

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



NEWS RELEASE

NFHS Awards Citations to Eight Athletic Directors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bruce Howard

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 19, 2013) — The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) will award NFHS Citations to eight high school athletic directors December 16 in Anaheim, California, during luncheon festivities at the 44th annual National Athletic Directors Conference sponsored jointly by the NFHS and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

NFHS Citations are presented annually to outstanding athletic directors in recognition of contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. State associations nominate athletic directors for NFHS Citations, and the NFHS Board of Directors approves recipients.

This year's award winners are **Rich Bechard**, CMAA, district athletic director, Blue Valley Schools, Overland Park, Kansas; **Maurice "Bud" Campbell**, CAA, retired athletic director, Murray (Utah) High School; **Roger Dixon**, CAA, retired athletic director, Socastee High School, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; **Mark Horak**, CAA, athletic director, Lake Oswego (Oregon) High School; **Fred Lilly**, CAA, deputy superintendent, Camden (Arkansas) Fairview Schools; **Bruce Phelps**, CMAA, retired coordinator of student activities, Virginia Beach (Virginia) City Public Schools; **Patrick Pizzarelli**, CAA, assistant superintendent for student and community affairs, Lawrence (New York) Public Schools; and **Greg Smith**, retired district activities director, West De Pere (Wisconsin) School District.

Following are biographical sketches on this year's NFHS Citation recipients:

Rich Bechard, CMAA, Overland Park, Kansas

Rich Bechard, CMAA, has been an athletic administrator for the past 25 years and currently serves as the district athletic director for Blue Valley Schools in Overland Park, Kansas. Prior to moving into high school administration, Bechard coached both basketball and football for 10 years. At Blue Valley, Bechard oversees athletics for five high schools and nine middle schools.

At the state level of athletic administration, Bechard served on the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (KIAAA) Board of Directors from 1993 to 2012, including a term as president in 2001. He has been a KIAAA State Conference presenter and is a member of the KIAAA Leadership Training Institute (LTI) state faculty.

Bechard was named KIAAA District 2 Athletic Director of the Year in 1997 and 2003, and KIAAA State Athletic Director of the Year in 2003. In 2004, he received the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) State Award of Merit.

Bechard also has given considerable time to the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA). He was a member of the KSHSAA Strategic Planning Committee in 2009, and the KSHSAA Football Playoff Study Committee in 2000.

Nationally, Bechard is concluding a four-year term on the NIAAA Board of Directors as past president. He joined the Board in 2010 and was president in 2012. Bechard, who has been a workshop presenter at the National Athletic Directors Conferences, has served on the NIAAA LTI National Faculty since 2008 and was co-chair of NIAAA Sports Turf Committee for two years. Additionally, at the national level, Bechard served on the NFHS Citizenship Committee from 2004 to 2007.

Among his other involvements at the national level, Bechard has been a speaker for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics' (NAIA) Champions of Character program.

Bechard earned the Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) status in 1997, and, in 2001, he became the first Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) in Kansas.

Maurice “Bud” Campbell, CAA, Bountiful, Utah

Maurice “Bud” Campbell, CAA, former athletic director at Murray (Utah) High School, is now retired after an outstanding 38-year career as an athletic administrator. Prior to becoming an athletic director, Campbell coached football, basketball and baseball at Murray High School.

During his coaching career, Campbell won two state championships, was named Utah Baseball Coach of the Year in 1967, and coached the South All-Star baseball team in 1971 and 1972.

Campbell has been active with the Utah Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (UIAAA), serving as chair of the UIAAA Publications Committee and Awards Committee. Campbell was a member of the UIAAA Board of Directors for 25 years, which included a year as president in 2007-08.

Among his accomplishments at the state level, Campbell was recognized as UIAAA Athletic Director of the Year in 1997, was inducted into the UIAAA Hall of Fame in 2001 and received the UIAAA Meritorious Service Award in 2002.

