



## NEWS RELEASE

### NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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## Allen Huestis of Rhode Island to Receive NIAAA Award of Excellence

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Bruce Whitehead

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 20, 2013) — **Allen Huestis**, CAA, former athletic director of Ponaganset (Rhode Island) High School, is the 2013 recipient of the Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Huestis will receive the NIAAA Award of Excellence December 17 in Anaheim, California, during banquet festivities at the 44<sup>th</sup> annual National Athletic Directors Conference conducted jointly by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the NIAAA.

The Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence is a prestigious award presented each year to an NIAAA member whose loyalty to the association and contributions to the profession represent excellence in achievement.

The award is named after the late Thomas E. Frederick, who served as NFHS assistant and associate director for 22 years before his retirement in 1989. Frederick was responsible for starting the National Athletic Directors Conference in 1971 as well as the NIAAA in 1977.

Huestis began his career in education in 1966 as a teacher at Ponaganset Middle School. In 2003, he retired as athletic director of Ponaganset High School after nearly 40 years of service to the school district.

Huestis assumed athletic director duties at Ponaganset in 1981 while continuing to teach reading at the middle school. During his 23 years as athletic director, Huestis coached middle school soccer from 1986 to 1990 and one season as the middle school's boys basketball coach in 1992. Huestis also assisted with the high school's girls soccer team until 1998, and continued to volunteer as a coach for the team until 2003.

In addition to his coaching duties, Huestis volunteered as an official for the local youth soccer and basketball associations.

Huestis was very active in the Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (RIIAAA). In 1987, he became vice president and assumed the RIIAAA presidency from 1989 to 1991. In 1994, he began serving as corresponding secretary, a position he held even after retirement. Eight times he served as the association's delegate to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly, and in 2001, he was named RIIAAA Athletic Director of the Year. He is currently serving as the state's liaison to the NIAAA.

Huestis' involvement with the NIAAA dates to the mid 1980s when he attended his first national conference in 1987, and he hasn't missed one since. He is currently a member of the NIAAA Mildred Hurt Jennings Endowment Committee and served as its chair from 2004 to 2007. Huestis also served as chair of the Membership and Services Committee from 1997 to 2000, and terms on the Ways and Means Committee and as a participant of the Blue Ribbon Panel.

In addition, Huestis has been workshop moderator four times at the National Athletic Directors Conference and was a presenter at the first-time committee member workshop from 2001 to 2008.

Huestis was awarded the NFHS Citation in 1993 and the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2006. He is also a two-time recipient of the NIAAA State Award of Merit. In 2011, he was inducted into the RIIAAA Hall of Fame and was enshrined into the Ponaganset High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012.

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*Biographical profiles for this press release were written by Chris Boone, NFHS assistant director of publications and communications.*

#### **About the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)**

The NIAAA is the largest national organization for high school athletic administrators with more than 8,500 individual members. The NIAAA consists of athletic directors organizations in the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and provides an efficient system for exchange of ideas between the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and state athletic administrators organizations as well as individual athletic administrators. The NIAAA, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, strives to preserve the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the curricula of schools. The NIAAA is a full and equal partner with the NFHS.

### **About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 16 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.7 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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