



FLYING HIGH

How this high school student is soaring to new heights as cheer captain and nursing student

Armani Pedroza (center) poses with teammates at a game (Courtesy Armani Pedroza).

LINCOLN, R.I. -- Like any great cheerleader, **Davies Career and Technical High School student Armani Pedroza** puts in hours of work to maintain the strength, endurance, and skill needed to stunt, spot, and tumble. However, Pedroza's journey goes far beyond acrobatic prowess.

As the new cheer team captain for the 2023-2024 school year, Pedroza has demonstrated remarkable leadership abilities that have earned her the respect and admiration of her peers and coaches alike.

"I am excited but a little bit overwhelmed," Pedroza said. "It is a lot of work but I'm very excited to be with all my teammates again."

Pedroza's leadership skills have not developed overnight. Through her years as a cheerleader, she has faced challenges that have tested her resolve and commitment and allowed her to **emerge more resilient**.

"I want to be able to see my team win. We haven't won a competition at all," she said. "I really want to see us win before I leave."



Beyond her role as captain, Pedroza is enrolled in the school's **Health Careers program**, which is one of 278 career and technical education (CTE) programs throughout Rhode Island.

In the last six years, the percentage of CTE programs in Rhode Island has increased by 192%, providing **even more access to real-world relevant, credit- and credential-bearing opportunities** that prepare students for college and career. Pedroza will begin earning clinical hours this year and working towards her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification.

"What attracted me to that program was the opportunity to help others," said Pedroza.

As she does in cheerleading, the rising junior knows the importance of a strong support system.

"I have formed bonds with a lot of teachers because they all really helped me get through things when I was low at a point," Pedroza said. "I was able to talk to them and

they helped me get through my freshman year. I used to struggle a lot in school."

Now a strong and confident student, Pedroza plans to work hard this year to propel herself, her team, and her future to new heights.

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Armani Pedroza

"Keep focused and you'll be fine throughout the year," she said.

*Remember, **being present is essential for students to learn.***

*Davies Career and Technical High School students' return August 28 (freshman) and 29 (all students). Wish students luck and join the conversation using **#Cool2BeinSchoolRI** and **#Back2SchoolRI**.*

