

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Science has been Alexa Long's favorite subject and when she took a unit on space science in school, her career path became clear.



Her future may be in the stars but she never lost her focus while in high school.

Among her accomplishments and activities: She was on the honor roll every grading period in high school; received the Academic All-League Award; was a regional qualifier for the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition; and was on the National Art Honor Society in for three years.

Now a senior at Circleville High School, Alexa plans to study physics at Ohio State University in the fall with a long-term goal of becoming a researcher.

"I just think that the concept of an infinitely expanding universe that we don't know too much about is really fascinating and I would love to discover more about it."

She hopes to do that by working on research projects at NASA or the National Optical Astronomy Observatory.



Alexa Long, a senior at Circleville High School, received the Franklin B. Walter Scholastic Award.

Alexa can add to this list being selected as this year's Pickaway County recipient of the Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award, presented by each county Educational Service Center.

Named in honor of Walter, a former longtime state superintendent of public instruction, the award was established in 1989 by the Ohio Educational Service Center Association to promote and recognize outstanding student leaders.

Eligible applicants must be a high school senior enrolled in a public school within an ESC's service region. Recipients must demonstrate outstanding academic achievement as indicated by grades, test scores, school activities and awards.

In addition to her academic and artistic prowess, Alexa also played soccer for four years, was a referee for youth soccer in 2016 and assisted at youth soccer camps for three years.



April 28, 2017

"She'd done a bit of everything to explore what's out there and she has excelled at everything," said Kara Schooley, Alexa's high school counselor.

One of those areas of interest is art, which Alexa said she's been involved with since she was young. While a teen, she has been an avid photographer. Bob Wright, her high school art teacher, said she shows strong composition photography "that is rich in color."

"Her best photos have involved cityscapes and urban areas," he said.

Overall, Bob said, "Alexa is an intelligent, aware and critical thinker who is very good at coming up with solutions involving processes."

Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center. He can be reached at ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org.