Campbell, a lifetime member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), has attended nine National Athletic Directors Conferences throughout his career and was a Leadership Training Institute (LTI) instructor for four years. He was a member of the NIAAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee for seven years, the NIAAA Delegate Assembly for four years and the NIAAA Membership Committee. In 1997, Campbell received the NIAAA State Award of Merit and, in 2009, he earned the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award.

Campbell was active in providing athletic opportunities to the community and organized numerous camps and clinics to reach kids. He has hosted basketball camps in conjunction with the National Basketball Association, and was the director and host of the Utah Junior Jazz Clinic for six years. Many of the camps helped support the Murray athletic budget.

Campbell also was involved in numerous civic activities, including the Boy Scouts of America (B.S.A.), where he has served as a scoutmaster for 34 years. He has served on the B.S.A. Council Executive Board and Council Leadership Board. He received the Silver Beaver Award and the district Award of Merit.

Roger Dixon, CAA, Murrells Inlet, South Carolina

Roger Dixon, CAA, retired last year after 40 years in secondary education at seven schools in two states – North Carolina and South Carolina. He spent the first 31 years in North Carolina and finished his career with nine years as athletic director at Socastee High School in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Dixon began his career as a teacher and coach at Chase High School in Forest City, North Carolina. He then coached track at Hunter Huss High School in Gastonia, North Carolina, and football at North Gaston High School in Dallas, North Carolina, before returning to Gastonia in 1985, where he coached track at Ashbrook High School for 12 years.

After his retirement from the North Carolina Public School System in 1997, Dixon was athletic director at Charlotte (North Carolina) Christian School for five years before moving to South Carolina. Overall, Dixon was an athletic director for 28 years in five schools.

Dixon was a varsity head coach for football for 10 years (assistant coach for 30 years), indoor and outdoor track for 38 years combined, boys basketball for three years and girls basketball for five years. He was named Track Coach of the Year five times – in 1984 and 1985 for girls track, and 1994, 1995 and 1996 for boys track.

Among his honors, Dixon received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2003 and the Bob Sawyer Unsung Hero Award from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association in 2002. In 2004, Dixon was inducted into the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association (NCADA) Hall of Fame, and in 2006 and 2012, Dixon received AAA Athletic Director of the Year honors from the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA).

Today, Dixon remains involved in the South Carolina High School League and the SCAAA, serving on the SCHSL Compliance Team and the Constitutional Committee, and the SCAAA Constitutional Committee and Mentoring Handbook Committee. Along with the NIAAA and SCAAA, Dixon is a member of the North Carolina Coaches Association, the NCADA, American Football Coaches Association and South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association.

Dixon earned his associate of arts degree at Gardner-Webb (North Carolina) College in 1964, and his bachelor's degree in business education at St. Andrews (North Carolina) Presbyterian College in 1967.

Mark Horak, CAA, Lake Oswego, Oregon

With 30 years' experience in secondary education, including 15 years as an athletic director, **Mark Horak**, CAA, has made a career of providing successful environments in the classroom and on the playing field at three schools in Texas and Oregon.

Currently the athletic director at Lake Oswego (Oregon) High School, Horak earned his bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Trinity (Texas) University and a master's degree in school administration from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Horak began his career as a teacher and coach at San Antonio (Texas) Churchill High School in 1982. There, Horak taught American history and physical education and coached baseball, football and basketball.

Horak moved to Oregon in 1989 and became health and physical education and social studies teacher for Central Catholic (Oregon) High School. Six years later, he accepted the vice principal and dean of students roles at the school, and by 1998, he became athletic director. Horak has been athletic director at Lake Oswego since 2007.

Horak 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.

At the state level, Horak was a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association from 1982 to 1989. Since 1993, Horak has been a member of the Oregon High School Coaches Association, as well as the Oregon Athletic Directors Association (OADA) since 1998. He has served in multiple roles with the OADA, including member of the executive board since 2002, secretary (2002-03), treasurer (2003-04), vice president (2004-05) and president (2005-06). He also was state LTI Coordinator and Certification Coordinator from 2009 to 2013.

