



NEWS RELEASE

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Western Tech student one of 17 youth leaders appointed to national Mental Health Youth Advisory Committee

Towson, Md. – Fariza Samadova, a Grade 11 student at Western School of Technology and Environmental Science, is one of only 17 youth leaders nationally named to [Creative Visions'](#) inaugural Mental Health Youth Advisory Committee.

The Mental Health Youth Advisory Committee is a part of the [#CreateConnectCare campaign](#), which is focused on promoting mental health awareness for youth through storytelling and creative expression. The campaign has been launched by Creative Visions in partnership with Discovery Education and InnerView.

"We are excited to welcome these bright and dedicated young leaders to the #CreateConnectCare team," said Pat Chandler, CEO of Creative Visions. "Their unique perspectives and lived experiences will be instrumental in shaping a campaign that truly speaks to the hearts and minds of our target audience. We believe their involvement is key to ensuring the campaign's authenticity, effectiveness, and lasting impact."

As a committee member, Samadova is expected to design and lead a "community impact project" this spring in the Catonsville community. She has been awarded a #CreateConnectCare \$250 micro-grant to support her youth-driven initiative. In addition to working with local community partners, Samadova and the other committee members will receive planning support via interactive webinar sessions with Creative Visions staff.

At Western Tech, Samadova is enrolled in the Academy of Health Professions program and plans to pursue a career in medicine or genetic research. She is the founder of the Girls Up Western Tech chapter

(a leadership development group) and is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish and science national honor societies, the Muslim Student Association, yearbook club, and HOSA: Future Health Professionals. Beyond her school, Samadova is a medical intern at University of Maryland Medical Center, the social science editor and podcast director for Young Global Scientists, a member of the BCPS Board of Selected Students, and a regional representative for Baltimore County Student Councils.

(Editor's note: A photo of Samadova can be found on [Flickr](#).)

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