

Taking a proactive leadership role in athletic issues...

# Illinois

## ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

***Tuesday***

★ ***June 22***

***6:30-9:30 pm***



***2021***

***IADA Conference Banquet***

***Improvise + Determination + Persistence = Happy Students with Great Culture***





## WELCOME TO THE BANQUET!

Welcome to the 25th induction ceremony for the Illinois Athletic Directors Hall of Fame. The Illinois Athletic Directors Hall of Fame is dedicated to all the men and women who through their efforts have made interscholastic athletics a positive experience for young men and women. Their work has brought honor to themselves, their school, their community and the Illinois Athletic Directors Association.

The purpose of the Hall of Fame is threefold: first, to recognize and honor the great athletic directors who brought fame to the Illinois Athletic Directors Association; second, to establish in the hearts of our youth a motivating influence to excel in athletics; and third, to foster pride, preserve good sportsmanship, scholarship, and citizenship in school, city, and community.

Candidates must have been an athletic director for ten (10) years and an active IADA member and shall become eligible two (2) years after retiring or five (5) years after moving into another educational field. Candidates must receive a two-thirds majority vote from the Illinois Athletic Directors Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

Candidates are eligible via three criteria:

- 1) National - Individuals who have helped promote athletics and the state of Illinois through their involvement with the NIAAA and the National Federation.
- 2) IADA - Individuals who have volunteered time to promote the beliefs and purpose of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association (i.e., serving on the executive board, state conventions, etc.).
- 3) Local - Individuals who through their time and effort have promoted the importance of athletics and sportsmanship within their school and community.

Another purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize those individuals who have made our Association what it is today along with being the driving force for athletics in their respective communities. All the inductees helped build a basis for our organization that should never be forgotten. The current Executive Board and Membership want to thank the inductees for leaving their footsteps behind, so that we can always follow them as to what a successful athletic administrator and person should be.

Recipients of the Hall of Fame will be appropriately displayed at the Illinois High School Association in Bloomington.

This was a very difficult process for the committee, and we would like to take this time to thank those individuals who volunteered their time and effort toward this project.

### AWARDS BANQUET AND HALL OF FAME PROGRAM

IADA Video

Master of Ceremonies

National Anthem

IADA Awards:

- 2020 Class "1A & 2A" Friends of Athletics Award
- 2020 Class "3A & 4A" Friends of Athletics Award
- 2021 Class "1A & 2A" Friends of Athletics Award
- 2021 Class "3A & 4A" Friends of Athletics Award
- 2020 Class "1A & 2A" Athletic Director of the Year
- 2020 Class "3A & 4A" Athletic Director of the Year
- 2021 Class "1A & 2A" Athletic Director of the Year
- 2021 Class "3A & 4A" Athletic Director of the Year

Invocation

Hall of Fame Induction

50-50 Drawing



## RETIRING ATHLETIC DIRECTORS



Lonnie Bible  
Zion-Benton



Jerry Dobbs  
Palatine



Jeff Flater  
Farmington



Frank Griseto  
Jones College Prep



Greg King  
Sterling



John Novak  
Hersey



Lynda Pariso  
Morgan Park Academy



Steve Schoenfelder  
Antioch

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

### 2021 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Kevin Crandall, Rochelle  
Charlie Lockenour, Heyworth  
John Overstreet, Paxton-Buckley-Loda  
Dan Wiczorek, Fieldcrest

### 2020 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Tim Albers, Libertyville  
Deb Ofcky, New Trier  
Todd Rosenthal, Moline

### 2019 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Barb Barrows, Neuqua Valley  
Henry Johnson, Woodland / Mascoutah  
Randy Oberembt, New Trier  
Drew Potthoff, South Beloit / McHenry / Marian Central Catholic  
Allen Warnecke, Breese Central

### 2018 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Dave Brost, Reavis / Lincoln-Way East  
Bobbie Monroe, Normal Community West / Highland Park  
Robert Swanson, Rock Island  
John Szabo, Bloomington  
Christopher "Skip" Tarran, Reed-Custer

### 2017 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Jimmy Daniels, Rich Central / Rich East  
Marilyn Bradley, Glenbrook North  
Rich Piathek, Andrew

### 2016 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

John Martin, Hoffman Estates / Adlai E. Stevenson  
Marty Bee, Naperville North / Naperville Central  
Susan Bonner, Hillcrest / Oak Forest  
Gerald L. Brockhouse, Hales Franciscan / St. Ignatius College Prep / Fenwick

### 2015 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Doug Smith, Monmouth / Woodstock / Naperville North  
Terry Niedzwiecki, Hiawatha / Stillman Valley / Harlem /  
Rockford Auburn / Rockford Jefferson  
Tim Feigh, Berwyn Cicero Morton / York / Hinsdale South

### 2014 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Art Rohlman, DeKalb / Elgin  
Dale Doehring, St. Joseph-Ogden

### 2013 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Bob Cowan, Granite City  
Pat Coyle, Jerseyville  
Jack Drollinger, Fremd  
Tom Gillhouse, Olympia / Belvidere / Deerfield / Metamora  
Bill Murphy, Crystal Lake Central / Prairie Ridge

### 2012 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Craig Watson, Oswego  
Larry Stewart, Greenville

### 2011 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Washington Bush, Conant

### 2010 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Dave Gannaway, Morton  
Jim Bloch, New Trier / Glenbrook North  
Kent Ayers, Pekin  
Lenore Wilcox, Wheaton Central / Wheaton Warrenville South

### 2009 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Larry W. Bernard, Bolingbrook  
Terry McCombs, Downers Grove South  
John L. Selke, Schaumburg  
John A. Van Fleet, Woodstock

