



## NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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### Richard Kemper of Virginia to Receive NIAAA Award of Excellence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 30, 2015) — Richard Kemper, CMAA, executive director of the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (VIAAA), is the 2015 recipient of the Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Kemper will receive the NIAAA Award of Excellence 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 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.

For more than 50 years, Richard Kemper, CMAA, has been a leader of athletic administration in the state of Virginia and nationwide. He spent his entire career at St. Christopher's School in Richmond,

Virginia, and became one of the nation's first executive directors of a state athletic administrators association in 2001.

Kemper joined St. Christopher's School in 1964 after graduating from Emory (Virginia) and Henry College, and remained at the school until 2006. Kemper became the school's assistant director of athletics in 1969 and remained in that position until 1990 when he took over as director of athletics. In that position, he oversaw an athletic program of 11 sports.

He also was the school's head football coach from 1972 to 1999, winning 60 percent of his games and leading the program to back-to-back Virginia Preparatory League championships in 1990 and 1991. He earned the Virginia Prep League's Football Coach of the Year award four times. A four-year stint as St. Christopher's basketball coach saw Kemper lead the team to the 1988 Prep League championship.

The Virginia Prep League was led by Kemper, first as executive secretary from 1973 to 1990, and then as its executive director until 2006.

Kemper's involvement with the VIAAA was extensive even before becoming the group's executive director in 2001. He has been a VIAAA board member since 1995 and served a term as VIAAA President in 2005-06. In addition, Kemper was the VIAAA State Conference Treasurer in 1997 and 2002. From 1997 to 2004 and then from 2007 to the present, Kemper has served as the VIAAA's State Leadership Training Coordinator.

Also at the state level, Kemper has led the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association since 2006 and was the executive director of the Virginia Independent School Football Association from 1994 to 2000. In 1998, Kemper was named VIAAA Athletic Director of the Year.

Kemper was a trailblazer at the national level as well. In 1996, he participated in the NIAAA's first leadership training seminar, and he was one the first athletic administrators to earn both his CAA and CMAA distinctions. From 2000 to 2009, Kemper served on the NIAAA Certification Committee, and since 1992, he has served on the editorial board of Athletic Management Magazine.

Kemper has been recognized at the national level with an NIAAA State Award of Merit (1999), the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award (2005) and an NFHS Citation (2007).

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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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