



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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NIAAA to Present Distinguished Service Awards to 10 High School Athletic Directors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (December 8, 2014) — Ten individuals who have made outstanding contributions to interscholastic athletics have been named recipients of the 2014 Distinguished Service Awards given by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

These individuals will be honored December 16 in National Harbor, Maryland, during the banquet at the 45th annual National Athletic Directors Conference conducted jointly by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the NIAAA.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to individuals from within the NIAAA membership in recognition of their length of service, special accomplishments and contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. Nominations are submitted by state athletic directors associations, screened by the NIAAA Awards Committee and selected by the NIAAA Board of Directors.

This year's winners include Jeff Benson, CMAA, athletic director, Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School, South Paris, Maine; Clayton Carter, CMAA, athletic director, Tooele County School District, Tooele, Utah; Carol Dozibrin, CAA, director of athletics,

Winnacunnet High School, Hampton, New Hampshire; Glen Gillespie, retired athletic director, Sylvania (Ohio) Southview High School; John Gregory, CMAA, athletic director, Nampa (Idaho) High School; Marlin Hammond, CAA, retired athletic director, Lincoln (Missouri) R-2 Schools; Marc Hought, CMAA, athletic director, Maize (Kansas) School District; Stephen May, CMAA, assistant principal of student activities, Wheeling (Illinois) High School; Angela Miller, CMAA, district athletic director and healthful living coordinator, Nash-Rocky Mount Schools, Rocky Mount, North Carolina; and Kris Welch, CMAA, athletic director, Century High School, Hillsboro, Oregon.

Following are the biographical sketches of this year's award winners:

Jeff Benson, CMAA, South Paris, Maine

Since 1980, Jeff Benson, CMAA has distinguished himself as one of Maine's most accomplished leaders in interscholastic athletics. After coaching baseball, basketball and soccer for several years at the high school and collegiate levels, he began his career in athletic administration in 1990 and is now in his 12th year as the athletic director at Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School in South Paris. Prior to that, Benson spent 19 years as a coach and administrator at Lisbon High School, before moving to Gray-New Gloucester High School and Edward Little High School.

During his time at Oxford Hills, Benson has created and developed handbooks for coaches and parents, and instituted a team GPA award and recognition program. He has received the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) Special Achievement Award in 2003 and the Robert Lahey Athletic Administrator of the Year Award in 2007, and he was named Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference (KVAC) Administrator of the Year in 2008.

At the state level, Benson has served on the MIAAA Board of Directors since 2007, presided and presented at the MIAAA fall and spring conferences, and served as a MIAAA Leadership Training instructor. He has also been active with the Maine Principals' Association (MPA), serving on its baseball and wrestling committees. He also was chair of the MPA Sportsmanship Committee and helped implement a statewide sportsmanship recognition program.

As a coach, Benson led Lisbon High School to Mountain Valley Conference baseball championships every year from 1983 to 1987. Lisbon was Western Maine Class B baseball runners-up in 1985 and 1986, and Benson was named Mountain Valley Conference baseball coach of the year in 1987. He also returned to coaching in 2012 as an assistant coach for Bates College.

At the national level, Benson was the Maine delegate to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly in 2008 and 2012, and was awarded the NFHS Citation in 2008.

Clayton Carter, CMAA, Wendover, Utah

After spending his first year in education out of his home state, Clayton Carter, CMAA, returned to his roots in Utah and has served in various capacities since.

Carter graduated from Utah State University and started his teaching and coaching career in Rupert, Idaho. He then began teaching social studies and physical education and coaching track and field and cross country at Wendover (Utah) High School, where he has remained for the past 25 years.

He has also coached girls and boys basketball and was an assistant baseball coach on the only team in Wendover's history in any sport to win a state championship. One year was spent as a defensive coordinator on his son's high school football team in neighboring West Wendover (Nevada) High School as well. He has been the course marshal for the Utah state cross country championships since 2004.

After only two years at Wendover, Carter became the athletic director and currently serves as the lead athletic director for the Tooele County School District – a post he has held for the past 10 years. He has been a member of the Utah Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (UIAAA) for 23 years. He was president of the association last year, has been the region representative on the UIAAA ADEC board for 18 years and has chaired Region 18 since 2007.

Carter, who is currently on the NIAAA Certification Committee, earned his CAA in 2000 and CMAA in 2008. Since 2004, he has been a CAA test administrator and teaches LTC 501, 502 and 625. He is also an NFHS certified coaches' trainer.