### 2008 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Don Hawkins, Nashville Community  
Mike Morris, Lyons Twp.  
Leonidas L. Pappas, Quincy Senior  
Kenneth Shultz, Homewood-Flossmoor

### 2007 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Donald J. Crandall, District 211  
Douglas W. Duval, Mundelein  
Norbert Kassing, New Athens  
Richard A. Kerner, Waubonsie Valley

### 2006 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Larry Chaney, Springfield Southeast  
Rich Griffin, Red Bud  
Patrick Hamm, Roxana  
Neil McCauley, Naperville North  
Gerald C. Turry, Niles West

### 2005 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Jim Brown, Oak Park and River Forest  
Ted Caiazza, Reavis  
Marv Carlson, Glenbard South  
Bob Naughton, New Trier

### 2004 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Ron Hansen, West Chicago  
Bill Sissel, Hoffman Estates  
Phil Svetich, Argo  
Jim Unrath, United Twp.  
Gary Woods, Normal West

### 2003 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Gene Dammerman, Cobden  
James Graham, Urbana  
Noree Mares, Glenbard East  
Greg Patton, Granite City  
Ross Truemper, Wheaton Central / Naperville North

### 2002 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Paul Bergeson, St. Charles  
John Cavaletto, Salem  
Ron Helberg, Hoffman Estates / Glenbrook South  
Bill Neibch, Wheaton North

### 2001 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Doug Chapman, Belvidere / Palatine  
Roland "Swede" Pearson, Harlem  
Dave Smith, Hinsdale South / Holy Cross  
Lee Westerman, Princeville

### 2000 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Lloyd Elmore, Belleville East  
Murney Lazier, Lyons Twp.  
Ed Murphy, H.L. Richards  
Don Wyzgowski, Amboy

### 1999 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Warren Cooper, Octavia  
George Egofske, Rich South  
George Gattas, Mt. Prospect  
Rod Poppe, Marengo

### 1998 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Gerald "Chic" Anderson, Palatine  
LeRoy "Dee" Compton, Oak Park and River Forest / Proviso West  
Frank Ibbotson, Downers Grove South  
Ward Lear, Antioch  
Gene McCarter, United Twp.

### 1997 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Jerry Curtis, MacArthur  
Bob Jackson, Sherrard  
Carlin Nalley, Lisle  
John Paul, Schaumburg / District 211  
Jim Shipley, Woodstock

### 1996 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Don Daluga, Pontiac  
Ralph Krupke, Lake Park  
Emery Ebbert, Proviso East  
Reid Martin, Carbondale  
Bob Frank, Bloomington  
Steve Oracko, Downers Grove North  
Harry Gaines, Mattoon  
Jim Perkins, Oak Park and River Forest  
Hank Kaiser, Normal  
Frank Pitol, Collinsville  
Jim Smarjesse, Peoria



2020 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Please find all of the past Hall of Fame bios at  
[www.illinoisad.org](http://www.illinoisad.org)

**Tim Albers**  
Libertyville



Tim has been a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association since 1989. He had served the IADA on the conference committee as the assistant program chair and program co-chair; he also served the IADA as a presenter at the new athletic director

workshop at the summer retreat.

Before his 18 years in athletic administration, Tim began his high school athletics coaching wrestling and eventually football a few years later. He would continue to become a head wrestling coach until he transitioned into his first role as an athletic administrator at Waukegan East High School in 1989. Tim would continue as an athletic administrator until his retirement in 2007. After one year as an interim athletic director at Waukegan East High School, he served for four years as the athletic administrator at Niles North High School until 1994.

In the fall of 1994, Tim became the athletic director at Libertyville High School, where he would finish his career in education with 13 years as an athletic administrator. Tim was honored by the IADA by being named Outstanding Athletic Director in 1999. In the same year, he was honored by the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association as their Administrator of the Year. In addition, Tim was inducted into Lake County High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. Also, he was the recipient of the Mike Rose Award in 2010, given by the Northern Illinois Officials Association.

Alan Janulis, retired principal at Libertyville High School, said of Tim, "While his professional accomplishments are impressive and numerous, certain personal qualities help set him apart from others. Vision, problem-solving, attention to detail, along with leadership and communication are all characteristics that define him."

Retired superintendent at Libertyville High School, Dr. David Clough, stated "Even though Tim worked hard to provide outstanding facilities throughout the district, and, even though LHS teams experienced great success under his leadership, the real magic that Tim provided was his endless dedication to and belief in the kids and coaches in 128. Tim understands that winning is only the by-product of an athletic program that is built upon the premise of providing for the growth and development of every student-athlete as well as those who coach them."

Tim's extensive contributions to high school athletics and his dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led him to this selection as a member of the IADA Hall of Fame.

**Deb Ofcky**  
New Trier



Deb has been a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association since 2002. In that time, she had served the IADA on the conference committee as a member of registration and program committees, she was the state conference co-chair in 2008, she was a panelist at the summer retreat workshop, and she was a

member of the IADA executive board for nine years as the state certification chair. Deb also served the NIAAA in several roles: member of the National Certification Committee for nine years, member of the Professional Development Academy, and a certified CAA test administrator.

Deb has been involved in education and athletics for the past 33 years. Starting in 1985, she began her career at Lake Park High School as a physical education teacher where she coached girls' basketball, volleyball, and softball. In 1989, Deb became the head women's volleyball coach and assistant athletic director for marketing and promotions for Northeastern Illinois University. In 1993, Deb left the collegiate setting to return to high school athletics as she was hired at Glenbrook North High School as a health and physical education teacher. She also was the head coach for both the boys' and girls' volleyball teams.

