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Horizon Science Academy student receives national recognition

By Khadija Smith
The Morning Journal

Jalicia Smalley, a senior at Horizon Science Academy of Lorain, 760 Tower Blvd., received honorable mention from the National Center for Women & Information Technology in December.

The honorable mention designation is a prestigious honor because only 350 recipients are selected throughout the United States, according to a media release.

This is not the first time Jalicia, 17, has been recognized. During the 2015-16 academic year, she received first place out of 554 projects at the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair for her science project "Sleep Tight," which utilized sensors to track Hyper/Hypoglycemia.

Jalicia also received the grand prize all-expense trip to the International Science and Engineering Fair, which is considered the world's largest science fair.

Jalicia said she fell in love with engineering robotics while in the ninth-grade. She was introduced to science fairs after teachers encouraged her to enter her projects.

Jalicia said she is thankful for the opportunity to be recognized, but also feels the honor is something she deserves.

"I'm proud of where I come from and I am very humble for the opportunity," she said. "I feel this recognition was well deserved because I've come a long way."

Jalicia said she plans to continue her post-secondary

education studying computer science at Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne, Ind., after earning a full academic scholarship worth more than \$100,000.

"You can do what you want," she said. "Don't be afraid of what others will say." Meanwhile, other Horizon students recently were honored.

Lilianna Vaughn, a fourth-grader, received third place out of about 2,000 students who participated in the 2016 Midwest Charter Schools art contest.

And Luis Massa, a 10th-grader, won first place for his drawing at the Concept Science and Engineering Fair. Luis was one out of about 400 participants from 13 schools across seven states who participated.



KHADIJA SMITH - THE MORNING JOURNAL

Horizon Science Academy senior Jalicia Smalley, 17, holds her grand prize plaque from the Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair for her science project "Sleep Tight."