finalists for Student Member of the Board of Education *Middle and high school students to vote on Thursday, April 4*

Towson, MD – Two Baltimore County Public School juniors – Ugonma Chike-Kalu of Western School of Technology, and Kimberely Hernandez of Dulaney High School – are the final candidates for student member of the Board of Education of Baltimore County for the 2024-2025 school year.

The two finalists were selected following application reviews and interviews with a panel of students and staff.

Chike-Kalu is a magnet student in Western’s Graphic Print and Design program, a member of the national honor societies for math and English, and a member of her school’s African Student Association, Dance Team, and Black Student Association. She also serves as an ambassador for the American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network and on the Teen Advisory Board of the Baltimore County Public Library.

Calling herself passionate about art and medicine, Chike-Kalu says she would seek to hear and reflect students’ voices if elected to the Board seat. “I see myself as a bridge – connecting and advocating for the varied needs of our student body,” she wrote in her application essay. “Every student in our diverse community brings unique stories, struggles, and dreams, and I am devoted to amplifying their voices.”

Hernandez is part of the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) college prep program at Dulaney and serves on the school’s Mock Trial team and La Voz Hispana, where she advocates on behalf of the Hispanic community at Dulaney. She is also a member of Future Business Leaders of America, UNICEF, Key Club, student government, the Spanish National Honor Society, and Educators Rising,

among other groups. In the community, she is active as an ambassador to the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and the school-based health centers of Baltimore County.

“I want students to see themselves through me,” Hernandez wrote in her application essay. “My goal, if I win this position, is to visit other BCPS schools in person to see what is needed there because I don’t believe we can guess what they need. They deserve to have someone hear them out and see their truth.”

Videotaped speeches from the candidates will be available online, on BCPS-TV, and in selected English language arts classes starting on Tuesday, February 20. Also during that week, middle and high school students can submit questions to the candidates. Videos of the candidates answering questions will be available for online viewing on Thursday, April 4. On that same day, middle and high school students will cast online ballots from 7 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. to select their preferred candidate.

Visit the [Student Member of the Board selection webpage](#) for more information about the balloting process.

(Editor's note: Photos of [Chike-Kalu](#) and [Hernandez](#) can be found in a Flickr album.)

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