

D2 ADA



JR Smith

Chadron State College
Director of Athletics
2020-21 President

I am humbled to be in a leadership role serving as D2 ADA President during such a challenging time. Although I have been serving in Division II for 33 years, I am a rookie to the changing demands of COVID-19, something I share with all of you. This year will present many challenges for us all, but our Association is well positioned to help.

The organization's strategic goals include providing leadership by strengthening our collective voice, enhancing new athletics directors, and providing programming and continued professional development for current ADs. Although we were unable to meet in person at Convention in June, we plan to deliver seminars and instruction via digital platforms throughout the year. We are also providing mentorship with current and prospective ADs.

We will continue to maintain the D2 ADA Member Community at dzada.nacda.com, which allows members to easily

connect with one another and engage in discussions surrounding current issues. There is also a database of documents, forms and policies for you to review and use, and we encourage members to continue sharing their own best practices to enhance this resource. For this year, the Association has decided to waive membership dues for 2020-21. There is no better time for D2 ADs to take advantage of all we have to offer. You can find information about D2 ADA online at nacda.com.

Each conference has a representative on the D2 ADA Board of Directors. Make sure you know your rep, and please discuss issues and concerns with them. They will then bring those back to the Board for consideration. We have a very active group of athletics directors on the Board, and they are focused on helping the membership and moving the Division forward.

On behalf of the Officers, 1st Vice President Bren Stevens, University of Charleston; 2nd Vice President Kim Pate, Lenoir-Rhyne University; and 3rd Vice President Kirby Garry, Cal State Monterey Bay, I encourage you to engage with D2 ADA. There is strength in sharing, and we are all plowing new paths as we navigate the pandemic. We look forward to the discussions and finding a way to create a meaningful season for our students.

D2 CCA



Tom Daeger

Great Midwest Athletic Conference
Commissioner
2020-21 President

As these challenging times heighten and intensify, I am thankful daily for my D2 CCA colleagues and continually awed by the talent, selflessness and pure leadership that has been magnified over these past four months. The actions, care, and authenticity of not only the D2 CCA commissioners, but our fellow leaders in the D2 ADA, CCACA, D2SIDA, NCAA staff and the many thoughtful administrators at our member institutions has assured me that as we navigate these troubling waters, we have the right intentions behind our discussions and actions. Our truest colors will shine as our patience, confidence, and endurance is challenged, and I could not be prouder of the Association of Division II commissioners.

The commissioners always have the student-athletes' best interests, safety, well-being, and experiences at the heart of each

of the decisions that are recommended. Although we may not always agree on the best approach to achieve those goals, we understand and respect that they can be achieved differently, but that in collaborating we typically find the best path forward.

As I assume the responsibility of service as the D2 CCA President for 2020-21, I am honored to be working with my fellow commissioners in this difficult period of intercollegiate athletics. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve this Association. I owe a sincere debt of gratitude to all of the leaders that have guided and continue to serve our collection of 23 commissioners.

The Executive Committee has been fortunate to engage with not only NCAA leadership, but also with our colleagues from the D2 ADA Executive Committee. We have met frequently over the past several months to discuss and provide recommendations on the issues created by the pandemic.

Our goal will continue to be identifying what is best for our student-athletes, ensuring that it is in concert with protecting the rights and missions of our member institutions. We must continue to work towards finding reasonable

solutions to problems we never conceived.

We are now in a period where two tenets of DII philosophy, community engagement and game environment, have been tested. Even with a path to competition, we will be challenged to continue to engage these aspects of Division II membership to maximize the experience for all involved. We need to continue to identify, fight, and forge efforts to reimagine and reengage the sports that we love. Additionally, we need athletics back to serve as the "front porch" for our campuses when we begin to ignite "return to school," "return to play," and "return to work" initiatives, and continue to redevelop societal norms.

Never before have we had challenges lead to the culmination of the events that have occurred over these past several months. We hope to collaborate to find a way to return swiftly and in a safe and fiscally responsible manner to competition and again begin engaging the community, an undertaking to which Division II institutions and student-athletes excel.