

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 14, 2016) — The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) will award NFHS Citations to eight high school athletic directors December 12 in Nashville, Tennessee, during luncheon festivities at the 47<sup>th</sup> 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 Ron Dolphin, CAA, athletic director, Grand County High School, Moab, Utah; Ed Gilliland, CAA, athletic director, LaPorte (Indiana) High School; Karl Heimbach, CMAA, athletic director, Col. Zadok Magruder High School, Rockville, Maryland; David Lutes, CAA, director of athletics, Kent (Washington) School District; Todd Olson, CMAA, director of student activities, Fargo (North Dakota) Public School; Mike Snyder, CAA, athletic director/football coach, Seminole (Oklahoma) High School; Gary Stevens, CMAA, director of student activities, Thornton Academy, Saco, Maine; and Carter Wilson, CMAA, athletic director, Decatur (Georgia) City Schools.

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

Ron Dolphin, CAA, Moab, Utah

A longtime resident of Moab, Utah, Ron Dolphin, CAA, graduated from Grand County High School in Moab in 1988 and returned to his alma mater in 1994 after a brief stint teaching and coaching in Gabbs, Nevada. After a successful head coaching career in football, wrestling, baseball and softball, Dolphin was named athletic director of Grand County High School in 1999.

During his early tenure as the athletic director, Dolphin continued to serve as an assistant coach in football and baseball, helping lead the teams to several championship final appearances. As the athletic director at Grand County, his programs have won 16 state titles and 22 runner-up titles. He has also written the first drug-testing policy and coach's handbook for his school. Dolphin was named the Title IX Coordinator for his district in 2014.

Dolphin has worked closely with the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA). He served on state committees to create 2A classifications for soccer and swimming in the association. He has worked numerous state tournaments and continues to be an active faculty member of the Dare To Lead sportsmanship conference for the UHSAA.

Dolphin has been a member of the Utah Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (UIAAA) since 2000 and began serving on the UIAAA Athletic Director Executive Committee (ADEC) in 2004. He served on the UIAAA Board of Directors from 2010 to 2013, including a term as chair, and continues to serve on the ADEC. Dolphin was a former chair of the UIAAA Awards Committee and is the current chair of the UIAAA Scholarship Committee. He was heavily involved in both UIAAA Strategic Plans, serving as chair of the operation committee during the second plan. Dolphin has been a CAA test facilitator and a member of the UIAAA state faculty for LTC courses since 2012.

Dolphin received the UIAAA Athletic Director of the Year Award in 2010, the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2014 and the UIAAA Meritorious Service Award in 2015.

Dolphin received his associate's degree from Snow (Utah) College and earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Utah University.

Ed Gilliland, CAA, LaPorte, Indiana

Twenty years after Ed Gilliland, CAA, graduated from LaPorte (Indiana) High School in 1977, he returned to his alma mater as its athletic director and hasn't left since. Before coming

back to LaPorte, Gilliland taught business and coached baseball and basketball around Indiana, including the head baseball coach at Lafayette Jefferson High School.

Since becoming LaPorte's athletic director in 1997, Gilliland has created the school's athletic hall of fame, implemented a coaches handbook, overseen the fundraising for and renovation of the baseball and softball facilities, and created an athletic advisory committee.

Gilliland has remained active at the state level and currently serves on the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) Board of Directors and Executive Committee. He had previously served on the IHSAA Sportsmanship Committee and the Participation Rule Study Committee, as well as participated in the 2016 IHSAA officials summit.

As a 20-year member of the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA), Gilliland currently serves as IIAAA Secretary and was president of the organization in 2009-10. In addition, he is a past chair of the IIAAA Proposals Committee, is a Leadership Training Instructor of LTC 502 and served as presider, recorder and presenter at the IIAAA annual state conference. At the national level, Gilliland has served as Indiana's representative to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly since 2008.

In 2010-11, Gilliland was honored as IIAAA's Athletic Director of the Year, and earned District 1's Charles Maas Service Award in 2013 and 2015. Additionally, he earned the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2013.

