



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Spotlight on Halifax County School's Graduate

Khyan Waddell, PA-C  
Duke University Neurosurgery and Spine  
Durham, North Carolina



Khyan Waddell is a proud product of the Halifax County Schools System. She began her education in pre-kindergarten at Pittman Elementary School. "It was in pre-kindergarten that Khyan knew she wanted to be a doctor", says her mom, Tonya Hedgepeth, Principal of Pittman Elementary Leadership Academy. "She always chose to be a doctor for any career day activity throughout elementary school". As she progressed through her education, she began her reputation as a high flyer in the district. She attended Enfield Middle School and then Southeast Halifax High School and maintained high honors and the principal's list. Khyan graduated number one in her class at Southeast Halifax High School. Khyan attended East Carolina University (ECU) on a full scholarship from

the Golden Leaf Scholarship Foundation and North Carolina State Employees' Credit Union, among several other scholarships. She majored in Biology with a focus in pre-medicine. At ECU, she graduated in the top five percent of her class. After graduating, she took a year off to support her mom during her critical illness. During this time, Khyan obtained medical experience as an Emergency Medicine Scribe. Khyan applied to several medical programs and decided on the Duke University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program. There she participated in an accelerated program to complete a master's degree in Health Sciences. After completion of her two-year program, Khyan received her certification as a Physician Assistant. She studied and became credentialed shortly after graduating. After applying for and receiving multiple job offers, Khyan accepted a position with the Duke University Neurosurgery Spine team. She is the first Spine Physician Assistant at Duke University Hospital. Khyan is passionate about the advancement of care in underserved populations, including Halifax County, and the promotion of diversity in the PA profession. Superintendent, Dr. Eric Cunningham states "we are so proud of our Halifax County scholars. Khyan Waddell is a prime example of what it truly means to strive for five!