

Clark students receive Congressional Awards

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Congressman Tom Rooney recently presented Clark Advanced Learning Center students, (R-L) McKenzie Merritt and Amisha Budhdeo, with 2011 Congressional Awards for achievement, initiative and community service

STUART — Two Clark Advanced Learning Center students, McKenzie Merritt and Amisha Budhdeo, recently received 2011 Congressional Awards presented by Congressman Tom Rooney. The Congressional Award recognizes achievement, initiative and service in America's youth.

The Gold award recipient is McKenzie Merritt, of Stuart. The sixteen-year-old has earned 44 college credits toward an Associate in Arts degree from Indian River State College and is on the President's

List. She is majoring in medical research. The Clark sophomore has volunteered over 400 hours assisting instructors at the Gertrude Walden Child Care Center, at the Fitness Center at Martin Memorial Hospital South, at the American Red Cross and with Girl Scout activities. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor and requires 400 hours of voluntary public service, 200 hours of personal development, and 200 hours of physical fitness.

The Silver and Bronze award recipient is Amisha Budhdeo, of Stuart. The sixteen-year-old has earned 35 college credits toward an Associate in Arts degree from Indian River State College and is on the President's List. She wants to become a doctor. The Clark sophomore has volunteered over 200 hours at the Gertrude Walden Child Care Center assisting instructors.

The Congressional Award provides an opportunity for young people to set and achieve challenging goals that build character and foster community service, personal development and citizenship.

Students at the Clark Advanced Learning Center have an opportunity to complete one to two-years of college at no cost through dual enrollment. Students engage in internships related to their interests and utilize technology in project-based learning. A personal laptop computer is assigned to each student while in attendance at the school. The Clark Advanced Learning Center is located at the Indian River State College Chastain Campus, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, in Stuart. Applications are now being accepted for the 2011/2012 school year. For more information, call (772) 419-5750 or visit <http://www.clarkadvancedlearningcenter.org>.

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