After nine years at Glenbrook North, Deb transitioned into assistant athletic director at New Trier High School. In addition to her new role as assistant athletic director, Deb moved into a couple of new coaching roles as the head badminton coach and the assistant girls golf coach - positions she would hold until her retirement in 2017. She would be named the State Badminton Coach of the Year by the Illinois Coaches Association in 2010. During her tenure at New Trier, Deb was honored with the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2015. Deb has served the IHSA as a member of the badminton advisory committee, the volleyball advisory committee, the badminton state seeding committee, and the girls golf state rules committee. Additionally, she served her athletic conference, the Central Suburban League, as the sportsmanship committee chair.

Jim Bloch, former athletic director at New Trier High School, said, "Deborah Ofcky is, at her core, character based and morally compass driven. As long as I have known her, I have seen her grow, prosper, and impact those around her in such a positive way. She is a standard bearer when it comes to work ethic, involvement, and giving to our profession and its related organizations."

Current Athletic Director at Round Lake High School, Becky Moran, stated, "Her body of work spans academics and athletics, all at the highest level of professionalism. She epitomizes going the extra mile for others. Her dedication, vision, and ambition are rivaled by none."

Deborah's extensive contributions to high school athletics and her dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led Deborah to this selection as a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame.

**Todd Rosenthal**  
Moline



Todd has been a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association since 2000. In that time, he had served the IADA on the conference committee as the corporate sponsor chair. In addition, Todd served on the IADA Hall of Fame selection committee for five years.

Todd has been involved in education and athletics for the past 35 years. Starting in 1982, he began his career in the Quad City schools as a substitute teacher, where he coached soccer, track, and wrestling at United Township High School in East Moline. In 1985, Todd was hired as a full-time teacher by Moline High School, where he was also named the head wrestling coach and head girls golf coach. Todd would continue in these roles until 2000, when Todd would become the athletic director at Moline High School, again a position he would hold until his retirement in 2017.

He would be named the State Wrestling Coach of the Year by the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association in 1996 and 2000. He was also named Wrestling Coach of the Year in Illinois by the National Wrestling Coaches Association. He was inducted into the IWCOA Hall of Fame in 2001 and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Illinois Chapter in 2014. In addition, Todd has served the IHSA as a member of the wrestling advisory committee, the strategic planning committee, the wrestling weight control ad-hoc committee, the tournament manager for the Dual Team State Wrestling Tournament, and supervisor of head table at the Individual State Wrestling Tournament. Todd is not taking time to rest in his retirement as he currently serves on the board of directors for the Quad City Marathon, he is a committee member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Illinois Chapter, and he is on the board of directors for the PGA's John Deere Classic.

Dave Gannaway, former IHSA assistant executive director, said, "Todd is not only a great administrator, but he became a very good friend, leader, and mentor to many people across the state of Illinois. Todd is very well respected by the athletes, coaches, administrators, and parents at Moline High School. In addition, his fellow administrators in the Western Big Six Conference always looked to Todd for guidance and direction on critical issues that they faced."

Former principal at Moline High School, Gary Koeller, stated, "Moline High School and the Moline community have always valued and supported its 20 sports programs. As athletic director, Todd Rosenthal continued and enhanced this tradition through his school and community work. Todd truly loved his work, and in many ways retiring as a very successful athletic director was the right capstone to his athletic, teaching, and coaching career."

Todd's extensive contributions to high school athletics and his dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led to his selection as a member of the IADA Hall of Fame.



## 2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



### Kevin Crandall Rochelle

Kevin has been a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association since 1987. In that time, he had served the IADA on the conference committee as a member of the vendor committee for 18 years and nine years as the District 10 Rep.

Kevin has been involved in education and athletics for the past 36 years. Starting in 1985, he began his career in Centralia, where he taught physical education and biology and was an assistant football coach. In 1985, Kevin was hired as an athletic director, head football coach, and head track coach at Bethany High School. Kevin would continue in these roles until 1989 when he was hired at Villa Grove High School to take on these same positions.

In 1994, Kevin would become the head football coach and athletic director at Rochelle High School, these positions he would hold until his retirement in 2018. In his retirement, he continues to coach football as a volunteer assistant at Sycamore High School. He would be named the Division 4 Athletic Director of the Year in 2011 and again in 2018.

In 2018, he would be named the 3A/4A State Athletic Director of the Year. Kevin has been inducted into the Tremont High School Hall of Fame 1998, the Millikin University Hall of Fame in 2017, the Rochelle High School Hall of Fame in 2018, and Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2012. Kevin served the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association as the organization's president for one year and currently serves as their executive director. In addition, Kevin has served the IHSA as a member of the bowling advisory committee and the athletic directors advisory committee.

Greg King, Athletic Director at Sterling High School, said, "Kevin is a born leader and a no-nonsense type of person. Whatever conference he has been in, he has been at the forefront of the leadership. In all decisions, student-athletes have come first."

Former football coaching colleague and current superintendent at Oregon High School, Dr. Thomas Mahoney, stated, "Kevin was able to bring highly qualified coaches who created high expectations in both the classroom and in the sports they coached. In addition, Kevin's influence has been crucial in the development of school leaders. He shared his vision, passion, and outstanding organization skills."

Kevin's extensive contributions to high school athletics and his dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led to his selection as a member of the IADA Hall of Fame.



### Charlie Lockenour Heyworth

Charlie has been a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association since 1984. In that time, he had served the IADA in a multitude of roles. He served on the executive board for 14 years, four years as the district 15 rep, five years as the division 5 liaison, as president-elect in 2013, president in 2014, the past president in 2015, as treasurer in 2016, and another term as past-president in 2017. In addition, he served the conference committee for six years as the golf co-chair.

