



## NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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### NIAAA to Present Nine Distinguished Service Awards

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 17, 2010) — Nine individuals who have made outstanding contributions to interscholastic athletics have been named recipients of the 2010 Distinguished Service Awards given by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

These individuals will be honored December 19 in Orlando, Florida, during the banquet at the 41<sup>st</sup> 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 director associations, screened by the NIAAA Awards Committee, and selected by the NIAAA Board of Directors.

This year's winners include **Don Dellinger**, CMAA, principal, Hedgesville (West Virginia) High School; **John Evers**, CMAA, director of athletics, Newburgh (Indiana) Castle High School; **Mark Horak**, CAA, athletic director, Lake Oswego (Oregon) High School; **Steve Joekel**, CAA, former assistant principal for activities/athletics, Omaha (Nebraska) Millard West High School; **Sandra Mader**, CMAA, director of athletic services, Aldine (Texas) Independent School District; **Robert Rossi**, CMAA, supervisor of athletics, Hunterdon (New Jersey) Central High School; **Diane Shuck**, CMAA, assistant principal and athletic director, Air Academy High School, Colorado Springs, Colorado; **Gary Stevens**, CMAA, director of student activities, Saco (Maine) Thornton Academy; and **William Utsey**, CAA, director of athletics and Title IX coordinator, Greenville (South Carolina) County Schools.

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

#### **Don Dellinger, CMAA, Hedgesville, West Virginia**

Don Dellinger, CMAA, has served his high school alma mater — Hedgesville (West Virginia) High School — since 1977 as a teacher, coach and administrator. In July 1999, Dellinger became principal of Hedgesville after more than 20 years as teacher/coach (1977–89) and athletic director/assistant principal (1989–99). In addition to football, Dellinger coached wrestling, track and field, and tennis.

A member of the West Virginia Athletic Directors Association (WVADA) for 22 years, Dellinger has served on the WVADA Executive Committee for 21 years and has held the president–elect, president and past–president positions. Dellinger has been state coordinator for the NIAAA Leadership Training Program for 14 years and taught 10 Leadership Training Courses at the state level. In 1994, Dellinger was named

WVADA Athletic Director of the Year and in 1997, he was awarded the NIAAA State Award of Merit.

Dellinger has been equally involved at the state level with the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC) by serving as director of many WVSSAC sectional and regional tournaments for soccer, volleyball, cross country, golf, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, track and field, tennis and football. He also has served on the WVSSAC Board of Directors for two terms and has been a member of the WVSSAC Board of Trustees and WVSSAC Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

At the national level, Dellinger has attended the past 19 National Athletic Directors Conferences, serving as a conference workshop moderator seven times. He served on the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee for two years and has been a member of the NIAAA Delegate Assembly 11 times. Dellinger has attended seven NFHS Summer Meetings and numerous NIAAA Leadership Training Coordinator meetings.

Dellinger graduated from Hedgesville in 1974 and received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from West Virginia University.

### **John Evers, CMAA, Newburgh, Indiana**

John Evers, CMAA, has served as the director of athletics at Newburgh (Indiana) Castle High School since 1994. During his 34-year career as a teacher, coach and athletic director, he has earned great respect and admiration at the local, state and national levels.

Prior to becoming athletic director at Castle, Evers spent four years as the head football and assistant wrestling coach at Rockport (Indiana) South Spencer High School. From 1978 to 1990, he served as Castle's assistant track and field, football and baseball coach, while teaching life sciences, biology, health and physical education.

Evers also taught and coached seventh–grade football and eighth–grade track and field at Castle Junior High School.

Within the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA), Evers has served on its board of directors, strategic planning committee and leadership training committee. He has also been the IIAAA president, first vice president, conference director, liaison to the NIAAA, past president and secretary. Other statewide accomplishments include his work with the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA). Evers annually conducts the association’s new athletic directors workshop, and he has directed more than 160 IHSAA and conference tournaments at Castle High School.

Nationally, Evers has been very active within the NIAAA, completing 22 Leadership Training Courses and attending 13 National Athletic Directors Conferences. He has also served as the Indiana delegate to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly seven times, and has been a presenter at four national conferences. A vice chair of the NIAAA Publications Committee, Evers has had 23 articles published in **Interscholastic Athletic Administration (IAA)** magazine. In 2005, he received the NIAAA State Award of Merit and the NFHS Citation.

