



Patrick Summers

NEWMAC

Executive Director

2021-22 President

The end of the year is always a time of reflection, assessment and celebration. For many conferences, the completion of the academic year ends with a culminating President's or Commissioner's Cup and watching our seniors, who have given so much to their athletics programs, institutions and communities, graduate. The accolades and acknowledgement of academic and athletics excellence remind us of Division III's commitment to these core tenets.

As we pause to appreciate these moments, it is also a reminder of the substantial amount of work ahead of us this summer. On August 1, the new NCAA Constitution becomes effective, as the membership continues to work on developing legislative proposals for the 2023 NCAA Convention in San Antonio. With more divisional autonomy as the focus and reform needed, leaders from the NCAA Governance Committees, the Division III Commissioners (DIIIICA) Association and NADIIIAA are steadfastly developing concepts of reform to support the changing landscape of college athletics, and specifically in Division III.

As the President of DIIIICA, a member and chair of the NCAA Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee and a member of the Division III Advisory Council, I see the work that is being done on behalf of the membership; however, the evolution of the NCAA and Division III cannot happen without engagement from our over 440 institutions and 43 conferences. On April 8, the Executive Committees of the DIIIICA

and NADIIIAA issued a joint statement encouraging collaborative discussions and engagement that would lead the way to comprehensive and transformative change in Division III.

I would like to strongly re-emphasize how critical it is that the Division III membership takes ownership in the future of the Division, and engage, organize, communicate and collaborate in national issues and on how Division III should evolve.



Tim Murray

Marist College

Director of Athletics

An athletics department functions at its optimal level when everyone works together toward the common goal of achieving success in the classroom and on the playing field. It is imperative to apply that same approach to our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

In our department at Marist, the engine that drives our DE&I efforts is our IDEA Committee (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action.) The 13-member committee includes senior administrators in the department in addition to head coaches and assistant coaches. Several members of the IDEA Committee have completed the Marist College Diversity Leadership Institute, an intense seven-month workshop to develop awareness and advocacy skills to inform DE&I work on campus.

It truly takes our entire community to pull together for these initiatives to be their most

productive and successful. Our student-athletes have seized the opportunity to assume leadership. They formed our Black Student-Athlete Alliance (BSAA) with goals of creating an uplifting community while giving a voice to athletes of color.

Our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) has formed subcommittees and planned special action initiatives. Through their efforts, we hosted a United We Stand football game this past fall, and Pride Games for women's lacrosse and softball this spring. At all three games, students were invited to take a pledge and sign a banner in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our members contributed to our conference's SAAC efforts for Black History Month and Women's History Month. We are proud that one of our SAAC members, rising junior Roshan Kalikasingh of our men's cross country and track and field programs, will serve as the MAAC SAAC Social Justice Chair for the 2022-23 school year.

Recruiting will always remain the lifeblood of our programs. We have introduced meetings that take place every other week with the head coaches of our women's programs. They feature open communication and dialogue about recruiting women of color, which is a priority in our department. Our efforts in retention

through providing a worthwhile experience to our athletes is paramount.

It's important that our work is visible to prospective student-athletes and employees. To this end, the United tab was built on our website, GoRedFoxes.com. This tab serves as a hub for our groups, resources, and policies available in our department and on campus. It includes, but is not limited to, our department's diversity statement, the IDEA Committee, BSAA, inclusion policies and training, and LGBTQ+ resources and collaboration.

A driving force behind our progress is our Center for Student-Athlete Enhancement (CSAE), led by Alyssa Gates. Recently, CSAE hosted Dr. Derek Greenfield for workshops that promoted diversity, cultural competence, and inclusive excellence. Dr. Greenfield's presence helped bring our athletes, staff, and coaches closer together as a community. CSAE has also been regularly hosting alumni panels titled "More Than a Month - A Celebration of Black Excellence." These panels invite Marist alumni to talk about their experiences in school and in the workforce.

Our diversity, equity, and inclusion endeavors will always be a team effort. The work is ongoing and ever-evolving, but our sustained efforts will lead to a stronger, more inclusive community at Marist College.