

PCTI STUDENT OF THE MONTH

September 2016

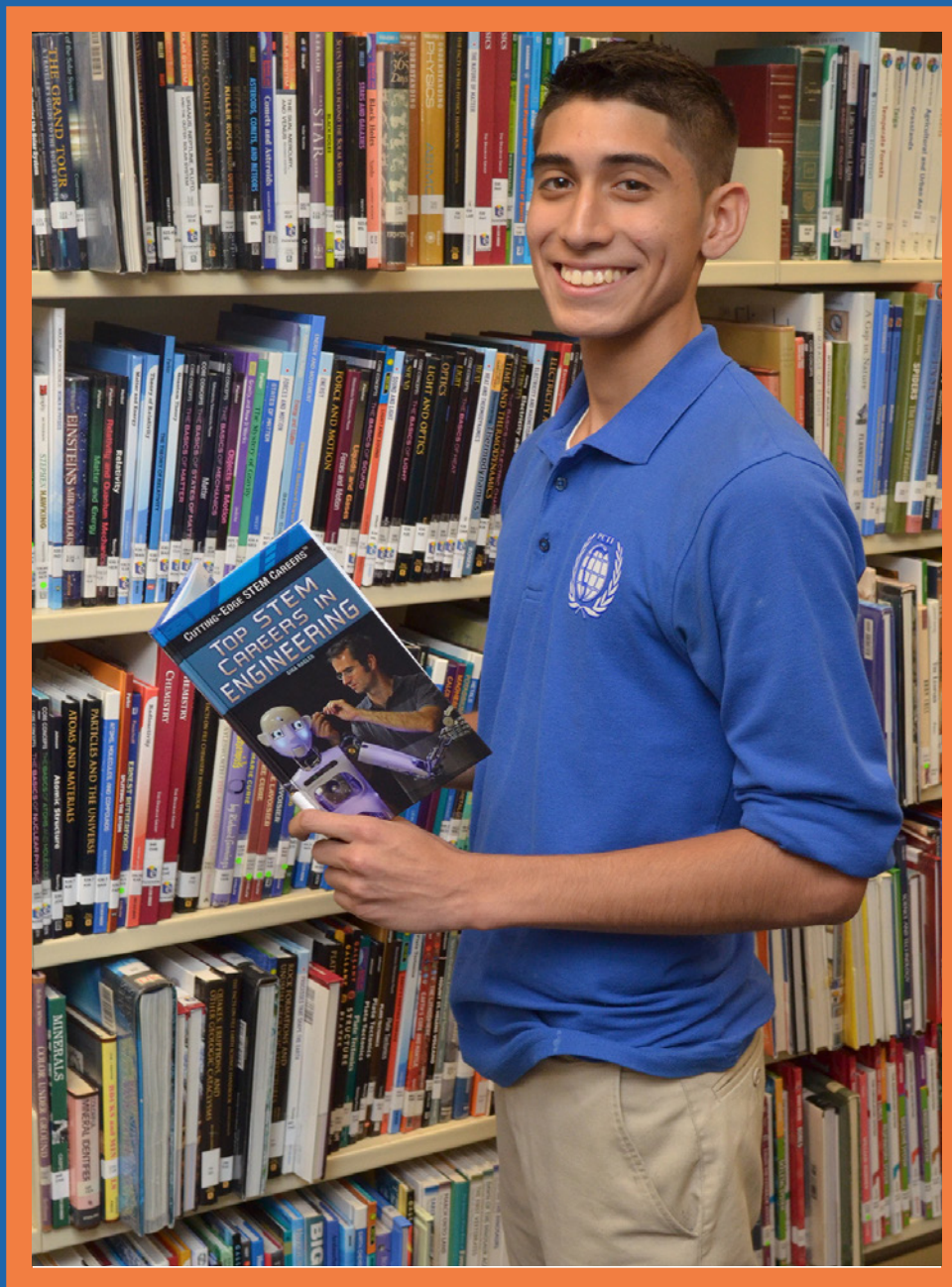
The Initiative and Drive to Make a Difference **CHRISTOPHER VALENCIA**

Christopher Valencia is a Clifton native who found his home as a member of the School of Engineering. What urged him to choose this particular path? “I’ve always loved math and science. Creating things defines who I am.”

It’s no surprise that at the age of four, this Bulldog built his own computer. The intrigue of learning how things work – by taking them apart and putting them together – sparked an interest in STEM programs, particularly the engineering field. Christopher recounts how he assembles the motivation required to succeed.

“The more something challenges me, the more I want to be successful at it.” Christopher adds that he has high expectations for himself due to all the opportunities that are open to him. “As an only child of an immigrant family, I’m encouraged to really go after my hopes and dreams.”

He’s doing a fantastic job so far. Christopher ranks 5th in the Class of 2017 with a 4.5 GPA. His ambition knows no bounds. Christopher has taken honor courses every year during his high school career and has earned a potential thirty-eight credits to be used towards a college degree. He has been declared an AP Scholar with Distinction, a title earned by achieving a score of 4 or higher



on his AP exams. He’s also received the Honor Cadet award for having the highest GPA in all of PCTI’s NJROTC for three years in a row.

Christopher is the Vice President of PCTI’s SkillsUSA, an NJROTC Officer, and is a member of the Boys Varsity Volleyball team, Gifted and Talented, and the History Club. He was even selected for National Hon-

or Society and serves as the acting Vice President. Outside of PCTI, he’s involved in ensuring the community is a better place for all. Christopher’s passion for education knows no bounds.

To this end, he created the Peer-Tutoring initiative with the help of the NJCDC – a non-profit Paterson organization. The program had twenty participants

during last winter alone.

“I really enjoy helping people better themselves,” he added. “It drives me to do more.”

Christopher went on to elaborate that combining his passion for engineering, problem-solving, and an interest in anatomy will have him pursuing further education in Biomedical Engineering. “I look forward to learning about stem cell research, biomechanical prosthesis, and more.”

One thing’s for certain, Christopher will go on to impact the lives of many. This self-starter truly believes he can make a difference in the world. His powerful drive and passion will ensure that he does!

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ranks in the top 1% of his class
- Earned AP Scholar with Distinction title
- Received PCTI’s NJROTC Honor Cadet Award
- Vice President of SkillsUSA, NJROTC Officer, member of Boys Varsity Volleyball, Gifted and Talented, NHS, & the History Club
- Created Peer-Tutoring Initiative for Paterson youth
- Goal: Graduate from a university with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering, pursue a master’s degree