Charlie has been involved in education and athletics for the past 37 years. Starting in 1984, he began his career at Tonica High School as a physical education, driver's education, and health teacher while serving as a basketball and cross-country coach. Then after a short hiatus from education, Charlie was hired at Heyworth High School in 1990. Charlie, once again, was teaching physical education, driver's education and health, and served as the junior high basketball coach and assistant high school football coach. In 1994, Charlie started the girls' softball program and served as the head coach for two years.

In 1996, Charlie was named the athletic director at Heyworth High School. While as the athletic director at Heyworth, Charlie continued to teach and coach. He continued as an assistant football coach until 1999 and as an assistant varsity boys' basketball coach until 2008. Charlie became the head boys and girls golf coach in 2002, which he continued until his retirement in 2018. Charlie received his CAA certification in 2010, was named the Division Class A Athletic Director of the Year in 2003, and was named the State Class A Athletic Director of the Year in 2007. In addition, the NIAAA awarded Charlie the State Award of Merit in 2015. Charlie has served as the IADA Liaison to the IHSA board of directors for two years. He also served the IHSA as a member of the athletic administrators and sportsmanship advisory committees. Additionally, he was honored in 2017 with the IHSA Distinguished Service Award.

Brad Bradshaw, the former Heyworth Administrator and Coach said, "Charlie was very respected, not only in our school district, but also in our community and by his colleagues. Simply put, he was an outstanding leader that modeled principles that promoted the highest standards of integrity. In addition, he always chose his thoughts and actions based on values rather than personal gain."

The current superintendent at Heyworth High School, Dr. Lisa Taylor, stated, "He actively promoted athletic participation and good sportsmanship to all HHS students and held them to high standards on and off the court. He demonstrated an unwavering work ethic and commitment to the greater good of the students and school district. Additionally, he took on a variety of leadership roles and always rose to the challenge."

Charlie's extensive contributions to high school athletics and his dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led Charlie to this selection as a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame.



### John Overstreet Paxton-Buckley-Loda Loda

John has been a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association since 1999. In that time, he had served the IADA on the executive board as secretary for 11 years from 2007 until his retirement in 2017.

Before his 18 years in athletic administration, John began as a US history and government teacher at Paxton-Buckley-Loda Junior High from 1983 to 1994. He coached junior high basketball and track.

In 1994, John moved from PBL Junior High to PBL High School, where he continued to teach in the social science department. He was the head cross country coach, the head boys track coach and an assistant football coach. He would continue to in those roles as he transitioned into the athletic director at PBL High School in 1999. John would continue as an athletic administrator at PBL until his retirement in 2017.

John was honored by the IADA by being named Outstanding Class A Athletic Director in 2004, and in 2011 John was named the Illinois Class 1A/2A Athletic Director of the Year. That same year John was a finalist NHSACA Athletic Director of the Year. In 1997 John became the executive secretary for his athletic conference, the Sangamon Valley Conference, a role he continues today in his retirement. John served the IHSA on the legislative commission from Division 5 from 2003 to 2012. Additionally, he was on the IHSA track advisory committee and cross-country advisory committee.

Travis Duley, current principal at Paxton-Buckley-Loda High School, said of Tim, "Under Mr. Overstreet's watch, never did a game happen on the grounds of PBL High School where every detail was not thought out-from who is taking tickets, to where the visiting team's bus would park, to the officials having the specific drink they prefer waiting for them at the end of the game. This is a small list of the detailed oriented planning Mr. Overstreet took care of for every athletic contest at PBL High School."

Current athletic director at Watseka High School, Barry Bauer, stated, "I had the pleasure of working in the same conference with John for more than ten years and always found John to be a tireless worker who was always one of the most organized and respected professionals in our area."

John's extensive contributions to high school athletics and his dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led him to this selection as a member of the IADA Hall of Fame.



## 2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



### Dan Wieczorek Fieldcrest

Dan has been a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association since 1991. In that time, he had served the IADA as a member of the 2002

strategic plan committee, the conference registration committee, the conference golf committee, and the conference 50/50 raffle committee. Dan has also been a presenter at the conference.

Before his 20 years in athletic administration, Dan began as a US history and government teacher at Wenona High School from 1977 to 1992, where he coached junior high and high school baseball. He was an assistant boys' basketball coach and later head basketball coach. In 1989, he would become the athletic director at Wenona High School until Wenona High School became part of the consolidation known as Fieldcrest High School in 1992.

When that happened, Dan became the athletic director at the newly formed school in 1997, and this would be a position he would hold until his retirement in 2014. While at Fieldcrest, he coached 6th/7th-grade girls' basketball and was an assistant girls' basketball coach and the head girls' basketball coach. Dan was honored by his athletic conference, the Heart of Illinois Conference, by receiving the Bud Maynard Award in 2010. Dan was also honored by the IADA by being named the Illinois Class 1A/2A Athletic Director of the Year in 2014. In addition, Dan served the IHSA on the legislative commission from division 4 for three years.

Additionally, he was on the IHSA baseball advisory committee, the baseball state finals sportsmanship committee, and the inaugural dance advisory committee. Dan had also been a volunteer for 17 years for the March Madness Experience in Peoria. Currently, Dan is in his 45th year as an IHSA baseball umpire, including umpiring at 3 IHSA state finals.

