

NAIA-ADA



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The NAIA has long been a leader in positive change regarding inclusion in sports. For example, it was the first athletics association to sponsor both men's and women's championships and it was the first collegiate athletics association to invite Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) into membership. Included in the NAIA strategic plan (2021-24) was a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) pillar focused on supporting member institutions with their DEI initiatives.

The Conference Commissioners Association (CCA) and the Council of Presidents (COP) recognized and supported the need for expanded efforts in the area of DEI. Multiple programs within the NAIA like the CCA Respect, Inclusivity, Support and Education (RISE) and the Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion (LDI) group already focused on DEI initiatives.

To streamline their work, the NAIA announced in October 2021 that the COP voted to combine the CCA RISE and LDI groups into a more broadly focused committee, which became the NAIA RISE Committee. The NAIA RISE Committee aims to increase DEI awareness, governance, representation and promotion of career opportunities within the NAIA. A couple of the programs currently supported by the NAIA RISE Committee include the Governance and Leadership Academy and Senior Woman Leader (SWL) development. Each program seeks to support member institutions and conferences in their pursuit of creating and/or maintaining an inclusive culture on their campus.

The NAIA does not require member institutions to participate in the programs, but highly encourages it due to the benefits gained from taking part. For example, the design of the NAIA Governance and Leadership Academy provides minorities and women participants training on NAIA governance issues and strategic initiatives, an introduction to NAIA committee work, prepares them for NAIA committee service, and positions them for opportunities to advance their careers within the NAIA. Any person that is in a working

capacity (i.e., administrator, staff, coach with administrator duties, graduate assistant, etc.) within the athletics department, regardless of title, and is a minority or female can be nominated by their institution and selected by their conference to attend (with the exception of undergraduate students).

Another example of these benefits includes support and resources for the Senior Woman Leader (SWL) role. The NAIA legislation states that by August 1, 2023, each member institution must have an SWL designated on their campus. The NAIA RISE Committee can help with education and training for this role. The SWL subcommittee has held monthly lunch and learns, developed an SWL Facebook community, and established a partnership with Women Leaders in College Sports to provide resources, strategic planning, and best practices for member institutions on implementing the SWL role.

Through the RISE program, the NAIA has and will continue to provide an avenue for membership to participate in training and programming aimed at influencing positive change and support for member institutions and conferences. More information about the NAIA RISE Committee can be found on the NAIA website at naia.org/rise.

@NAIAADA

NATYCAA



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Hello college athletics colleagues! This year it is my honor to serve as the 1st Vice President of NATYCAA. One of the many NACDA highlights of the year is upon us, the 2023 NACDA & Affiliates Convention in Orlando. This is a time when professionals from all levels and facets of intercollegiate athletics come together to learn, collaborate and network. This year's Convention will be a bit like going home. For those who have attended in years past, you know what I mean. Can you believe it's been four years since we were last together in Orlando? Granted, we were fortunate to reconvene in Las Vegas last year after the COVID hiatus, but traditionally speaking there's just something about Orlando that screams NACDA Convention! For those of you who have not attended Convention in Orlando previously, I know you too will feel the home-like warmth of the event and NACDA family after just one visit.

The NATYCAA Executive Committee has

collaboratively created a packed agenda of professional growth and networking opportunities for you to attend this year. Along with our partners from D2 ADA, NADIII, and NAIA-ADA, the week will no doubt be one of knowledge sharing and camaraderie. We will delve into topics such as: building teams during divisive times, leadership development, mental health, working with Generation Z, and the student-athlete experience. No matter the content, our presenters and our generous sponsors plan to deliver an impactful week of exploration.

As we settle into the session format developed last year, we will host four sessions with our affiliate partners that will consist of presentations from our speakers followed by roundtable discussions designed to facilitate in-the-moment sharing and learning based on the speakers' content. In addition, we will hold a NATYCAA specific session led by two of our Executive Committee members focused on the student-athlete experience. New this year will be two morning sessions led by generous sponsors who want to share their educational value with us all. Rounding out the agenda, working from feedback we have received from previous attendees, we will be leaving one afternoon open so that our members have the opportunity to attend programming offered by the other Affiliates.

As always, we will have the opportunity to honor many of our own at our annual NATYCAA Awards Luncheon. On tap this year is recognition of the Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year; 2023 L. William Award honoree Doug Spiwak; NACDA Hall of Fame inductees Art Becker and Carl Heinrich; Cushman & Wakefield Athletics Directors of the Year, Dan Clauss, Darin Monroe, Kevin Salisbury and Troy Tucker; and our Daktronics Cup Award winners.

Last but not least, we will be welcoming our CBIZ Borden Perlman/NATYCAA Legacy Fund Professional Development Grant recipients to this year's Convention. As NATYCAA looks for ways to broaden its impact, we hope that these members along with all of our first-time attendees will find value in our event and become the future of our organization.

The NATYCAA Officers, Executive Committee and I cannot wait to see you all in Orlando!

@NATYCAA2