In 2007, Evers was named the State Athletic Director of the Year, and he was chosen IIAAA District 6 Athletic Administrator of the Year from 2004 to 2006.

Twice a summa cum laude graduate, Evers received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Evansville (Indiana).

**Mark Horak, CAA, Lake Oswego, Oregon**

Currently athletic director at Lake Oswego (Oregon) High School, Mark Horak, CAA, has served as a coach, teacher and administrator since 1982 in Oregon and Texas.

Horak began his career as a teacher and coach at Churchill High School in San Antonio, Texas. He also taught and coached at Portland (Oregon) Central Catholic High School and San Antonio Driscoll Middle School before returning to Central Catholic in 1993, when he assumed roles of teacher, head baseball coach and football defensive coordinator. In 1995, he served as vice principal and dean of students until 1998, when he became athletic director. Horak then moved to Lake Oswego as athletic director in 2007.

Horak, who received his bachelor's degree from Trinity (Texas) University and his master's degree from Texas A&I University (now Texas A&M University–Kingsville), was responsible for many of the additions to Central Catholic High School's campus. He helped coordinate efforts to raise \$20,000 to complete a separate aerobic fitness room for teachers and students in 2000. In 2003, Horak was instrumental in raising \$950,000 for an all-purpose turf field, and he also was involved in a four-year effort to raise more than \$13.4 million for a major school expansion, which included the addition of a new weight room and the purchase of new equipment.

Horak was the president of the Oregon Athletic Directors Association (OADA) in 2005. He also is currently the state's NIAAA Leadership Training Program coordinator and Oregon's State Certification Coordinator. He has also served as vice president, NIAAA State Awards Chair, treasurer, secretary and NIAAA Oregon delegate. Horak has been a presenter and has taught Leadership Training Program courses at several OADA State Conferences.

Horak has attended 10 national conferences and has completed 20 Leadership Training Program courses. He has served on the NIAAA Awards Committee since 2004.

### **Steve Joekel, CAA, Bellevue, Nebraska**

After 35 years as a coach, teacher and athletic administrator in six Nebraska public schools, Steve Joekel, CAA, retired from public education last year and is currently a partner with an athletic consulting firm. For the past 15 years, Joekel was the assistant principal for activities and athletics at Millard West High School in Omaha. Under his leadership, Millard West won the U.S. Cellular Cup — presented by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) to the school with the state's top school activities program — three consecutive years.

Prior to his stint at Millard West, Joekel was vice principal/activities director at Bellevue (Nebraska) West High School for four years, principal of Wahoo (Nebraska) High School for two years and vice principal/activities director at Gretna (Nebraska) Junior–Senior High School for three years.

Joekel received his Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) designation in 1997 and has held many leadership positions at both the state and national levels. He served as the secretary/treasurer of the Nebraska State Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NSIAAA) for eight years and later was NSIAAA president in 2001–02.

Currently, Joekel is a member of the NSIAAA Board of Directors as historian and also serves on the board of directors for the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame. He is a certified NIAAA Leadership Training Program instructor for six courses and is a member of the NIAAA National Faculty for “LTC 505: Transformational Leadership and Mentoring.” Joekel continues to serve on the NSAA Sportsmanship Committee, and he hosted numerous NSAA tournament events while at Millard West.

Joekel, who received his bachelor's degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University and his master's degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, was selected Nebraska Athletic Director of the Year in 2006 and Athletic Director of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of Omaha in 2009. In 2004, he was inducted into the Nebraska Wesleyan University Athletic Hall of Fame. Other honors include the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1998 and the NSIAAA District II Outstanding Athletic Administrator in 2005.

### **Sandra Mader, CMAA, Houston, Texas**

An accomplished athlete, coach, teacher and administrator, Sandra Mader, CMAA, has been director of athletic services for the Aldine (Texas) Independent School District since 2007. Previously, Mader was director of athletics and principal of the Ninth Grade Center for the Galveston (Texas) Independent School District from 1997 to 2007.