Mark Brown, current baseball coach at Fieldcrest High School, said, "Dan was

extremely organized as an athletic director, and this made coaching extremely easy. His attention to detail did not go unnoticed. Whether it was a simple practice schedule or hosting a tournament, everything was taken care of.

The current principal of Fieldcrest High School, William Lapp, stated, "Dan's efficiency as a task manager was always sound in practice. Organized and detailed athletic programs, advanced scheduling of officials, and coordinated agendas of nightly events are examples of his level of involvement. Dan focused on the need to build lasting relationships with fellow schools and colleagues through his management practice and style. Dan's ability to be a quality listener who took time to consider other points of view and suggestions to problems was always a strength he possessed."

Dan's extensive contributions to high school athletics and his dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led him to this selection as a member of the IADA Hall of Fame.



## 2021 IADA STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR



### Steve Haines Seneca

Steve Haines has been passionately serving Seneca High School as their athletic director for 21 years. He has made an astounding number of

accomplishments during his impressive career, including establishing boys' and girls' swimming, boys' soccer, and dance as IHSA sports at his high school. Along with being head of the athletics department, Steve also manages the fitness center that is open to the public, supervises the building housekeepers, is in charge of all Seneca's activities, and holds the position of transportation director. During his career at Seneca High School, Steve has made considerable contributions to the school, such as reconstructing the football stadium and building a new softball complex. The additions of these new facilities have made sporting events a more enjoyable experience for not only the players, but the fans as well. Steve has hosted numerous events within his facility, such as regional and sectional boys' and girls' golf, regional and sectional cross country, regional, sectional, and super-sectional boys' basketball, regional, sectional, and super-sectional girls' basketball, regional wrestling, regional and sectional baseball, regional, sectional, and super-sectional softball, 19 consecutive years of sectional boys' track and girls' track, along with multiple Seneca High School invitationals. It is no doubt that Steve has made quite an impact in the school since he began working there in 2000. Marty Voiles, Seneca High School principal, states, "Steve has been an athletic director at SHS for 21 years and has played a prominent role in many of the initiatives completed over the years at Seneca High School. We are extremely fortunate here

at SHS as our athletic facilities are second to none, especially with a student enrollment of only 400. Steve played a prominent role in guiding the coaches and board of education in the construction of these facilities. Some of the newest upgrades include a new girls' softball complex, improvements to our football facility, field level additions to our boys' baseball complex and improvements to our track and field facility. He also worked closely with our physical education staff in developing a new two-story fitness facility that is also shared and utilized by the Seneca community."

Along with all of Steve's impressive accomplishments and contributions to Seneca High School, he has also made a considerable impact on the surrounding community as well as the Illinois High School Association, and Illinois Athletic Directors Association. He has also been recognized for his efforts by various athletic administrations. From 2009 to 2013 he was a participant on the Seneca Youth Baseball/Softball Board of Directors, assisting in the ins and outs of the kids and their respective sport. Steve has been bestowed with many honors from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. In 2014 he was given the State Award of Merit and received a CMAA certification, and in 2002 he earned a CAA certification. In 2010 he was granted the LaSalle County Outstanding Educator Award, as well as an Honorary Future Farmers of America Member Award.

On top of all of the accomplishments Steve has made in his career it is hard to believe that he has also played a pivotal role in his high school conference. Yet, he absolutely has. Steve was the Athletic Director President of the Interstate 8 conference from 2004 to 2007. During his 3 years in the position, the conference expanded from their 8 teams into 12 teams. Steve also held the position of Interstate 8 Conference scheduler for all

conference games from 2003 until 2018. He dedicated 15 years of service to the entirety of his conference, which was no small feat. Steve spearheaded and introduced the Tri-County Conference leadership seminar for the students/athletes of the Tri-County Conference, bringing recognition and honors to the young minds of many students.

Chris Newsome, assistant principal and athletic director at Putnam County High School, states, "Steve has been an invaluable asset to the Tri-County Conference (TCC). In 3 short years since Seneca High School has joined the TCC, Steve has assumed an active leadership role as many of the athletic directors within our conference look to Steve for guidance. Steve was instrumental in the TCC starting our annual student leadership conference. Steve is extremely knowledgeable and plugged in throughout the state. He urged me to get my CAA certification. Steve doesn't miss any opportunity to encourage younger athletic administrators to take an active role in the IADA and to be members of the NIAAA. He continually fosters great relationships with coaches, community, student-athletes, and all other stakeholders. He has been, and continues to be, a great ambassador with the IADA."

Many people have said great things about Steve; here are just a few of the numerous praises that Steve has received from fellow colleagues:

"Steve has been a great ambassador for activities at SHS and has supported my teams tremendously. He runs events smoothly and is never afraid to volunteer our school for big events in the IHSA and our own personal tournaments, stepping up to make sure coaches can coach while he takes care of details. He honors kids and is fantastic in promoting activities for all kids."-Todd Yegge, Head Wrestling/Asst. Golf, Seneca High School

"When Seneca joined the Tri-County



## 2021 IADA STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Conference 3 years ago, the conference didn't have any conferences that our students attended. Steve suggested having a student leadership conference which has benefited every kid from each school that went over the past 2 years. I have appreciated Steve's own leadership in making our conference better and taking on duties of hosting tournaments whenever Seneca was asked." -Abe Zeller, Roanoke-Benson High School

"Steve is very deserving of this honor. He goes above and beyond what typical athletic director responsibilities are. I have been athletic director for Midland High School for 2 years, and Steve has been a tremendous help to me and the Tri-County Conference. Steve has always given me solid advice and is a very strong advocate for all student-athletes." -Tim Smith, Midland High School

It is no surprise that Steve has been awarded the title of Athletic Director of the Year within his division; he has put in time, effort, and an insurmountable amount of passion not only to his career, but to numerous aspects of his community, student body, and conference.

