



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 14, 2022

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DHA STUDENT-ATHLETES WIN MEDALS AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Hamilton wins gold medal in 400M and shot put, Izaguirre wins silver in 400M

Photos attached: Jayda Hamilton and Carlos Izzaguire show off their medals with Physical Education Teacher Jacqueline O'Connor.

PATERSON – Two student-athletes at the Dr. Hani Awadallah (DHA) School became medalists at the Special Olympics track and field summer games at The College of New Jersey in June.

Jayda Hamilton participated in the shot put and the 400 meter race, winning gold in both events. Carlos Izaguirre participated in the long jump and the 400 meter race winning the silver medal. The athletes were accompanied by their coach, DHA Physical Education Teacher Jacqueline O'Connor.

“The Dr. Hani Awadallah School (DHA) was proud to have two athletes who have been practicing since April represent our school,” said O'Connor. “They competed at sectional events in order to advance to the annual state Summer Games.”

In addition to the competition, the athletes participated in the Olympic Village, fireworks, and dance parties. They also made friends along the way, O'Connor said.

Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer congratulated the two DHA Special Olympians.

“Jayda and Carlos are an inspiration to us all for doing their best and achieving excellence on the field of athletic competition,” Shafer said. “I want to thank our outstanding student-athletes for making us proud, as well as their parents, Ms. O'Connor, and Principal Nahed Badawy for supporting Jayda and Carlos on their quests for Special Olympics medals.”

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