



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Fred Smith of Michigan to Receive NIAAA Professional Development Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 20, 2012) — Fred Smith, CMAA, athletic administrator of the Buchanan (Michigan) Community Schools, is the 2012 recipient of the Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Smith will receive his award December 18 in San Antonio, Texas, during banquet festivities at the 43rd 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. Kovalski 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.

A teacher, coach and administrator in Michigan for 32 years, Smith has distinguished himself as a local, state and national leader in high school athletics. He has directed the athletic programs for the Buchanan schools for the past six years after 16 years in a similar capacity with the Comstock Public Schools in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Prior to his duties in Kalamazoo, Smith was a teacher, coach and athletic administrator at Lake Michigan Catholic Junior/Senior High School in St. Joseph, Michigan.

As an athletic administrator, Smith has been active in expanding sport offerings and promoting the value of educational athletics. He has expanded awards programs to include recognition of tri-athletes (students who participate in least one sport per season) and four-year participants. Smith has worked with parents to develop active all-sport athletic booster organizations while increasing fundraising efforts through a variety of events.

In other accomplishments at the local level, Smith has hosted student leadership conferences and provided funding and encouragement for coaches to attend state coaching clinics, as well as the Michigan High School Athletic Association Coaches Advancement Program. He has hosted league tournaments in numerous sports and served as conference commissioner for cross country and track and field.

At the state level, Smith served on the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) Executive Board from 1993 to 1998, including a

term as president in 1996–97. The chair of the MIAAA Professional Development Committee, Smith helped develop the MIAAA Leadership Academy for young athletic administrators and was facilitator for the MIAAA's second Strategic Plan. Smith also is a state instructor for the NIAAA's Leadership Training Institute (LTI).

In addition, Smith has been active in the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA). He has been a member of the Representative Council since 2004, and has served as manager for regional and district tournaments in various sports. Smith has assisted the MHSAA with 11 State Track and Field Championships and three State Individual Wrestling Championships. He has been a presenter for the new athletic director in-service program and has been an instructor for the MHSAA's Coaching Certification Program.

As a national LTI instructor, Smith has directed leadership classes in eight states and at numerous national conferences. Currently the national chair for Leadership Training Course (LTC) 501, Smith was on the development committee for LTC 720. Smith was a member of the NIAAA Credentials Committee from 1989 to 1995, and the Board of Directors from 1997 to 1999. He currently serves on the NIAAA Hall of Fame Committee.

Smith's career achievements include numerous awards for his service to athletics. In 1997, Smith was named MIAAA Regional Athletic Director of the Year, followed by an NIAAA Commendation Award in 1999, MIAAA State Athletic Director of the Year in 2000 and induction into the Battle Creek St. Philip Athletic Hall of Fame that same year. Also in 2000, Smith received the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award, and Midwest Athletic Director of the Year awards from both the National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. In 2004, Smith received the NIAAA Thomas E. Frederick Award of

Excellence, and in 2007, he was the recipient of the MIAAA George Lovich State Award of Merit.

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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 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 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 7.6 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 Web site at www.nfhs.org.

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