Steve received his undergraduate degree from Illinois State University in 1989, followed by his master's degree from Eastern Illinois University in 1996. He and his wife Lori share two children together, Kayla (25) and Sarah (22).

Athletic Director of the Year Award for Division 2 for the 2020-2021 year.

During his time spent in the role as athletic director at Evanston Township High School, Chris has implemented numerous programs that have aided in the development of the school and the students. In 2009 he started the boys' and girls' bowling programs and in 2016 the field hockey program. In an attempt to help alleviate financial stress and inability to participate for low-income families, Chris created a Sports Camp Financial Aid fund that has provided \$292,000 of funds since he put it into place in 2009. All the changes that have been made since Chris took on his position have increased female athletic participation by an incredible 56% and created an overall influx of athletic participation by 48% since 2010. This accomplishment was recognized by both the IADA and IHSA. Chris was asked to present at both conferences explaining how he accomplished such a feat, and how others can follow his lead. On top of all the incredible changes that were made to the way the system and athletic department are run, Chris also made multiple improvements to the facilities themselves. Since taking over in 2006, the Memorial Stadium, varsity baseball and softball fields, the lower-level gym, Beardsley gymnasium, the athletic entrance wing, and the outdoor track have seen vast improvements and renovations, which have brought great joy for coaches, athletes, fans, and anyone else who has the pleasure of using the facilities listed.

Steve Rockrohor, past president of the IADA, had some amazing things to say about Chris. He stated "I want to point out three pieces of Chris's career that I think need to be highlighted. First, his complete devotion to Evanston Township High School initially as a teacher and volleyball coach, then with his being hired as the athletic director in 2006. I have never witnessed an athletic director who cares so very much about the kids and coaches of his high school. To say Chris bleeds the blue and orange of Evanston would be an understatement. To watch him agonize over every play in a football game or every pitch in a softball game the way Chris does is incredible. This demonstrates his complete devotion to his athletes and his school. Second is his service to the CSL, IADA, and

NIAAA, where he has served as the president of the CSL, been both a presider and presenter at our state conference, presented at the national conference, and has had two articles published in Athletic Management Magazine. This reflects his total dedication to our league, the state association and its members as well as his fellow athletic directors throughout the nation and to our profession. Lastly, Chris's creation of both the Hate Speech Protocol, adopted first by the Central Suburban League and last year by the IHSA and the girls' play sports program instituted at Evanston; this shows the dedication Chris has to the under-represented student-athlete throughout the state. He is a true leader in the state of Illinois on both of those issues. As stated earlier, I could write for pages about Chris as a person, an athletic director, and most importantly, a friend but feel these three areas best display the tremendous candidate he is for this award. I only wish I could still be on the committee and have the privilege to help select him myself for this very prestigious and deserving accolade."

In addition to all of the outstanding improvements Chris has made to the school itself, he has also been an active member of the Central Suburban League, the Illinois Athletic Directors Association (IADA), the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), and the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). During his time spent on these committees, he has made considerable contributions to each respective committee. Chris has been a member of the Central Suburban League since 2006, and was the president from 2016 until 2018. He developed the CSL Hate Speech Protocol, which ended up being adopted by NSL, MSL East, and IHSA, as well as the sportsmanship Rubric that the IHSA also uses today. In his time spent on the IHSA, Chris has hosted 15 IHSA boys' and girls' state swimming and diving meets and served on both the volleyball advisory and the strategic planning committee.

Chris received his undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of Illinois and later completed his master's degree in education leadership at Concordia University. He and his wife, Megan, have three children together: Erin Joy, Colin, and Nicholas.



### Chris Livatino Evanston

Chris has spent the last 15 years as the athletic director for Evanston Township High School, but his dedication to the school, students, and community goes far beyond

his title. Chris's journey in education began in 1997 when he became the boys' JV volleyball coach at Evanston Township High School. He went on to coach boys' and girls' volleyball from 1999 until 2005. After 6 years of coaching, Chris began teaching history up until 2006, when he became the high school's athletic director. From there, Chris has made several accomplishments while performing his role, making him a well deserving recipient of the



## 2021 IADA DIVISION ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR



### Teresa Cullen Providence St. Mel

Teresa Cullen has faithfully served Providence St. Mel School for 24 years. An astounding 20 of her 24 years at Providence St. Mel have been dedicated to her

role as athletic director, while she also ushers students to a bigger and brighter future by possessing the role of school counselor. Teresa has also spent 21 of her 24 years as the girls' head volleyball coach. Teresa has worn the title of leadership team member, youth basketball coach, cheerleading coach, and

softball coach. Along with her dedication to her school and role as coach and athletic director, Teresa also serves her community in numerous capacities. From the year of 2001, and still today, she holds the position of secretary in the Chicago Knights Foundation, and from 2015 until 2017 Teresa was the secretary for Coastland Apartments. She did not stop at serving her school and community, she also held a spot from 2009-2018 as an IHSA legislative commission member. Teresa's dedication to her school, students, faculty, community, and conference is why she has been selected as the recipient of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association Class 1A&2A Athletic Director of the Year for Division 1 for 2020-2021.

Timothy Ervin, Providence St. Mel School

principal/varsity boys' basketball coach, states, "Mrs. Cullen is very organized and pays attention to detail, and that is especially important given that she has other roles and responsibilities at Providence St. Mel in addition to being the athletic director. She serves as the high school guidance counselor and physical education/health teacher. In my years as coach, I have watched Mrs. Cullen do a great job of multitasking and staying organized to successfully manage all of her roles at Providence St. Mel. The different roles have really helped her to be able to develop positive relationships with all of the students in the school, which has led to more students participating in sports. I have witnessed Mrs. Cullen convince a student to try a new sport, and that student goes on to like and do well in



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that sport.”