Carter was named the 2006 Utah High School Activities Association 1A Coach of the Year and earned the UIAAA Meritorious Service award in 2011. He was also the winner of the state's Distinguished Service Award in 2013.

Carol Dozibrin, CAA, Hampton, New Hampshire

Carol Dozibrin, CAA, has spent 37 years in education and in that time has distinguished herself as a decorated leader of interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. After serving as a physical education teacher at Farmington (New Hampshire) High School for two years, Dozibrin began her athletic administration career in 1979 at Timberlane Regional Middle School and then moved to Newport Middle School in 1989. Since 1999, she has been the director of athletics at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, New Hampshire.

Dozibrin is heavily involved at the state level with the New Hampshire Athletic Directors Association (NHADA). She is a former NHADA president and treasurer, and currently sits on the NHADA Spring Conference Committee – a position she has had since 1990. She has also served as chair of the NHADA Awards Committee since 1996. In 2006, Dozibrin earned the NHADA State Award of Recognition.

In addition, Dozibrin has shared her time and expertise with various New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) committees. She currently serves as chair of the NHIAA Football Committee, and also sits on the Coaches Education and Finance committees. She also spent time on the committees for strategic planning, sports officiating and gender equity. From 2002 to 2004, Dozibrin served as the NHIAA president, and in 2005, the NHIAA presented her with its Service Award.

Dozibrin has been a member of the NIAAA since 1987 and has been New Hampshire's Leadership Training state coordinator since 1998. She currently sits on the national faculty for Leadership Training Course 703 and has taught and taken several other leadership training courses. From 2001 to 2004, Dozibrin was an at-large member of the NIAAA Board of Directors.

Among her many honors, Dozibrin earned the NFHS Citation and the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1998. Twice she was named New Hampshire Athletic Director of the Year (1995 and 1999) by the National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors, and was inducted into the NHIAA Hall of Fame in 2013.

Glen Gillespie, CAA, Sylvania, Ohio

Glen Gillespie, CAA, retired in 2012 after 35 years in education and 22 years as an athletic director in Ohio. Gillespie began his career as a teacher and coach at Watkins Memorial High School in Pataskala, Ohio, and his first administration position was as the dean of students at Marietta (Ohio) High School.

Gillespie was named athletic director of Marietta High School in 1990 and served five years in that position. He then was athletic director at New London (Ohio) High School for three years and Wilmington (Ohio) High School for one year before closing his career with 13 years as athletic director at Sylvania (Ohio) Southview High School.

Throughout his career, Gillespie served as a tournament manager for Ohio High School Athletic Association events in basketball, track and field, soccer, baseball and softball. He also served on the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) Northwest District Board of Directors. In 2012, he was appointed the state's Leadership Training Institute coordinator and took on duties as the OIAAA newsletter editor.

Even in retirement, Gillespie is still very involved in Leadership Training, serving on the NIAAA National Faculty since 2007 and as chair of Leadership Training Course 608. He has also continued to serve on the NIAAA Publications Committee and is the editor of the Ideas That Work column of the Interscholastic Athletic Administration (IAA) Magazine. In addition, Gillespie is an instructor of the NFHS Coach Education Fundamentals of Coaching course and is a CAA exam administrator.

Gillespie was awarded the OIAAA Citation in 2007 and was inducted into the OIAAA Hall of Fame in 2012. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Ohio Northern University and his master's from Ashland University in Ohio.

John Gregory, CMAA, Nampa, Idaho

John Gregory, CMAA, began coaching two years after Title IX passed and has been influential to girls athletics ever since.

Gregory's first coaching job was the head women's basketball coach at Southern Nazarene University from 1974 to 1977. He then moved to Melba (Idaho) High School, where he spent portions of five years as the head of the girls and boys basketball teams and the girls field hockey team. His final season coaching field hockey ended with his team going undefeated and shutting out each of its opponents.

Gregory returned to the college ranks to coach the women's basketball team at Panhandle State (Oklahoma) University before a year-long stint as the head girls basketball coach at Warr Acres Junior High in Oklahoma City. He also returned to Melba High School for two years to coach girls varsity basketball, JV volleyball and assist with softball.

In 1988, Gregory began coaching girls basketball at Nampa (Idaho) High School – a position he held for 16 years before becoming the school's athletic director. He also spent two years coaching volleyball and nine years as the head softball coach. His teams qualified for numerous state tournaments – one in volleyball, four in softball and eight in basketball – and he was a four-time District III Coach of the Year.