A graduate of Sam Houston State (Texas) University, Mader's career in education began in 1987 at North Shore High School in Houston, where she was varsity softball coach, assistant basketball coach and an English teacher. After her years at North Shore, she became assistant athletic director and head softball coach at Alvin (Texas) High School for 1½ years before taking the Galveston position.

Mader served on the NIAAA Board of Directors from 2003 to 2005, and she was also a member of the NIAAA Strategic Planning Committee. An NIAAA lifetime member, Mader was Texas' NIAAA state delegate in 2003, and was the NIAAA board liaison to both the Publications Committee and the Awards Committee. After earning her CAA certification in 1997, she attained CMAA status just four years later. During her career, Mader has taken 28 NIAAA Leadership Training Courses and serves on the national

faculty for both LTC 700 and 703. In 2004, Mader received the NFHS Citation, and she has been a presenter at past NFHS/NIAAA National Athletic Directors Conferences.

At the state level, one of Mader's most significant accomplishments was her work with the Texas University Interscholastic League in adding fast-pitch softball as a sport in Texas high schools. She helped the Texas High School Girls Coaches Association (THSGCA) Board add softball coaches to its membership, and also helped initiate a softball all-star game. Mader served as secretary of the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association (THSADA) Board of Directors from 2003 to 2005, and has served on numerous THSADA committees.

In addition to being nominated for Texas High School Softball Coach of the Year at Alvin, where she instituted a no-cut program for middle school athletics, Mader was named to "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." Mader has been inducted into the United States Specialty Sports Association Hall of Fame and the Texas United States Specialty Sports Hall of Fame for her softball accomplishments, as well as the THSGCA Hall of Honor. She also has been inducted into her high school's hall of fame - the Triton Regional High School Hall of Fame in Runnemeda, New Jersey.

As a college athlete at Sam Houston State, Mader was a two-time All-American shortstop in softball and was college softball player of the year in 1986. She also played in four NCAA Division II national championships.

### **Robert P. Rossi, CMAA, Flemington, New Jersey**

Robert Rossi, CMAA, has been supervisor of athletics at Hunterdon (New Jersey) Central High School since 1992 after an outstanding career as boys basketball coach

(1978–92) and girls softball coach (1981–92) at South Hunterdon Regional High School. Hunterdon Central won The Star–Ledger Cup for athletic excellence in academics, sportsmanship and athletics in 2000 and 2001.

In addition to basketball, softball and baseball, Rossi has given many hours to the sport of lacrosse. He is the founder of the Central Jersey Women’s Lacrosse League and served as first president of the league. He also has been chair of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) Boys Lacrosse Tournament and Boys Lacrosse Committee since 2000. He was honored by the NJSIAA with the Boys Lacrosse Service Award in 2001 and the Service and Contributions Award for Athletics in 2007.

Rossi earned his CAA certification in 1997 and his CMAA certification in 2002. Since then, he has served as an NIAAA Leadership Training Course Instructor and a CAA test administrator. He has completed 28 Leadership Training Courses. His contributions at the national level include the NIAAA Strategic Plan Committee, NIAAA Awards Committee vice chair and New Jersey delegate to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly.

Rossi is an NIAAA lifetime member, has presented at the national conference and has been published in the **Interscholastic Athletic Administration** Magazine. At the state level, Rossi serves as chair of both the Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey (DAANJ) Scholarship Committee and the Awards Committee.

Rossi’s dedication to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels has earned him many accolades. During his 1984–85 and 1987–88 campaigns, Rossi was selected Hunterdon County Boys Basketball Coach of the Year. He was also named Hunterdon County Softball Coach of the Year in 1986–87. Rossi was selected by the DAANJ as Athletic Director of the Year in 2002–03, and he received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2003.

Rossi, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Trenton (New Jersey) State College, was inducted into the Hamilton High School West Hall of Fame in 2000.

### **Diane Shuck, CMAA, Colorado Springs, Colorado**

Currently the assistant principal and athletic director at Air Academy High School in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Diane Shuck, CMAA, has been serving her high school alma mater since 1992. Before her current positions, Shuck was athletic coordinator, student activities director, girls soccer coach, student government sponsor and physical education and health teacher.

