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Aliyah Al-Karim is truly honored to be this year's recipient of the \$1000.00 Women's Leadership Scholarship given by Representative Mia McCleod. Aliyah was an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) student since 7th grade. In this program, she learned organizational, critical thinking, and study skills; received academic assistance from peers and college tutors; and participated in enrichment and motivational activities.

With the help of AVID, Aliyah reached her maximum potential and will attend the College of Charleston in the fall. Her plans are to major in Psychology, with a possible minor in Dance. After receiving a degree in Psychology, she wants to enlist in the Army so that she can start a career as a Clinical Psychologist. During her time at Ridge View, she was involved in AVID, National Honor Society, the Blaze Dance Team, Marching Band Color Guard, Orchestra, JROTC, and Teacher Cadets.

She is also a devoted member of her community and church. According to the AVID Coordinator, Tracy Skinner, Ms. Al-Karim "is a dedicated individual who puts school and community first." Representative McCleod was thoroughly impressed with Aliyah's application and recommendations and stated, "I could read over the application many times and just couldn't have chosen a better recipient for the scholarship."