Owen Pelzer, humanities teacher and track coach, states, “If a team is in need of a coach, Teresa is there to coach it. If a student needs a ride to or from school or a game, Teresa picks them up. Any student seeking advice, a listening ear, a hug, or a pair of gym shoes knows that they can find it all in Teresa’s office. From carb-loading pasta dinners with track runners and their families downstate, to going to students’ homes to meet with recruiters, I have seen the immense impact and sense of pride that Teresa builds in our students. It is no wonder why she has earned herself the nickname “Mother Teresa” among our student body.”

Teresa earned an undergraduate degree at St. Mary’s College in 1981 and a master’s from Northeastern Illinois University in 1997. Teresa and her husband, Christopher, have three children: Sara (33), Sean (31), and Emma (29).



**Phil Applebee  
Maroa-Forsyth**

Phil Applebee has been employed as both the assistant principal and athletic director at Maroa-Forsyth since 2015, and still possess these dual roles

today. Before holding these titles Phil played a component in many different aspects of the school community and student body. In 2008 Phil initiated the middle school softball program, which he coached until 2010 before passing the baton to another. As the varsity softball coach from 2004 until 2015, Phil holds the record for all-time coaching wins in Maroa-Forsyth High School history. Phil has a hand in multiple school committees; he is the chair of both the athletic handbook committee and student handbook committee. He is a member of the technology committee, middle school building project committee, strategic planning committee, and the district administrative team. When Phil is not performing one of the many responsibilities he possesses in his position, he can be found volunteering at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church-Feed the Hungry. Phil also remains as the Maroa-Forsyth JFL coordinator, which he has been since 2013, as well as coaching a softball travel team, The CIGS Rebels. Phil created all the master schedules for sports within his conference, created underclass football by-law, created all-sports trophy to recognize the most successful program in the conference, and is a member of the conference admission committee.

Kristopher Kahler, principal of Maroa-Forsyth Middle School, states, “as an athletic director it is obvious Mr. Applebee has a passion for sports, but the most impressive trait to me is his passion for all students. He often discusses with coaches and administrators how athletics and activities are the hook to engage students in school and how the activities and athletics are necessary to improve students’ mental health. Mr. Applebee has searched to find more opportunities for our students through co-ops and partnerships with other districts as well as finding how to get students involved in their interests even if it means representing our district as an individual in athletics such as swimming or middle school golf where we don’t have a full team.”

Phil Applebee received his undergraduate

degree and master’s degree from Eastern Illinois University. He and his wife, Jill, have three children together: Jack (18), Michael (18), and Greyson (14).



**Steven Kirby  
Pawnee**

Steven Kirby has been the athletic director at Pawnee High School for 11 years. He has worn many hats since his career in education first began in 1985. Steven started out at Lowpoint Washburn as a physical education teacher, industrial arts teacher, and head basketball coach. From there he went on to Buda Western where he spent 3 years, next was Prophetstown where he spent 7 years, and from there went on and landed at his spot at Pawnee High School. Steven has a monumental amount of responsibility in his role including hosting baseball, softball, basketball, and volleyball regional/sectional tournaments. Steve also made various improvements through the athletic department systems, such as the scheduling program, as well as making improvements to the facilities. In 2020, Steve received The Friend of the Sangamon County Tournament award and received recognition from the 101st General Assembly House of Representatives.

Timothy Kratchvil, principal of Pawnee Junior High/High School, states, “In the time Steve has been in Pawnee, he has been an excellent, well respected athletic director. Steve has spent much of his own time working on the growth of the athletic department as well as helping our school improve our facilities through fundraising. He has shown his leadership skills in both the athletic and administrative arenas. He is honest and responsible. Steve performs well as an individual player or as an active participant of our administrative team.”

Christopher Hennemann, principal of Pawnee Grade School, states, “Steve has been a proponent of improving our athletic facilities and has helped find funding to complete some of these upgrades. We get many positive comments about our facilities from visiting teams. Under the leadership of Steve, Pawnee has hosted many IHSA and IESA regional events and tournaments. In addition to his efforts for the school, he has coordinated use of school facilities by various community groups as well.”

Steven received his undergraduate degree in physical education/industrial arts, and his masters in administration from Eastern Illinois University. He and his wife, Sara, have two twin boys: Shafer (32) and Spencer (32).



**Jill Weier  
Dupo**

Jill has been Dupo High School’s athletic director since 2013. She has also been a physical education teacher, health teacher, and driver’s education teacher

at Dupo High School since 2002. Jill coached copious sports from 2002 until 2013. During her time as a coach, she spearheaded the teams’ fundraisers for the Dig Pink campaign. During her time as the athletic director, Jill has

hosted 3 “White Out Hunger” football games that collect canned goods for their local food pantry. In 2015 Jill received the honor of Athletic Director of the Year from the Illinois Principals Association. A huge accomplishment during her athletic director career has been her ability to procure the Dupo Junior High athletics position in the Cahokia Conference starting in 2021-2022. Jill has dedicated a substantial amount of time as a class sponsor for 4 years, where she helps the students organize fundraisers and guides them through their 4 years of high school. She also took on a role as a new teacher mentor, so she guides new educators in a path that best suits both them and the student body.

