



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Jeff Dietze to Receive NIAAA Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 12, 2008) — **Jeff Dietze**, CMAA, longtime athletic administrator at Alexandria (Virginia) West Potomac High School, is the 2008 recipient of the Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Dietze will receive his award December 15 in San Diego, California, during luncheon festivities at the 39th annual National Conference of High School Directors of Athletics 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. Kovaleski was director of the NIAAA, as well as assistant

director of the NFHS, from 1989 until his retirement in January 2005. He was responsible for starting the NIAAA Leadership Training Program in 1996 and expanding the NIAAA Certification Program in 1999.

One of the nation's top athletic administrators, **Dietze** has devoted his entire professional career to the development of high school students.

A commissioned officer in the United States Army from 1964 to 1969, Dietze went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and furthered his education at George Mason (Virginia) University, where he earned a master's degree in secondary administration.

Dietze began his career at Groveton High School in Fairfax County, Virginia, where he served as science department chair, chemistry instructor, intramurals director and baseball coach. In 1975, Dietze moved to Fort Hunt High School as director of student activities. He spent 10 years there until Groveton High School and Fort Hunt High School merged to form West Potomac High School. He then served at West Potomac for 23 years and retired in February 2008.

A charter member of the NIAAA, Dietze has held numerous leadership positions within the NIAAA and the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (VIAAA), including VIAAA president, VIAAA state certification coordinator, the Virginia delegate to the NIAAA Delegate Assembly, and chair of the Professional Development Committees for both the VIAAA and NIAAA.

Dietze published two articles in the *Interscholastic Athletic Administration* and 10 in the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (VIAAA) *ADMission*. He co-hosted the 2003 NIAAA LTC Summer Institute in Richmond, Virginia and currently teaches several LTC courses.

In recognition of his many outstanding achievements in Virginia, Dietze has received several awards. Beginning with the Fort Hunt Sportsman Outstanding Service Award, he subsequently received the Athletic Director of the Year Award, the Presidential Leadership Award, and the John C. Youngblood Lifetime Achievement Award, all from the VIAAA.

Dietze has also been recognized at the national level for his exceptional dedication and hard work. In 1997, the NIAAA conferred him a Distinguished Service Award and a year later, he received an NFHS Citation. Earlier this year, Dietze was named the National Association for Sport and Physical Education Athletic Director of the Year for both the Southern District and the nation.

As an enduring testament to his lifelong dedication to the young people of our nation, the Fairfax County School Board named the West Potomac High School stadium after Dietze in September 2008, at which time he received the Virginia Delegate Assembly Citation. In October, Dietze was inducted into the Virginia High School Hall of Fame.

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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 6,000 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 fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine 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 18,500 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; 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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