



## NEWS RELEASE

### **San Antonio to host 49<sup>th</sup> annual National Athletic Directors Conference – Banquet, Luncheon to be Streamed Live on NFHS Network**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Bruce Howard

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (December 12, 2018) — More than 2,400 athletic administrators, spouses, guests and exhibitors will be attending the 49<sup>th</sup> annual National Athletic Directors Conference (NADC) Friday through Tuesday (December 14-18) at the Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. It is the third time – and the first since 2012 – that San Antonio has hosted the conference.

The country's largest meeting of high school athletic directors is co-sponsored by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) of Indianapolis. The Conference Luncheon on December 17 and the Conference Banquet on December 18 will be streamed live on the NFHS Network

([www.NFHSNetwork.com](http://www.NFHSNetwork.com)).

The 49<sup>th</sup> installment of the NADC begins Friday, with several NIAAA committee meetings, as well as early registration at 5:30 p.m. The full conference begins Saturday with registration at 8:30 a.m. in Hall 4 West Registration, and the Opening General Session will be held at 5 p.m. Saturday in the Hemisfair Ballroom.

**Dr. Rick Rigsby**, president and CEO of Rick Rigsby Communications, will be the keynote speaker at the opening session. Rigsby, a former award-winning journalist, had a passionate speech in 2017 reach more than 130 million people worldwide when it went viral. Following a television career, he spent two decades as a college professor, most of which came at Texas A&M University. Rigsby was

twice named an outstanding professor in the College of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M. His first of many publications, a non-academic book titled *Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout*, reached best-seller status for *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal* and Amazon.

The Closing General Session at 1:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18, features keynote speaker **Tamika Catchings**. In addition to formerly playing for the WNBA's Indiana Fever, Catchings is a four-time Olympic Gold medalist, and the recipient of the first ESPN Humanitarian Award. In 2011, she was named the WNBA MVP, and followed her standout season with a WNBA championship and WNBA Finals MVP Award in 2012. Since her retirement in 2016, Catchings has devoted more time to her "Catch the Stars Foundation," which provides underprivileged children with access to basketball camps, fitness clinics, and mentoring and literacy programs.

The first workshop session at this year's NADC gets underway at 8:45 a.m. Sunday. Key topics for the 40 workshops include risk minimization, coaching staff professional development, afterschool safety, social media use, accomplishment recognition, team travel, student team leadership and multisport participation.

In addition to networking opportunities, NIAAA Leadership Training Institute (LTI) courses will provide professional development opportunities for attendees. The first session of LTI classes begins at 12:30 p.m. Saturday and the final session takes place at 3:30 p.m. Monday.

Eight athletic directors will be recognized with NFHS Citations for their contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. The Citation recipients will receive their awards on Monday during the Conference Luncheon.

NFHS Citation recipients include **Anthony Amero**, CMAA, athletic administrator, Forest Hills School, Jackman, Maine; **John Cann**, CAA, athletic director, T. L. Hanna High School, Anderson, South Carolina; **Ray Moore**, CMAA, retired athletic director, Vista Murrieta High School, Murrieta, California; **Michael Morris**, CMAA, executive director, Illinois Athletic Directors Association, LaGrange, Illinois; **Scott Nordi**, CAA, Lakes High School, Lakewood, Washington; **Cliff Odenwald**, CAA, executive athletic director, Garland Independent School District, Garland, Texas; **Joshua Scott**, CMAA, director of athletics, Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, Missouri; and **Robert Stratton**, retired athletic administrator, Glen Allen, Virginia.

