



2019-20 NADIIAA Special Olympic Activity Award Nominations

NADIIAA: Special Olympics Activity Award Nomination Form

Institution:

Alfred State College

Conference Affiliation/Independent:

AMCC

Please Provide a Brief Overall Description of the Activity/Project:**Description:**

The Alfred State Special Olympics Track & Field Spectacular took place on May 6th. Over 100 student-athletes, the entire athletic department staff, and our campus community supported this premier regional event. Our goal is to provide an exciting day of running, jumping, and throwing events to local scholastic Special Olympians. More than 300 athletes and over 100 staff members from 12 area school districts took part in the daylong event. Athletes begin the day with an opening ceremony with their fellow competitors to display their school pride. Each athlete takes part in their choice of running, jumping, and throwing events. The athletic department provides a picnic lunch to every athlete as they finish their events in the early afternoon. Each athlete is recognized and presented with ribbons for their participation. Award recipients are celebrated by announcing their name while standing on the podium for their efforts and for photo opportunities.

Objective:

The athletic department's objective is to provide an event that Special Olympians look forward to annually which provides a fun, safe, and rewarding physical activity for young track & field athletes to compete. We strive to bring together people that share the love of competition and the ideals of Special Olympics. Furthermore, it is our intention to educate our student-athletes about the importance of community service and serving as role models for young athletes.

How has this project impacted campus or local community or target audience:

This annual event is a staple in the surrounding community. Community members and school administrators talk about this event year round. The athletes that take part in our Track & Field Spectacular have an opportunity like this once per year and look forward to participating. The NCAA's partnership with Special Olympics has helped connect our institution with Special Olympics of Western NY. Based in Rochester, this regional association comes to our area and provides the structure for registration while our campus community runs the event.

The thank-yous and smiles from the athletes are numerous and heartwarming. Our collegiate student-athletes, staff, and volunteers are truly uplifted by the opportunity to spend time with and share their love of sport with the community. This event connects our community in a unique way and provides an irreplaceable experience of connection for everyone involved.

Approximate Number of Student-Athletes Participating in the Project/Activity:

Over 100 student-athletes participate as event managers, event officials, team sponsors, food service, award recognition, and more. Our student-athletes look forward to the event and truly make sure that everyone has an enjoyable experience.

Student-Athlete Group(s) Involved in the Project/Activity:

Student Athlete Advisory Committee
19 Intercollegiate Sport Teams
Sports Business Club

Dates or Duration of the Project/Activity (e.g., days, weeks, months):

Our Track & Field Spectacular is held on a mutually agreed upon date annually (5/6/19). This event has been running for the last seven years and has continued to grow. The Special Olympians walk in the opening ceremonies at 9:15 am; with running, throwing, and jumping events beginning at 10 am. Lunch is served midday and the afternoon is filled with more track events. Students depart the stadium after receiving their awards at 2pm.

Community or Population Served by the Project/Activity:

The 12 schools that attended the Special Olympic Spectacular came from as far as 50 miles away; some bringing over 50 student athletes from their school. School support staff attend the event with the students, aiding their participation and cheering them on. Parents and families also attend, supporting their sons and daughters, school friends and community. We estimate over 600 people took part, helped, and cheered at the event.

Additional Information via Website URL

<https://www.alfredstateathletics.com/general/2018-19/releases/20190509uuvq5f>