

D2 ADA



Dr. Michael McFarland
Bloomsburg University
 Director of Athletics
 D2 ADA 1st Vice President

Utilizing NCAA Learning Modules

Each year we encourage our staff, coaches, and student-athletes to reflect on their activities while looking for professional development and educational opportunities. Obviously, student-athletes have the classroom, but how can we also support their efforts to get better with their sport? For athletics departments, there are a host of tools that can be accessed, especially through the NCAA Learning Portal. When was the last time you logged into the Portal to review the offerings and to ensure your team was assigned the necessary tools for professional development?

I know that I continually review the courses in the NCAA Learning Portal with the goal of improving how I can support my coaches, student-athletes, fans, alumni, and even

officials. A few examples of the learning modules that are important for athletics department members include the Elevate Respect Series, the NCAA Division II FAR Education for Student-Athletes, Faculty, and Administrators, and the Division II Make Game Day Yours Training.

As we all know, officiating is a key issue within our regions and conferences. The Elevate Respect Series in the Learning Portal provides a detailed look at the profession of officiating while ensuring we understand what is and what is not acceptable, along with the role each of us plays. As outlined in the module, "we can make sporting events a better place to be," which is paramount in professional development and in learning how to behave properly while supporting our officials.

Another fantastic module that features three distinct opportunities to learn about the role of the Faculty Athletics Representative position is the module: FAR Education for Student-Athletes, Faculty, and Administrators. The educational session offers a deep dive into the FAR role, how to improve a relationship with the FAR, and how to support the balance with the FAR and the services provided to the student-athletes. As we strive to improve the academic and athletics relationships on campus,

this module offers tips to demonstrate how a successful partnership can exceed expectations.

And, there is no better platform to train our staff, student workers, and coaches than using the Division II Make Game Day Yours Training modules. The 10 educational sessions in the Game Day Experience offer tricks and tools that are needed to create and ensure "a respectful and engaging educational environment through athletics, for everyone." Employing the service standards of Safety, Responsiveness, Dignity, and Experience provides an intentional approach to effective crowd management and event success. Completing the learning module and making it actionable at your events using the LEAD2 Service Excellence model (Listen, Empathize, Apologize, Decide, and Deliver), helps your staff to be prepared to handle most, if not all, situations. Positioning yourself through educational modules supports the internal success of events while showcasing the ability of creating and Making Game Day Yours.

We, as administrators, can set the tone with our campus by accessing and learning through viewing educational modules – outside of those mandated modules we all should be completing – to grow and develop. Good luck learning!

D2 CCA



Dave Haglund
GNAC
 Commissioner
 D2 CCA 1st Vice President

Plenty of noteworthy updates in this edition of the D2 CCA Corner, so let's get right to it.

NCAA Woman of the Year Finalists: Congratulations to the three Division II finalists for the NCAA Woman of the Year award, which will be presented in Phoenix during the NCAA Convention in January. The select trio from DII:

- Peyton Barnes (Fairmont State/Mountain East Conference), who competed in acrobatics and tumbling and majored in national security intelligence, political science and criminal justice;
- Charlotte Richards (Missouri-St. Louis/Great Lakes Valley Conference), who competed in volleyball and majored in supply chain management;
- Madi Wulfekotter (Central Missouri/MIAA), who competed in track and field and majored in elementary education.

DII Gold Award: Also being recognized at the NCAA Convention will be DII's Gold Award recipients. Eleven current or

former conference commissioners or associate commissioners are among 45 finalists for the honor, which is intended to recognize those individuals who have helped DII – currently celebrating its 50th anniversary – become the strong and successful entity it is today. The list of finalists with significant DII conference office experience: Robert Dranoff (ECC), Bob Hiebert (CCAA), Jacie McWilliams Parker (CIAA), Kris Dunbar (GLIAC), Jim Naumovich (GLVC), Reid Amos (MEC), Butch Raymond (NSIC), Bob Hogue (PacWest), Dave Brunk (Peach Belt), Joel Smith (RMAC), and Eliane Kebbe (SAC). A total of 231 individuals – athletes, coaches and administrators – were nominated for the award.

Small College 'Hall' Inductees: Calling this year's Small College Basketball Hall of Fame class "historically significant to the great game of basketball at the collegiate level," event founder John McCarthy presented an impressive roster of inductees at the seventh annual event in November in Lakeland, Fla. The celebratory weekend included an invitational tournament featuring 10 men's teams representing nine DII conferences.

Information on this year's inductees can be found online at smallcollegebasketball.com/hall-of-fame.

Women's Tip-Off Classic RFP Open: Speaking of hoops, the D2 CCA is soliciting bids for future hosts of a women's exempt basketball preseason tournament for the 2025 through 2028 seasons. The exemption allows the event to take place a week prior to the official regular season start date. The bid deadline is February 2. For more information, contact me at dhaglund@gnacsports.com.

DII Miscellany: It was another big year for DII and Make-A-Wish as the Division raised more than \$160,000 for its designated charitable partner, bringing the two-decade haul to nearly \$7 million ... The NCAA in November announced more than 200 DII championship events in 2023-24 will be streamed via Hudl through a partnership managed by Warner Bros. Discovery Sports ... Finally, many thanks to NCAA President Charlie Baker for his continuous engagement with conference leaders not just in DII but across all three divisions. These Zoom sessions with presidents/chancellors, athletics directors and conference office staff have been extremely valuable and much appreciated.