



Patrick Summers

NEWMAC

Executive Director
DIICA President

At the conclusion of the 2021-22 academic year, the Division III Commissioners Association (DIICA) introduced a Student-Athlete of the Year Awards Program honoring graduating seniors. A total of 20 student-athletes were recognized as regional winners of the inaugural Division III Commissioner's Association Student-Athlete of the Year award. There was one female and one male award winner in each of the 10 regions.

Each of the regional winners advanced to the national ballot for consideration for 2021-22 D3CA Men's Sport Student-Athlete of the Year and Women's Sport Student-Athlete of the Year, with Eliza Beaudin of Elmira College (N.Y.) and Ryan Beard of Westminster College (Pa.) earning the inaugural accolades.

The 2021-22 Empire 8 Co-Woman of the Year, Beaudin was a member of the Elmira women's ice hockey team and graduated summa cum laude with a cumulative GPA of 3.94 as a psychology major. The Lewiston, Maine native and two-year captain was a part of three United Collegiate Hockey Conference (UCHC) Tournament Championships (2019, '20, '21), while also helping Elmira to New England Hockey Conference (NEHC) regular season and tournament titles in 2022, en route to earning NEHC Player of the Year. Academically, Beaudin earned Dean's List honors in each of her semesters at Elmira, while earning numerous UCHC, Empire 8, ACHA, and NEHC academic honors.

Off the ice, Beaudin served in the Chemung County Public Defender's Office, was part of the Elmira College Retention Team and Active Minds Club, while coaching Corning Girls Youth Ice Hockey. In addition, Beaudin was a Corning Wineglass Marathon Volunteer, a volunteer for the Elmira Hibernians Club and Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

Beard was a member of Westminster's PAC championship team this spring, earning First Team All-PAC honors as a part of the winning

4x100 and 4x400 relays. Westminster's 4x100 relay posted a meet-record time of 41.27 while the 4x400 relay registered a time of 3:21.52. Individually, he recorded fourth-place finishes in the 100-meter dash (10.89) and 200-meter dash (22.07) at the PAC Championships.

Beard earned CoSIDA Academic All-America® honors after completing a three-year accelerated undergraduate degree in accounting and posting a 4.0 GPA. He was recognized as Westminster's Most Outstanding Accounting student and was named a Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) Outstanding Senior Award winner for his service to the community and work in the classroom. Beard was also an Elks National Foundation Legacy Scholarship recipient.

Beard is active in the community, volunteering with the Boy Scouts, the Humane Animal Rescue of Pittsburgh and the Elks National Foundation. He has also worked with Enactus, an international organization that connects student, academic and business leaders through entrepreneurial-based projects that empower people to transform opportunities into real, sustainable progress for themselves and their communities.



Tom Michael

Eastern Illinois University
Director of Athletics
FCS ADA President

It is amazing how quickly the summer months seem to go by. Here we are ready for another academic year to start and all the excitement that goes along with the fall sports beginning practices and competitions. The activity on all of our campuses brings energy and enthusiasm for another fun year to get under way.

As all institutions playing at the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) level prepare to compete for this season, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate North Dakota State on winning the FCS National Championship over Montana State in Frisco, Texas in January. We are all excited for an amazing fall of FCS football and competing to determine who will be this year's champion!

It is very important for me to recognize all the staff members of each of our departments who work diligently to make everything come

together for our programs. Athletic trainers, academic counselors, compliance, development, strength coaches, sports information and digital media, equipment, event and facilities staff ... THANK YOU! The work, time and sacrifice you make for the betterment of the student-athletes often goes unnoticed but not unappreciated.

This is an incredible time for intercollegiate athletics. There is much change taking place all around us. College athletics as we know it, will look different as the enterprise continues to move forward. From changes at the NCAA and a new President coming on board, the work the Transformation Committee diligently continues to do, to the changes of what makes each of our student-athlete experiences unique, we have the opportunity to help shape the future of college athletics. It will take everyone invested in the future of what has made this incredible experience of college athletics special. It is essential we keep the focus on ensuring we provide unbelievable educational opportunities for our student-athletes that allow them to use their experiences participating in athletics and help prepare them for success when they leave our institutions with a degree in their hand.

I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as the FCS ADA President for the 2022-23 academic and athletics year. I want to thank Colgate University Vice President and Director of Athletics Nicki Moore for her leadership as the 2021-22 President. I am also looking forward to working closely with Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics at Radford University, as the DI-AAA ADA President this year. Collectively we can provide a pathway to success for our student-athletes.

I am excited to engage, collaborate and work with all of the athletics directors in FCS as we partake on this incredible journey!