



## The Springfield Renaissance School Student Receives MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

Alejandra Almanza, a senior at The Springfield Renaissance School, has been selected as the recipient of the "MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award" for September 2021. A three-sport athlete, Alejandra demonstrates strong leadership in her academics, as an athlete and within her community.

"Alejandra models the mission of our school and our Community Commitments every day," stated Dr. Arria Coburn, Principal. "Her courage to push herself in the extracurriculars of athletics and community service, coupled with her perseverance in academics, has exemplified the spirit of our student body and school community." Ranking third in her class, Alejandra has pursued a rigorous course load which includes Honors and Advanced Placement courses. In addition, she has challenged her learning further by enrolling in dual enrollment courses at Springfield Technical Community College over the past two years. Her English teacher said, "Alejandra is the type of student you can rely on to be a class leader who helps her peers in small group settings while the teacher is pulled away. I am lucky to be able to work with and teach such a remarkable student."

Athletically, Alejandra is a key member of her Soccer, Indoor Track and Field, and Softball teams. Her Soccer Coach, Kinglsey Aning, noted that Alejandra "has been a wonderful player in terms of dedication, hard work, respect, and, most importantly, a team player." As co-captain, Alejandra leads by example, helping her teammates with her skills and work ethic. Allison Stoddard, School Counselor and nominator, stated, "She represents the uniform well and stands out amongst her classmates as the epitome of a student-athlete." Outside of Renaissance, Alejandra is actively involved with jujitsu, martial arts and boxing.

Having an interest in the medical field, Alejandra volunteers her time working at Baystate Hospital. Her service allows her to give back to her community while developing an understanding of the medical profession. Her responsibilities include connecting with patients and visitors and bringing them to their appointments as well as collaborating with the nursing staff to coordinate patient/visitor needs following existing COVID protocols. Alejandra's helpful ways are consistently demonstrated in her school "Crew" where she is "quick to take on leadership roles and is always willing to help her peers" according to Bridgit Camara, Crew Teacher; she "consistently demonstrates friendship, perseverance, and self-discipline" and is "very conscientious about balancing school with family responsibilities and sports." Dan Pear, Assistant Principal, said Alejandra "exemplifies what it means to be a Springfield Renaissance Phoenix."

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Student-Athlete of the Month Award is presented on a monthly basis to two student-athletes 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 recipients receive a certificate of recognition, are featured on [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net) and MIAA social platforms, and will be honored at a local ceremony to honor their selection. Each recipient will be eligible for the Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship provided on behalf of the Agganis family. Nominations for the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month award may be submitted by principals, athletic directors, teachers, coaches, guidance counselors or other school administrators. For additional information about the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award program please visit [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net).

## EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

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