



Putnam Vocational Technical Academy Student Receives MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

Springfield – Elicia Vazquez, a senior at Putnam Vocational Technical Academy, has been selected as the recipient of the “MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award” for April 2017.

Elicia participates on the volleyball and softball teams at Putnam Vocational Technical Academy and serves as the softball team captain. During the month of April, she held a .562 batting average, .812 slugging percentage, while scoring 13 runs, driving in 8 runs and drawing 10 walks. Elicia also serves as the team’s starting pitcher. She was named to the 2016 All WMass Girls Softball Team for the past two seasons. As a participant on the volleyball team, Elicia has been selected to the Girls Volleyball All-Star Team. “On a personal note, she was nicknamed ‘Momma Bear’ by underclassmen for her willingness to support and help younger players develop,” said Putnam Vocational Technical Academy Dean of Students, William Scott.

Academically, Elicia is a highly ranked student in the senior class, earning a 3.60 Grade Point Average. She has been a Mass Mutual All Academic Achiever and Honor Roll student each of the past four years. She is an MIAA Student Ambassador, Putnam Project Purple Initiative Student Leader, and Open Pantry food drive coordinator. Elicia also participated in the MIAA “Socktober Challenge” in which she coordinated school efforts to collect sock donations for the homeless.

In the community, Elicia has taken her role as a leader to new levels. On April 8th, she coordinated a school wide effort for the Griffin’s Friends “Going the Extra Mile” event at Chicopee High School. Elicia and her teammate’s completed a 26.2 mile relay marathon and raised monies to benefit children’s cancer. She coordinated the student leadership teams and together they fundraised \$3,160 for the cause. Six area schools participated and over \$7,300 in total was donated to the Griffin’s Friends charity. She recently received an MIAA Educational Athletics Achievement Award for Community Service and Outstanding Leadership.

“Elicia is a personable, intelligent and hardworking young women who leads through her own high level of integrity, work ethic and commitment to excellence,” said Mr. Scott. “She has worked tremendously hard to become an outstanding student-athlete.”

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Student-Athlete of the Month Award is presented on a monthly basis to one male and one female student-athlete who display excellence in the areas of academics, athletics and community service. Students in grades 9-12 who attend MIAA member schools are eligible to receive the award. Monthly award winners receive a certificate of recognition and are featured on MIAA.net. Nominations for the award may be submitted by principals, athletic directors, teachers, coaches, guidance counselors or other school administrators. A complete list of “MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award” recipients and finalists can be found under the “Educational Athletics” and “Leadership” sections at www.miaa.net.