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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Chuck Schmidt and Harold Slemmer comment on Chuck's Departure from the AIA**

PHOENIX, AZ (May 18, 2015) – The Arizona Interscholastic Association, the state association responsible for high school activities and sports, announced the departure of Chuck Schmidt, Chief Operating Officer, after 16 years of service. Today, Mr. Schmidt and Executive Director, Dr. Harold Slemmer made these comments.

Says Schmidt, "It is difficult to leave the AIA. It has been a lot of work over the past 16 years and I am proud of all the team has accomplished. We have built a solid foundation for success. It is a wonderful team backed by an incredibly talented Executive Board. This is a hard personal decision but I do so for the best interest of my family. I wish all member schools, the AIA staff and most importantly, the Arizona high school students the best of luck and much success. I remain committed to support the educational system through my work with the Arizona Board of Education. "

"While we are sad to see Chuck leave, we understand and support his decision. During the last 16 years, Chuck has made an outstanding contribution to not only the AIA but to the National Federation of High School Sports Association (NFHS). Chuck has been instrumental in the creation of [AZPreps365.com](http://AZPreps365.com), the development of NFHS Network, the formation of AIA Foundation, our Concussion Awareness initiatives (Brainbook), and our alliance with Special Olympics. He has also made a huge difference in raising funds through sponsorships so that we could provide additional services without burdening our member schools. We are grateful for the time we have had him on the AIA team. We will feel the impact of his departure but he has put together a dynamic team who will continue to bring new programs and initiatives. We wish Chuck and his family much success and happiness," said Dr. Harold Slemmer, Executive Director.

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