



## NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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### Craig Perry of Minnesota to Receive NIAAA Professional Development Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 30, 2015) — Craig Perry, CMAA, associate director of the Minnesota State High School League and a former athletic director in North Dakota, is the 2015 recipient of the Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Perry will receive his award December 15 in Orlando, Florida, during banquet festivities at the 46<sup>th</sup> annual National Athletic Directors Conference conducted jointly by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the NIAAA.

The Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award is presented each year to an NIAAA member who possesses and has contributed to the vision of professional development – the legacy of Frank Kovaleski – and who has made significant contributions and demonstrated excellence in professional development at the local, state and national levels. Kovaleski was director of the NIAAA, as well as assistant director of the NFHS, from 1989 until his retirement in 2005. He was responsible for starting the NIAAA Leadership Training Program in 1996 and expanding the NIAAA Certification Program in 1999.

Craig Perry's distinguished career in high school athletics has seen him serve student-athletes in two states and rise to be a national leader in interscholastic athletics.

Now an associate director of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), Perry has been able to demonstrate leadership abilities and insight that have taken him from a coach and athletic director in North Dakota to the pinnacle of his profession as a state association administrator and a highly involved member of the NIAAA.

Perry has been an associate director with the MSHSL since 2005. His primary responsibilities include interpretation of the league rules and bylaws for the more than 500 member schools and their constituents. He also serves as the MSHSL director overseeing girls and boys tennis, girls and boys ice hockey and wrestling. He also oversees the MSHSL's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

Before joining the MSHSL, Perry served 11 years as the Grand Forks (North Dakota) Public Schools district athletic director. In that role, he was responsible for the athletic programs at two high schools, four middle schools and 11 elementary schools, and more than 250 coaches.

While there, he was tournament manager of 51 North Dakota High School Activities Association state tournaments and 44 regional tournaments. In addition, Perry served the North Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as its vice president and president, as its delegate to the NIAAA and as the state Leadership Training Program coordinator.

Since 1996, Perry has been actively involved with the NIAAA. He previously served as an NIAAA Board member, the NIAAA representative on the NFHS Coaches Education Committee and a member of the NIAAA Professional Development Committee, and he is currently involved in his 13<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the NIAAA Publications Committee.

Perry has been involved with the NIAAA Leadership Training Program since 1997, where he has written and edited curriculum, served as a national course chair, and taught LTI courses at 17 consecutive National Athletic Directors Conferences.

Additionally, he has spoken or taught LTI courses at state athletic directors conferences and summer institutes in 15 states.

Perry is a previous recipient of the NFHS Citation Award in 2004 and the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2008.

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#### 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](http://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 7.8 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](http://www.nfhs.org).

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