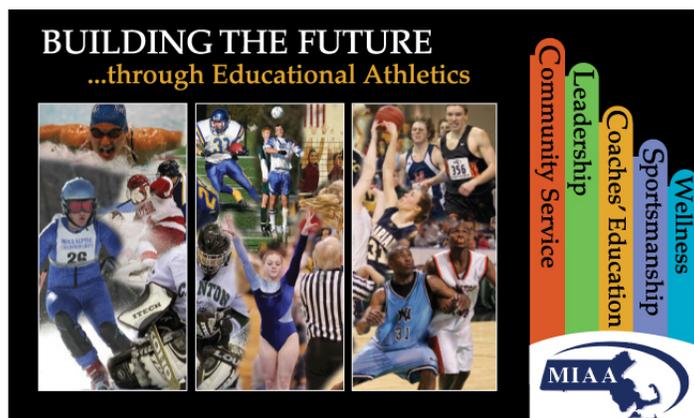


2016 MIAA Community Service Award Recipients



Individual Category

Mackenzie Anderson '16– Foxborough High School

Club/Organization Category

Skills USA Program – Lynn Vocational Technical Institute

Team Category

Boys Ice Hockey Team- Minnechaug Regional High School



Mackenzie Anderson

Foxborough High School

Mackenzie is a senior at Foxborough High School where she has become an inspiration and a role model to the entire student body. In August 2014, Mackenzie's mom was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or ALS. Knowing this, she took the initiative to form a team of 80 walkers and raised over \$55,000 for the research of ALS. She also became an ambassador for Hope Loves Company, which is a group that supports children who have parents and grandparents with ALS. Mackenzie is very passionate about volunteering and shows great integrity in all she has accomplished. Apart from the community, Mackenzie is very dedicated throughout her school. She is president and founder of the high school's chapter of DECA and captain of the girls' basketball team, which made it to the South Sectional Quarterfinals this year. Throughout it all, Mackenzie has been able to maintain an impressive 4.1 GPA, while being enrolled in honors and AP courses.

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SkillsUSA Program

Lynn Vocational Technical Institute

The SkillsUSA group has provided a positive influence in the community of Lynn. This year, the students made a rigorous effort to help raise awareness about the substance abuse epidemic plaguing the community of Lynn. The group started by reaching out to local experts to learn more information regarding the abuse of drugs. After learning the intensity of this outbreak in their community, SkillsUSA decided that silence was

no longer an option. They established an educational program to share with their school, evolving their primary task to create awareness and persuade students to pledge to become a STAR-Students Taking Action to Reduce Substance Abuse. At the end of the program, they had 800+ students and faculty members sign a pledge at their first event. With the success from this, SkillsUSA decided to continue their efforts with STARS throughout the year making a difference across the state of Massachusetts. In addition to the development of the STARS program, SkillsUSA continued to focus on substance abuse while integrating homelessness. They investigated ways to make an impact on both, and came across "My Brother's Table," a local non-profit food pantry affiliated with the local shelters, "Healthy Streets," and other substance abuse prevention programs. From this point forward, they participated in many events throughout the year, to help service the local organization, while sharing their STARS legacy.



Minnechaug Regional High School Boys Ice Hockey Team



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The Falcon Boys Ice Hockey team has participated in a variety of community service projects to exceed the “We are Chaug” movement the school has established. This year, the team participated in five remarkable community service projects to excel past their expectation. The first project is known as the SPD Ride to Remember. Every September since 2013, the Springfield police sponsor a bicycle ride from Springfield to Boston (109 miles) to honor fallen police officers in Massachusetts. For this event, the team assisted in helping the riders get their ID numbers on their bikes, arms, and legs; cheered the riders along from different locations; and overall helped raise over \$92K for the fallen police officers memorial in Boston. The second project they participated in is the Springfield Open Pantry. Every year the local radio station, Rock 102, holds a food bank drive and on the day before Thanksgiving, the team helps unload the trailers and stock the shelves at the open pantry. The third project is the Benefit for Alex Blais. Alex is a 9 year old boy from East Longmeadow who plays for the local WTM youth hockey program and has terminal brain cancer. The team not only set up a donation table at their games, but they also wore Alex’s number on each of their helmets to help support and raise awareness for this young boy’s battle. The fourth project is the Cocchi Cares vs. Springfield Falcons Charity Hockey Game. The team helped sell tickets for a benefit hockey game to raise money for the local veteran’s fund. The final project the team participated in is Holyoke Soldiers Home. For the past six seasons, the team has gone to the Holyoke Soldiers Home to spend an evening with the veterans. The team donates items, along with their time, to thank these veterans for their sacrifices and their service to our country.

2016 MIAA Community Service Award Finalists

Individual Category:

Michael Bourque– Fitchburg High School

Callie Hoadley– Hanover High School

Charles Kiernan– Monomoy Regional High School

Maeve McNamara and Margaret Paul– Sturgis Charter School East Campus

Sarah Murphy– Saint Joseph Preparatory High School

Greta Nelson– Sturgis Charter Public School

Conor O’Neil– Duxbury High School

Anthony Pajak– Dartmouth High School

Caitlin Yannizzi– Rockland High School

Club/Organization Category:

Billerica Memorial High School- Us Against Cancer

Franklin High School- Franklin High School Peer Leaders

Lenox Memorial Middle and High School- Lenox Crew Team

Lowell High School- Lowell High School Educational Athletics Program

Milford High School- Milford High School Athletic Department

South Hadley High School

Stoughton High School- Stoughton High School Fall Sports Teams

Team Category:

Bishop Feehan High School– Girls Lacrosse Team

Boston Latin School– Girls Ice Hockey Team

Ludlow High School– Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams

Sharon High School– Girls Basketball Team

Swampscott High School– Girls Soccer Team

Tewksbury Memorial High School– Girls Volleyball Team

For more information about MIAA Educational Athletics and Community Service initiatives, please visit www.miaa.net.