Shuck has devoted many hours to the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), including serving as site director for several state tournaments and on various sports committees, which includes current membership on the CHSAA Ice Hockey Committee and as chair of the Spirit Committee. Among her other involvements at the state level, Shuck currently serves on the Colorado Athletic Directors Association (CADA) Board of Directors and is a former president of the organization.

Nationally, Shuck is a lifetime member of the NIAAA and currently serves on the NIAAA Publications Committee. She is a member of the NFHS Citizenship/Equity Committee and also is an American Sport Education Program Bronze-Level Instructor for the Coaching Principals and Sports First Aid Education Program.

In 2007, Shuck was selected as CADA Athletic Director of the Year, and in 2008, she was named National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) Central District Athletic Director of the Year. Shuck received her CAA certification in 2003,

CMAA certification in 2006 and the NIAAA State Award of Merit also in 2006. Shuck is also an accomplished coach. She was Colorado High School Soccer Coaches Association Girls Soccer Coach of the Year in 1996 and 1997, and also was named *Rocky Mountain News* Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year in those same years.

Shuck, who earned her bachelor's degree from George Mason (Virginia) University and her master's degree from University of Northern Colorado, is also an accomplished athlete. She was a four-year starter on George Mason University's women's soccer team and participated on the U.S. Soccer Youth National Team.

#### **Gary Stevens, CMAA, Saco, Maine**

Gary Stevens, CMAA, is the director of student activities at Thornton Academy in Saco, Maine, and has served the interscholastic community in Maine since 1983. Before joining the Thornton Academy staff in 2007, Stevens spent 17 years at Bonny Eagle High School in Standish as a teacher, activities director and assistant principal.

Stevens earned his CAA certification in 1999 and his CMAA certification in 2004. At the local level, Stevens has coached basketball, volleyball, softball, cross country, baseball and soccer; has served on various committees; and is a liaison for the Southwestern Maine Activities Association (SMAA) for boys and girls soccer, and girls basketball. He also is the current chair of the SMAA Sportsmanship Committee and was president of the association in 2006–07.

At the state level, Stevens is the assistant executive director of the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) and previously was a member of the MIAAA Board of Directors, on which he served as first vice president and held positions on other committees. Stevens is also active in the Maine Principals'

Association (MPA), having served as chair of both the MPA Cheerleading and Lacrosse Committees.

Stevens' commitment to education has earned him many awards, including the MIAAA Gerald Durgin CMAA Leadership Award, the MIAAA Athletic Administrator of the Year Award and State Athletic Director of the Year. Stevens is also a current member of the NIAAA Publications Committee and editor of the column, "A.D.'s Clipboard," in **Interscholastic Athletic Administration (IAA) Magazine**. He is the author of more than 15 articles.

Stevens earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard (Massachusetts) University and his master's from the University of Southern Maine.

### **William Utsey, CAA, Greenville, South Carolina**

William Utsey, CAA, has been serving the South Carolina interscholastic community since 1971. Currently the director of athletics and Title IX coordinator for the Greenville (South Carolina) County Schools, Utsey has also been an accomplished principal, teacher and coach.

Utsey is in his second stint as athletic director at Greenville. He previously served from 1995 to 2001, then was principal of Wade Hampton High School for four years before returning to Greenville in 2005.

Utsey has coached football, basketball, soccer, track and cross country. In 1989, he coached North Augusta High School to a state football championship and his teams have been state football runner-up twice — once at North Augusta and once at J.L. Mann High School. In 1989, he was the South Carolina Coach of the Year, and he received the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association 35-year Service Award in 2006.

A member of many professional organizations, Utsey is involved with the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, National Education Association, South Carolina Education Association, and the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA). He served as president, vice president and board member of the SCAAA.

On the national level, Utsey is a former member of the NIAAA Awards Committee and former state Leadership Training Institute (LTI) coordinator. He has also been an LTI instructor for 10 different courses and an NFHS Coaches Education Program instructor. He received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2000.

Utsey earned his bachelor's degree from The Citadel (South Carolina) and his master's and education specialist degrees from the University of South Carolina.

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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 7,000 individual members. The NIAAA consists of athletic director 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 fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine 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 7.6 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity

programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; 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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