Gregory has served on the Idaho Athletic Administrators Association (IAAA) Executive Board for nine years, including two years as president of the association and seven years as the certification chair. He has been a member of the NIAAA Credentials Committee and will start a term on the NIAAA Awards Committee next year. As athletic director, Gregory was named District III Athletic Director of the Year and IAAA Athletic Director of the Year in 2008. Earlier this year, he received a Distinguished Service Award from the Idaho High School Activities Association.

Marlin Hammond, CAA, Lincoln, Missouri

Marlin Hammond, CAA, retired in 2009 after 35 years in education as a teacher, coach, principal and athletic director.

Hammond graduated from Lincoln (Missouri) University in 1974 and jumped right into teaching. In 1978, he began a lengthy career at Lincoln (Missouri) R-2 Schools, where he taught physical education, American history and government, health and driver's education. He coached the girls basketball team for 29 years and also worked with baseball, softball,

volleyball, football, and track and field. He served as an elementary principal for 22 years and an athletic director for 26 years.

An active contributor to the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA), Hammond has given his time to the basketball advisory committee, athletic director advisory committee and state basketball tournament design committee, among many others. He was chair of the site selection committee for volleyball, basketball and baseball. He is also a registered MSHSAA official for volleyball and softball.

Hammond first served as the Missouri Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (MIAAA) Central District Representative from 1999 to 2003 before serving as its president from 2005 to 2007. He is the current vice-chair of the NIAAA Credentials Committee and is a certified NIAAA test administrator.

Despite retiring five years ago, Hammond continues to coach the girls junior high basketball team and serve as an assistant softball coach at Lincoln. He also is an adjunct professor at Southwest Baptist University.

Hammond has earned several awards, including the Kaysinger Conference Coach of the Year Award in both basketball and softball. He was named the Missouri Athletic Director of the Year in 2003 and was inducted into the Missouri Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2006. The following year, he was given the NIAAA State Award of Merit. Most recently, Hammond was presented with the MSHSAA Distinguished Service Award in 2009 and the MIAAA Gerald Linneman Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010.

Marc Haught, CMAA, Maize, Kansas

An outstanding 32-year career as a teacher, coach and athletic director has resulted in Marc Haught, CMAA, being the first athletic director from Kansas to be presented with the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 15 years.

Haught spent the first 12 years of his career as a biology teacher and coach of the football, baseball and swim teams at Wichita (Kansas) Heights High School, followed by 10 years as the school's athletic director. There, he developed a department-wide booster club and student recognition program, and administered many facility upgrades.

Haught then moved to Maize, Kansas, where he was athletic director at Maize High School for five years before becoming athletic director for the Maize School District six years ago. As district athletic director, Haught currently manages 105 coaches. In addition to overseeing coaching inservice and professional development, Haught handles 44 varsity high school and 38 middle school sport programs, and supervises district athletic facility maintenance.

Haught has been a member of the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (KIAAA) for 20 years and has served in various leadership roles. He was on the Board of Directors from 2003 to 2012 and was president in the 2008-09 school year. He is the chair of the KIAAA newsletter and awards committees and was recently appointed executive director of the organization.

Within the state's governing body for high school activities, Haught has been a member of the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Board of Directors since 2012. In addition, for the past 12 years, he has been co-director of the KSHSAA 5A-6A State Wrestling Championships – one of the largest championship events in the state with average annual attendance of more than 15,000 spectators.

Using his background as a teacher, Haught is actively involved in the NIAAA Leadership Training Institute (LTI) program as a National Faculty instructor and co-chair for Leadership Training Course (LTC) 611. He has also presented workshops at three different conferences, and is a current member of the NIAAA Awards Committee.

Haught was presented with the KIAAA District Athletic Director of the Year Award in 2008 and the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2011.

Stephen May, CMAA, Wheeling, Illinois

For almost 30 years, Stephen May, CMAA, has been contributing to the success and achievements of students in the Chicago suburbs.

May taught English and coached for a year at Crystal Lake (Illinois) Central High School before spending the next eight years at Winston Park Junior High School in Palatine, Illinois. There, he was the girls and boys basketball and wrestling coach. In 1996, he became the dean of students and basketball coach at Prospect High School in Mount Prospect, Illinois.