Gilliland is a 1981 graduate of Ball State (Indiana) University and returned to Ball State to earn his master's degree in 1987.

Karl Heimbach, CMAA, Rockville, Maryland

For the past 30 years, Karl Heimbach, CMAA, has taught and inspired students at Col. Zadok Magruder High School in Rockville, Maryland. Heimbach started his education career in Delaware before joining Magruder in 1986 as a teacher and the boys and girls soccer coach. In 1999, he became the school's athletic director, a position he has held since.

During his time at Magruder, Heimbach helped create the school's emergency plan and parent-athlete handbooks, as well as implemented the Magruder High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He is also involved with mentoring new athletic directors for Montgomery County Public Schools.

Heimbach has been a member of the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association (MSADA) since 2000 and currently serves as its assistant executive director. He is a MSADA Leadership Training Institute (LTI) instructor and has taught 14 different courses throughout Section 2. Heimbach has also hosted and directed various district and state playoff contests for the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association.

At the national level, Heimbach represented Section 2 on the NIAAA Board of Directors from 2012 to 2015 and has served as Maryland's delegate to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly 11 times. He was a member of the NIAAA Endowment Committee for eight years and has completed all 42 LTI courses.

In 2006, Heimbach was named MSADA State Athletic Director of the Year and two years later received the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award. Last year, he was given the NIAAA Commendation of Excellence.

Heimbach is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and has since earned a graduate certificate from Virginia State University and a master's degree from McDaniel (Maryland) College.

David Lutes, CAA, Kent, Washington

David Lutes, CAA, has spent his entire 40-year education career in the Kent (Washington) School District, including working as the district's director of athletics for the past 27 years. Beginning in 1977, Lutes has worked in several capacities in Kent schools, including teacher, coach and assistant principal.

Locally, Lutes has been the South Puget Sound League Athletic Directors Association treasurer since 1996, its football commissioner since 1990, and served as its president during the 1993-94 school year. He has also been a West Central District #3 Executive Board member since 2004 and was president from 2006 to 2008.

From 2000 to 2012, Lutes served on the executive board of the Washington Secondary Schools Athletic Administrators Association (WSSAAA), including a term as president in 2006-07. In addition, he has been the class 4A/3A football playoff committee chair since 1991.

Lutes also worked with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) as a member of the WIAA Honorary Executive Board from 2005 to 2007, on its Planning and Action Committee (1998-99) and its Summer Activities Committee (2011).

Among his honors, Lutes earned the WIAA Gareth Giles Service Award in 2013 and the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2008. He has been athletic director of the year on numerous occasions, and he was inducted into the WSSAAA Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Washington State Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2012.

Lutes earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from the University of Washington and subsequently earned his principal's certificate and master's degree from Central Washington University.

Todd Olson, CMAA, Fargo, North Dakota

For nearly three decades, Todd Olson, CMAA, has helped educate and lead student-athletes in North Dakota. Olson began his education career in 1991 as a math teacher and boys basketball coach at Grand Forks (North Dakota) Central High School. During his 14 years as a coach, he was named the state's Class A Boys Basketball Coach of the Year in 1995, and the Associated Press Male Sport Coach of the Year in 1996, the same year he led Central to the Class A state championship.

In 2005, Olson was named athletic director for Grand Forks Public Schools overseeing the athletic program of two high schools and four middle schools. During his seven years in that position, he oversaw a \$2 million upgrade to the school system's field and track, and was named Class A Administrator of the Year for the 2009-10 school year.

Since 2012, Olson has worked as the director of student activities of Fargo Public Schools, where he is responsible for the activities programs at three high schools and three middle schools with more than 11,000 students and 300 coaches.

Olson is active in the North Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NDIAAA), having served on the NDIAAA Board of Directors since 2007. His time on the board includes a term as president in 2010-11. Additionally, Olson currently serves as the NDIAAA Spring Conference chair and is on the state's Leadership Training Institute faculty.

Olson is equally involved with the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA). From 2010 to 2014, he served on the NDHSAA Board of Directors, culminating with a term as president in 2013-14. From 2011 to 2013, Olson was chair of the NDHSAA Football Committee and since 2005, has served on the association's Tournament Manager's Committee.