In 2002, Horak received his CAA and is currently working towards his CMAA. He has been a member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) since 1998, and a lifetime member since 2003. Horak also served on the NIAAA Awards Committee from 2005 to 2010.

Among his accomplishments, Horak was named Oregon 4A Athletic Director of the Year in 2006, and he received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2009 and the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2010.

Fred Lilly, CAA, Camden, Arkansas

Fred Lilly, CAA, has spent his entire 34-year career as a teacher, coach and administrator at his alma mater – Camden Fairview High School in Camden, Arkansas. Lilly began his career at Camden in 1979 as a coach and teacher. In 1993, Lilly took on the role of junior high assistant principal for the school district, then high school assistant principal in 1997. After a year as assistant principal duties, Lilly became the junior high principal for the district.

In 2000, Lilly became the district's athletic director and special programs director, and then added the role of assistant superintendent in 2010. In 2012, Lilly accepted the position of deputy superintendent for Camden Fairview – a role that he is currently holding today.

Lilly is a member of many Arkansas state associations, including the Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association (AHSAAA), Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators and Arkansas Association of School Personnel Administrators. Lilly has served as the state president of the 7A Activity District for the AHSAAA, as well as the curriculum consortium for the Arkansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Lilly has also served on the Awards Committee for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Lilly also has assisted the Arkansas Activities Association with New Athletic Director Training presentations in 2009, 2010 and 2011. He also presented the Athletic Handbook at the AHSAAA State conference in 2007 and 2008.

Lilly earned his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1978 from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He then achieved his master's degree in secondary education at Henderson State in 1993, and, in 2012, Lilly earned his superintendent certification from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas.

Bruce Phelps, CMAA, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Bruce Phelps III, CMAA, was coordinator of student activities for the Virginia Beach (Virginia) City Public Schools for 13 years until his retirement last year, following 26 years as a teacher, coach and athletic director at four Virginia high schools.

Phelps taught and coached eight years at Norcom High School and two years at Churchland High School, both in Portsmouth, Virginia, before beginning his career in athletic administration in 1983. Phelps was athletic director and baseball coach at Manor High School in Portsmouth from 1983 to 1992 and student activities coordinator at Tallwood High School in Virginia Beach from 1992 to 1999.

Phelps has made significant contributions to the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (VIAAA), including stints as treasurer (1996-98) and president (1999-2001). He was a regional representative on the VIAAA Board of Directors for 10 years. He has attended the past 26 VIAAA state conferences and has served as conference speaker and moderator on several occasions. He was chair of the VIAAA State Ways and Means Committee for six years and president of the Eastern Virginia Athletic Directors Association for two years.

The Virginia High School League (VHSL) has also benefited from Phelps' contributions for many years. He was a member of the VHSL Executive Committee and Sports Advisory Committee in 1997-98 and has been tournament manager for multiple VHSL state events in football, softball, tennis, volleyball, gymnastics, field hockey and swimming.

Nationally, Phelps is a 26-year member of the NIAAA and former member of the NIAAA Credentials Committee. He has been the Virginia state delegate at several national conferences and was an NIAAA Leadership Training Institute leader for LTC 510. Phelps has been a speaker at several National Athletic Directors Conferences.

Phelps received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1998 and the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2006. He was named athletic director of the year by the Virginia State Coaches Association in 1994 and VIAAA Athletic Administrator of the Year in 1996-97. He received the VHSL Torch of Honor Award in 2005.

Most recently, Phelps was inducted into the Virginia High School Hall of Fame in 2009 and received the John C. Youngblood Lifetime Award of Merit from the VIAAA in 2012.