The NIAAA will present its Distinguished Service Awards to 11 athletic administrators during the Conference Banquet on Tuesday, December 18. This year's winners include **Bill Clements**, CAA, athletic

director, Dakota Valley High School, North Sioux City, South Dakota; **Lisa Corprew**, CAA, student activities coordinator, Bayside High School, Virginia Beach, Virginia; **Alfred “Bunky” Dow**, CAA, student activities director, Mt. Desert Island High School, Bar Harbor, Maine; **Scott Garvis**, CMAA, athletic/activities director, Centennial High School, Ankeny, Iowa; **Tol Gropp**, CMAA, athletic director, Timberline High School, Boise, Idaho; **Lorell Jungling**, CMAA, executive director, North Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, Mandan, North Dakota; **Ken Mohnney**, CMAA, principal, Hartford Middle School, Hartford, Michigan; **Jamie Sheetz**, CMAA, athletic/activities director, Park City High School, Park City, Utah; **Marianne Shultz**, CMAA, retired athletic administrator, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Annapolis, Maryland; **Kevin Simmerman**, CMAA, activities director, North Star High School, Lincoln, Nebraska; and **Dave Tikker**, CAA, executive director, Washington Secondary School Athletic Administrators Association, Spokane, Washington.

Three other individuals will receive NIAAA awards during Tuesday’s banquet. **Gary Stevens**, CMAA, director of student activities at Thornton Academy in Saco, Maine, is the recipient of the NIAAA Frank Kovalski Professional Development Award; **Doug Killgore**, CMAA, recently retired assistant principal and athletic director of Central Arkansas Christian School in North Little Rock, Arkansas, will receive the NIAAA Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence; and **Phil Rison**, CMAA, associate executive director of the NIAAA in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the recipient of the NIAAA Award of Merit.

The banquet and conference conclude with the induction of seven athletic directors into the NIAAA Hall of Fame. Those being recognized this year include **Bruce Bowen**, CMAA, retired athletic administrator of Hermitage High School in Richmond, Virginia, and currently executive director of the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association; **Steve Duncan**, CMAA, retired athletic director, Valley High School, West Des Moines, Iowa; **Kevin Horrigan**, CMAA, retired athletic director, Greenfield Central High School, Greenfield, Indiana; **Allen Huestis**, CAA, retired athletic director, Ponaganset (Rhode Island) High School; **Don Riviere**, retired athletic director, T. C. Williams High School, Alexandria, Virginia, and James Robinson High School, Fairfax County, Virginia; **Roy Turner**, CMAA, retired athletic director of Ashley High School in Wilmington, North Carolina, and currently executive director of the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association; and **Bruce Whitehead**, CMAA, retired executive director of the NIAAA, Indianapolis, Indiana.

*This press release was written by Cody Porter, a graphic arts/communications 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 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including almost 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).

### **About the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)**

The NIAAA is the professional organization for interscholastic athletic administrators. The association is accredited by AdvancED and North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. Based in Indianapolis, Indiana, the NIAAA promotes and enhances the profession of athletic administration for high school and middle school athletic administrators. Since 1977, the NIAAA has served those who lead education-based athletic programs in the nation's schools. With current individual membership of nearly 11,000, the NIAAA consists of members from athletic administrator associations in the 50 states, and the District of Columbia, as well as over 40 international countries. Through its 48-course curriculum, and four levels of certification, the NIAAA is the national leader in providing professional development for athletic administrators, directors, coordinators, and supervisors, as well as those serving in assistant principal/athletic director, or activity/athletic director combined roles that lead school-based sports programs. While providing best-practices and serving as a resource for safe and plentiful participation opportunities for student-athletes, the NIAAA places further focus on member benefits, standards, communication, outreach, and recognition, while emphasizing the exchange of ideas among athletic administrators throughout the nation and the world. NIAAA champions the profession of athletic administration through education opportunities, advocating ethics, developing leaders and fostering community. For more information, visit the NIAAA website at [www.niaaa.org](http://www.niaaa.org).

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Bruce Howard, 317-972-6900  
Director of Publications and Communications  
National Federation of State High School Associations  
[bhoward@nfhs.org](mailto:bhoward@nfhs.org)

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

Mike Blackburn, 317-587-1450  
NIAAA Executive Director  
[mblackburn@niaaa.org](mailto:mblackburn@niaaa.org)