



Dipali Patel, a senior at Cougar New Tech at Colleton County High School has been accepted to the Emerging Public Leaders program of the Riley Institute at Furman University. Dipali is the first Colleton County High School student to be accepted into this prestigious program.

As an EPL participant, she attended a one-week camp this summer at Furman where she learned about engaging in the community, analyzing critical issues, practicing ethical leadership, developing communication and presentation skills, and planning for the implementation of a service project.

During the school year she is working on her Caring Hearts project, which she developed to help children in foster care in Colleton County by providing Cuddle Kits and Care Packages to be given to children when they are placed in the foster care system by DSS. She will return to Furman in the spring to report on her results.

Dipali's application packet required a project proposal, including a budget and projected impact; skills she learned in her Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship course at Cougar New Tech and her participation in the CCHS Young Agents of Change club.

Dipali is currently seeking community support for her Caring Hearts project. Interested individuals and businesses can help through financial support or supply donations. Contact her faculty sponsor, Laura Clark at lclark@cougarnewtech.com or 843-906-1849 for additional information. After graduating from Colleton County High School next year, Dipali plans to complete her education to become a Pharmacist.

For more information at the Emerging Public Leaders program visit their website at <https://riley.furman.edu/education/projects/emerging-public-leaders/emerging-public-leaders>.

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