

D2 ADA



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As I write this, we are all undefeated. By the time you read this, our fall season will be in full swing and everyone will undoubtedly be keeping score. That's when the real fun begins. While we all tape our ankles for the competitive year ahead, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect and celebrate our accomplishments and the positive impact we've had as an Association.

The **Division II Model Document** was updated, refreshed and ultimately endorsed by the Division II Management Council and Presidents Council in early August. Thanks to your suggestions and feedback, we believe this document now represents the best reflection of a sustainable, balanced and healthy approach to NCAA Division II athletics on a college campus. Special thank you to Tim Selgo of Mammoth for his energy and diligent effort getting this important project to the finish line.

Our Women and Ethnic Minorities Mentoring Program

continues to be a feather in our D2 ADA cap thanks to the tireless work of Jill Willson, Ann Martin and the long list of AD mentors that have served in support of developing our future athletics directors. A total of 35 mentee "graduates" have now been selected to sit in the AD chair. We should all be proud of this work and inspired to continue to grow and support this important program.

The **D2 ADA Academic Achievement Award Program**, in its 16th year, recognized a record-breaking 19,539 deserving student-athletes. With 196 institutions submitting nominations, we have room to grow and new records ahead of us knowing that strong academic performances by DII student-athletes exist throughout our entire division.

Our **Convention Programming** is receiving positive feedback, especially around the keynote and content experts we've been able to secure thanks to collaboration with our colleagues from NADIIAA, NAIA-ADA and NATYCAA. We plan to continue and build on this partnership to best serve our membership's priorities and the hot topics of professional development.

The **New AD Orientation** program has evolved

to include three in-person opportunities to connect with D2 ADA Officers, NCAA staff and familiarize themselves with everything Division II. In addition to the NCAA and NACDA & Affiliates Conventions, we host a day and a half orientation at the national office in late September that includes NCAA staff presentations and a panel discussion with our Officers group. This past year, we awarded 25 New AD stipends to support their attendance at the NACDA Convention.

Our consistent, proactive and **positive engagement with NCAA DII leadership** is critical to our success and distinguishes us from our peers across the NCAA. Thank you to Terri Steeb Gronau, Maritza Jones and their entire team for all their work in support of DII and for the grant funding that has allowed our programming to expand and provide more growth opportunities for our membership.

Lastly, we are grateful for our **membership** and our strength in numbers. In 2022-23 we had 297 members, including 220 that took advantage of the group membership option. We hope to retain our current members and grow our numbers moving forward. We all know budgets are tight, so we are thankful for you carving out space to support your own professional development and taking advantage of all the benefits D2 ADA has to offer your institution.

D2 CCA



Dave Haglund

GNAC
Commissioner

When John McCarthy set about developing a preseason men's college basketball tournament back in 2014, he had a singular focus. Whatever it ended up looking like, he told me, "It had to be for the good of the game."

Now entering its seventh edition this November, McCarthy's Small College Basketball Hall of Fame Classic – which annually brings together many of the top teams in Division II – has not only met his admirable and well-intentioned standard, but noticeably overachieved.

Shed the actual competition and there is still the one-of-a-kind Small College Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremony recognizing stellar but oftentimes overlooked collegiate careers that occurred minus the bright lights and notoriety of Division I (think Jerry Sloan,

Dick Barnett, Earl Monroe, Willis Reed and Phil Jackson, who were among the inaugural 15-person class in 2016). That's a

standalone experience in itself. Keep the games but subtract the Hall of Fame induction and there's the uniqueness of a DII regular-season tournament that includes upper-level teams representing most of the division's eight regions in a single setting.

McCarthy, smartly, couples both elements in his dual-purpose extravaganza – and they are major reasons why D2 CCA continues to unanimously approve the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame Classic for an annual exemption, a rarely bestowed privilege that allows the tournament to occur the weekend before the official regular season start date (and the games to be exempted from a team's annual contest limit).

The Classic has thrived in each of its locales – it currently takes place in Lakeland, Fla. after previous stops in St. Joseph, Mo. and Evansville, Ind. – and become so popular that the field has expanded to 10 teams. And it's all due to the efforts of McCarthy, a former AD and assistant coach at Lynn University who coordinates the event's many logistics as a labor of love (his day job is running a non-profit in Kansas City). He's quick to point out he's not lacking assistance in

operating the event, with financial support coming from local sports commissions and game management responsibilities covered by the host institution.

The induction ceremony is the signature piece of the Hall of Fame weekend. With all the tourney participants present, McCarthy carves out time for a panel discussion in which today's players are provided the opportunity to engage with the past small college greats, who not only tell stories about their lives and careers but also come prepared to share meaningful messages with the student-athletes.

The 2023 Small College Basketball Hall of Fame Classic field includes nine programs playing in the event for the first time. In addition to the Classic, there are five other basketball tournaments with D2 CCA exemptions this November. Other hosts are Montana State Billings (10-team women's tournament), Lubbock Christian (six-team men's and women's tournaments) and Simon Fraser (six-team men's and women's tournaments).

In total, 44 DII teams representing all eight regions and 18 of the Division's 23 conferences will compete in this year's D2 CCA exempt tournaments. All events take place the weekend of November 3-5.