



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Cass Herbst of Idaho to Receive NIAAA Professional Development Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 16, 2016) — Cass Herbst, CMAA, athletic administrator, Nampa (Idaho) East Valley Middle School, is the 2016 recipient of the Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Herbst will receive her award December 13 in Nashville, Tennessee, during banquet festivities at the 47th 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.

Herbst is in her 31st year of teaching and her 18th year as an athletic administrator at Nampa East Valley Middle School. Originally from Twin Falls, Idaho, Herbst earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Idaho State University, and a master's degree in athletic administration from Boise (Idaho) State University.

In 1986, Herbst began her career as a teacher and track and girls basketball coach at Middleton (Idaho) High School. After a 14-year stint at Nampa (Idaho) West Middle School, Herbst became athletic director and track coach at East Valley Middle School when it opened in 2003.

At the local level, Herbst served as president of the Intervalley League from 2004 to 2006, after a term as secretary the previous four years. She has been a tournament director for several middle school league tournaments and instituted a middle school sportsmanship award, and she has been physical education department chair at East Valley Middle School since 2003.

Since becoming an athletic administrator, Herbst has been an active member of both the Idaho Athletic Administrators Association (IAAA) and the NIAAA. She was the first middle school athletic director in the state to obtain the Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) designation, and the first female in Idaho to earn Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) status.

Herbst, who currently is president of the IAAA, has served as the IAAA Leadership Training Institute State Coordinator since 2004 and previously served as its executive secretary. Herbst was named Idaho's Athletic Director of the Year in both 2002 and 2007.

At the national level, Herbst's contributions to the NIAAA have been extensive. She served on the NIAAA Awards Committee for eight years, including two years as vice chair and two years as chair. An NIAAA lifetime member, Herbst served on the third NIAAA Strategic Planning Committee and has been a member of the NIAAA Task Force since 2013.

Within the NIAAA Leadership Training Institute (LTI), Herbst was vice-chair and co-author of Leadership Training Course 721, served on the NIAAA National Presentation Faculty and was LTI moderator at the National Athletic Directors Conference (NADC) from 2007 to 2010. She has been an LTI course presenter at the NADC since 2011, was the Idaho delegate to the NIAAA National Delegate Assembly for two years and has taken 30 Leadership Training Courses.

Among her many awards, Herbst received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2004, the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2007 and the NFHS Citation in 2010. She has attended 16 National Athletic Directors Conferences.

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 17 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.

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