Nationally, Olson began a term on the NIAAA Board of Directors in 2015, and served on the NIAAA Certification Committee from 2011 to 2014 and the NFHS Coach Education Committee from 2010 to 2012. In 2013, Olson earned the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award.

Olson earned his bachelor's degree from Mayville State (North Dakota) University in 1991 and his master's degree in education administration from the University of North Dakota in 1998.

Mike Snyder, CAA, Seminole, Oklahoma

Mike Snyder, CAA, began his career in 1972 as an assistant football coach and psychology and sociology teacher at Seminole (Oklahoma) High School. Forty-five years later, Snyder still calls Seminole home, having worked as the school's athletic director and football coach since 1981.

As a coach, Snyder has led the Seminole football program to one Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) state championship and five runner-up finishes. He is the winningest active football coach in Oklahoma and even coached the school's baseball team to two OSSAA tournament finals.

During Snyder's tenure as athletic director, Seminole has added five sports to its offerings and won 20 state championships. He has implemented the Coaches Handbook and Athletic Handbook, and in 2005, he initiated the Seminole High School Hall of Fame.

At the state level, Snyder has been an Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) member for 25 years and a board member for 15 years, and he is a past president of the association. During his term as OIAAA president, the organization gained dual membership with the NIAAA.

Nationally, Snyder previously served on the NIAAA Board of Directors, representing Section 6, and he is a current member of the NIAAA Awards Committee and has served as the Oklahoma representative to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly.

Among his honors, Snyder was named Football Coach of the Year in Oklahoma in 1996 and was a finalist for National Football Coach of the Year. In 1990, he was named OIAAA Athletic Director of the Year.

In 2001, Mike and Glenda Snyder started the Mike Snyder Foundation and have raised more than \$50,000 to help underprivileged students in the Seminole Public Schools and to

support Special Olympics through the awarding of \$20,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors. Snyder earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from East Central (Oklahoma) University.

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 served a term as 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 the MPA Basketball, Cheerleading and Lacrosse Committees.

Stevens' involvement with the NIAAA is extensive. He currently serves on the NIAAA Board of Directors and is the Board's Marketing Subcommittee chair. From 2006 to 2014, Stevens was a member of the NIAAA Publications Committee, including two years as vice chair. Stevens has written numerous articles for the IAA magazine and continues to produce content for the magazine regularly.

Stevens' commitment to education has earned him many awards, including the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2010, the MIAAA Gerald Durgin CMAA Leadership Award and the MIAAA Athletic Administrator of the Year Award.

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

Carter Wilson, CMAA, Decatur, Georgia

Carter Wilson, CMAA, is the athletic director for the City Schools of Decatur, Georgia, a position he has held since 1999. Prior to that, Wilson was a high school basketball coach and teacher in Tucker, Georgia, and spent four years as the head men's basketball coach at Georgia State University. His coaching accomplishments include being named region basketball coach of the year three times.

Wilson is very active at the state level with the Georgia Athletic Directors Association (GADA) and the Georgia High School Association (GHSA). He is currently a member of the GHSA Executive Committee, and serves on the selection committees of both the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and the Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame.

Wilson currently serves on the GADA Board of Directors as its Administrative Committee chair, and as chair of the GADA Hall of Fame. In 2009-10, he served a term as GADA president and from 2006 to 2008, was the state's Leadership Training Coordinator. Wilson has twice been named GADA Region Athletic Director of the Year and earned the organization's distinguished service award three times. In addition, the GADA presented Wilson with the Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award in 2009.

Wilson's involvement with the NIAAA includes currently serving on its Board of Directors. He also represented Georgia on the NIAAA Delegate Assembly from 2010 to 2012, served as a CAA test administrator, and was a member of the 2010 Blue Ribbon Panel. In 2008, Wilson earned the NIAAA State Award of Merit.

Wilson earned his bachelor's degree from Clark College in Atlanta, and later earned a master's degree from Georgia State University.

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### 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](http://www.nfhs.org).

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