

2020 AD OF THE YEAR

DIVISION II



JIM JOHNSON
PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Two-time ADOY winner Jim Johnson is serving in his 10th year as director of intercollegiate athletics at Pittsburg State University (PSU).



During his tenure, Pitt State teams have captured three NCAA Division II national championships, made two Elite Eight appearances and won 26 MIAA Championships. In 2018-19, PSU won the MIAA Commissioner's Cup honoring the conference's top overall program.

Johnson is currently serving a four-year term as the MIAA representative on the NCAA Division II Management Council through January 2022; and he was elected to serve as vice chair for the 2019-20 academic year. He also concurrently serves on the Division II Planning and Finance Committee and the Division II Championships Committee.

In 2018-19, Johnson served as D2 ADA President.



LAURA LIESMAN
GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY

Serving Georgian Court University (GCU) since 2003, Assistant Vice President for Athletics Laura Liesman continues to lead the Lions to new heights. Under her leadership, GCU seamlessly made the transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II. In 2013, Georgian Court welcomed the addition of men's athletics when the university transitioned to a fully co-educational institution.



Liesman has developed Georgian Court into a highly competitive program, expanding its intercollegiate sports offerings from six to 14 with the addition of men's and women's track & field, men's and women's lacrosse, men's cross country, men's soccer and men's basketball to bring the number of student-athletes at the university from 45 to over 300.

She previously served as Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) vice president (2006-08) and president (2012-16).



TIM McMURRAY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE

Since his appointment as director of athletics at Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2015, Tim McMurray has maintained focus on a paradigm that has become Lion athletics' mission - providing a "Best in Class" experience for all Lion student-athletes and constituents.



Under McMurray's guidance, there have been 42 Lion teams qualify for NCAA postseason, including a school record 11 in 2018-19. The Lions also tied their highest-ever NACDA Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup finish (22nd) for the second consecutive year - the Lions' highest-ever finish by 42 places.

Key revenue initiatives recorded all-time bests in 2018-19, as the department hit projections in all key external areas for the first time in institution history. Private giving increased more than 250 percent, and the three largest corporate gifts and largest single private capital gift were made.



LINDSAY REEVES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA

Two-time Under Armour Athletics Director of the Year winner Lindsay Reeves is in her 20th year at the University of North Georgia (UNG). The 2019-20 season marks her 10th year as AD.



Under her leadership, UNG athletics programs have enjoyed prosperity on and off the playing fields and courts, highlighted by the UNG softball team being crowned 2015 NCAA Division II National Champions. She has mentored teams to championships on the conference, regional and national levels while emphasizing the total student-athlete development, culminating with the school's first-ever PBC Commissioner's Cup in 2017.

In addition to successes on the field of competition, the sports programs at UNG have championed the department's mission of total student-athlete development by teaching them the core principles of competition, integrity, fair play, personal character and good sportsmanship.