Since 2001, May has been an assistant principal of student activities at Wheeling (Illinois) High School, where he has been awarded the principal's award twice, and works with Township High School District 214. There, May has created and maintained the Wheeling Athletic Hall of Fame and a student spirit group called "The Cat Pack."

May has also been instrumental in the development of the Hispanic Athletic Council at his school. The council tries to find ways to help Wheeling's growing 50 percent population of Hispanic students boost its participation in athletics and activities. It has held a summit for 11 area schools to celebrate and encourage Hispanic students to become leaders.

May was also on the committee that met to discuss synthetic turf and decided to partner with the Wheeling Park District to share a stadium in order to serve the entire community.

Within the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), May has served on the IHSA Athletic Advisory Board and the ad hoc transfer student policy committee. He served one year as a non-voting member of the IHSA Board of Directors.

Among his duties with the Illinois Athletic Directors Association (IADA), May has been president, state conference program and registration chair, and division representative.

May has been a presenter at both the IADA conference and NFHS/NIAAA National Athletic Directors Conference and has had articles published in each organization's journal. He is currently a member of the NIAAA/NFHS National Athletic Directors Conference Advisory Committee.

Angela Miller, CMAA, Sims, North Carolina

Angela Miller, CMAA, has spent past two decades establishing herself as a leader of interscholastic athletic administration in North Carolina. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Pembroke (North Carolina) State University and her master's degree from East Carolina University, Miller began her career in education in 1993 at James B. Hunt High School in Wilson, North Carolina.

During her 13 years at Hunt High School, Miller was a teacher, coach and athletic director. She assisted the county athletic director in scheduling of events and hiring of officials,

and improved the working relationship between the middle school and high school athletic programs.

In 2006, Miller was named district athletic director and healthful living coordinator of the Nash-Rocky Mount Schools in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. As athletic director, Miller oversees the athletic programs in five high schools and works with the superintendent to develop the annual system-wide budget and interprets board policy for the district's athletic directors and coaches.

As the healthful living coordinator, Miller conducts and evaluates healthful living education curriculum, staff training and budgets.

Miller is active at the state level, where she currently is a member of the board of directors of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. She has also served on the board of directors of the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association (NCADA). In 2010-11, Miller was the board secretary and was NCADA vice president in 2011-12.

Miller has continued her professional development by earning her national board certification in physical education in 2006. She also earned her NIAAA Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) certification in 2011 and became an Accredited Interscholastic Coach (AIC) through the NFHS Coach Education Program in 2010.

Among her honors, Miller was North Carolina's recipient of the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2011. She also earned the NCADA President's Award in 2013.

Kris Welch, CMAA, Hillsboro, Oregon

In more than 20 years of experience in athletics, Kris Welch, CMAA, has shown dedication to student-athletes, whether as a coach, official, athletic director, board member, mentor, educator or volunteer.

Welch spent his first seven years in education as a math teacher and assistant coach of football, basketball and baseball at Central Catholic High School in Portland, Oregon. His first athletic director job then came at Roosevelt (Oregon) High School, where he also coached football, softball and baseball. In 2004, he moved to his current position as athletic director at Century High School in Hillsboro.

Some of his achievements at Century High School include starting the “True Jaguar” Award and a scholar-athlete recognition program. He mentors fellow athletic directors, has helped re-organize conferences and assisted with OSAA state championships in various sports.

Since 2004, Welch has also served as the athletic director representative for several conferences, including the Northwest Oregon Conference and Pacific Conference. He currently serves as the wrestling, baseball and football chair for the Metro League.

At the state level, Welch is currently executive director of the Oregon Athletic Directors Association (OADA) and has been a member of its executive board for the past seven years. The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) has also benefited from Welch’s work on numerous committees, including the OSAA Officials’ Fees Committee and OSAA Budget Committee. He has also spent nine years as an instructor in the American Sport Education Program and has taught more than 50 classes.

Nationally, Welch has been a member of the NFHS /NIAAA Athletic Directors Conference Advisory Committee. In addition, he has taken more than 30 NIAAA Leadership Training classes during the past eight years.

Welch was awarded the Spirit of Century Award in 2006, the Oregon ASA Umpire of the Year Award in 2010 and Distinguished Service Award in 2012. This year, he was named Athletic Director of the Year in both the 6A classification and overall.

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. For more information, visit the NIAAA website at www.niaaa.org.

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 website at www.nfhs.org.

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