Patrick Pizzarelli, CAA, Lawrence, New York

For the past 21 years, **Patrick Pizzarelli**, CAA, has served the Lawrence (New York) Public Schools, first as district director of athletics for 19 years and as assistant superintendent for student and community affairs since 2011.

Prior to joining the Lawrence staff in 1992, Pizzarelli was a teacher and coach in the Plainedge Public Schools in North Massapequa, New York, from 1981 to 1987, and assistant director of athletics for the Hicksville (New York) Public Schools from 1987 to 1992.

Pizzarelli started his education career in 1976 as a teacher and coach in the Madison (Connecticut) Public Schools after graduating from Southern Connecticut State College in New Haven. He later earned his master's degree from the State University of New York in Stony Brook, and a professional diploma in school district administration and supervision from Long Island (New York) University.

During his coaching career which spanned 11 years, Pizzarelli coached football, lacrosse, basketball and wrestling. He was responsible for starting lacrosse in both the Plainedge and Lawrence school districts.

As an active member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and the New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA), Pizzarelli has worn many hats within the organizations. From 2004 to 2012, Pizzarelli served terms as NYSPHSAA second vice president, first vice president, president and past president. He has been a member of the handbook committee since 2012.

With the NYSAAA, Pizzarelli served as chapter eight representative from 1998 to 2002, vice president from 2002 to 2004, and president in the 2004-05 school year. He has been chair of the certification committee since 2006.

Pizzarelli also has devoted his time and efforts to the New York Empire State Games (assistant to regional director, 1988-99) and the New York State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (Nassau Zone), serving two terms as president.

Among other awards, Pizzarelli has received the NYSAPERD Amazing Physical Educator Award, NYSAAA Outstanding Athletic Administrator Award (Section 8), March of Dimes "Golden Apple" Outstanding Educator Award and NIAAA State Award of Merit.

Greg Smith, CMAA, Apple River, Illinois

Greg Smith's 26-year career in education was divided between Oregon and Wisconsin after one year at a middle school in Bellingham, Washington, to begin his career.

Smith retired this past summer after 10 years as district activities director for the West De Pere (Wisconsin) School District. Since his retirement from West De Pere, Smith has continued to serve as executive director of the Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association (WADA). Prior to becoming executive director of the WADA, Smith served a term as president.

As activities director for the West De Pere School District, Smith was responsible for numerous tasks in the areas of student services, curriculum and instruction, and district activities.

Prior to moving to Wisconsin 10 years ago, Smith served in the Hermiston (Oregon) School District for 15 years. He was a teacher and coach at the middle school level for four years before joining the Hermiston High School staff in 1992. Smith was a teacher, coach and assistant principal, and also served as district activities director for his final six years.

Among his awards, Smith has been honored with the Inter-Mountain Conference Coach of the Year in 1994 and Inter-Mountain Conference Athletic Director of the Year, Oregon 4A Classification Athletic Director of the Year and State of Oregon Athletic Director of the Year in 2003. In 2008, Smith received District 4 Wisconsin Athletic Director of the Year honors. Smith also served as president of the Oregon Athletic Directors Association.

Smith earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, and his master's degree at Eastern Oregon University. Along with his 26-year career in secondary education, Smith attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve before retiring after 27 years. His last position he held was Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 416th Regiment, 104th Division. His unit was responsible for basic combat training and advanced infantry skills training for an estimated 1,300 trainees during an eight-week cycle. His unit contained more than 250 soldiers and an inventory in excess of \$10 million.

After his retirement from West De Pere, Smith relocated to Apple River, Illinois.

###

Biographical profiles for this press release were written by Shane Monaghan, graphic arts technician/editorial assistant in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department.

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 7.7 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.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Bruce Howard, 317-972-6900
Director of Publications and Communications
National Federation of State High School Associations
bhoward@nfhs.org

Chris Boone, 317-972-6900
Assistant Director of Publications and Communications
National Federation of State High School Associations
cboone@nfhs.org