Tim McChristian, Du Quoin High School Principal, states, “She [Jill Weier] raised the level of expectations and professionalism among the 19 sports and activities she oversees while teaching a full load with little time set aside for her role as athletic director. I have watched Jill grow into a well-respected athletic director; one any school would be proud to call their own.”

William F. Harris III, Retired Principal of Dupo Jr/Sr High School, states, “Jill acts with caution when needed but takes a stand when it is warranted. She will always act in the best interest of the students while supporting her department and district goals. She works with athletes, parents, coaches, and staff members from the elementary, Jr. High, and high school levels. On a daily basis, she influences more students and staff than any administrator or teacher in the district.”

Jill received her undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University in kinesiology, K-12 teaching certificate for physical education and 6-12 teacher certificate for health education and driver’s education. She received her master’s degree in school counseling from Lindenwood University. Her and her husband, Brad Weier, have one daughter: Avery (19 months).



**Carrie Curran  
Agricultural  
Science**

Carrie Curran began her career as athletic director at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences in 2015, while simultaneously

holding the position of special education teacher (2003), special testing coordinator (2005), and head girls track coach (2013-2019). During her time spent in these roles thus far, Carrie has been anything but stagnant. In the 7 years that Carrie held the position of head coach for the girls’ track team she made leaps and bounds with not only the track program, but the entirety of sports at Chicago High School for Agriculture Sciences. Carrie made such an impact on the track program with her positive environment that focused on team culture and individual skill development that it led her to taking on the position of athletic director. From there she has changed the culture and outlook on all sports within her high school to be more rooted in the school’s mission and values, expanded the sports programs, and hosted multiple IHSA regional tournaments. As an active member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association (IADA), she has worked directly with the president and executive director to develop a more



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intricate relationship between the committee and Chicago public schools, which resulted in the addition of 150 members to the IADA. Carrie is an active member of both the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the Illinois High School Association. Included in her vast list of impressive accomplishments, she has 65 registered Special Olympic athletes that participate in sports within her school.

William E. Hook, principal of Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, states, "At CHSAS Carrie served as our head cross-country track coach before I appointed her as my athletic director in 2016. Carrie's new vision for our sports program has soared under her leadership. She is an extraordinary leader, a great mentor for our coaches and respected by all. She has strong interpersonal, communication skills as well as organizational skills. She challenges our coaches to strive to be the best and makes sure the coaches instill in our students that they must maintain an educational and athletic balance. Carrie also has a great rapport with parents and our student-athletes. She is always willing to listen and is an effective problem solver."

Carrie earned her undergraduate degree in special education from Benedictine University followed by her master's in school administration and educational leadership from Roosevelt University. She also holds a certification in RAA, CAA and exceptional needs specialist. Carrie has two children: Tommy (10) and Riley (8).



**D'Wayne Bates  
Glenbard East**

D'Wayne Bates has been serving as Glenbard East's athletic director for 9 years, while simultaneously holding the title of assistant principal for athletics since 2015. During his time in the position, he has managed to increase student-athlete participation 10-15% by implementing a freshman participation initiative that prevents students from being cut off the team. Prior to taking on these positions, he served as Evanston Township High School's associate athletic director, assistant football and girls' basketball coach, and social studies teacher. D'Wayne is an active member in multiple associations, such as the Illinois Athletic Directors Association (IADA), the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association (NIAAA). Within these associations he has made considerable contributions. He was the conference co-chair from 2019 to 2020 in the IADA, a member of the Hate Speech Group (2019-2020), athletic administration advisory committee (2016-2019), and the bowling advisory committee (2012-2015) within the IHSA. Along with serving these associations, D'Wayne is a humble servant to his community by mentoring Northwestern University football players and partnering with Lombard

Parks and Recreation.

Chris Livatino, Evanston Township High School athletic director, states, "When I visited Glenbard East for a basketball shootout in 2015 and checked-in at the guest list table, I recall staff members telling me, '...you are not getting him [D'Wayne] back!' He has obviously built healthy relationships and made a great impression on the community there, too. Most recently, I was fortunate to work with D'Wayne Bates and several other athletic directors to present our Hate Speech Protocol to the IHSA Board of Directors which they adopted this summer. D'Wayne was a tremendous supporter and champion of this initiative because he understands the power and influence athletics can have on children and communities.

For someone with all of his impressive athletic accomplishments, D'Wayne Bates is one of the most authentic and humble human beings I know. A few other characteristics that describe D'Wayne are compassionate, creative, flexible, inclusive, and selfless as someone who always puts the team before himself."

D'Wayne received his undergraduate degree in education and social policy with a minor in psychological service from Northwestern University. He then received two master's degrees, one in teaching secondary education from the University of Phoenix, and one in concentration in public school administration from North Park University.



**Greg King  
Sterling**

Greg King has dedicated 34 years and counting to the education and shaping of the young minds who have walked the halls of the three high schools that have had the honor of having him. Greg began his career in 1987 at Bushnell-Prairie City High School where he taught American history and political science, and coached both football and basketball. From there he went on to Rock Island High School where he taught state and local government, drivers' education, and psychology while continuing his football coaching career. In 2002 Greg began his time at Sterling High School where he coached football for 16 years, and performed duties as the dean for 8, until he settled into his role as the athletic director in 2010. Since then, Greg has made it abundantly clear that he is an invaluable member of the Sterling High School team. Having made almost 16 million dollars in renovations to their facilities, he was an instrumental part of raising 1.25 million for the renovation on the schools' turf project. Greg was the recipient of the IADA Division 4 Athletic Director of the year in both 2017 and 2019, and was also inducted into the IHSFCA Hall of Fame in 2019.

Michelle Lillis, Rock Island High School athletic director, states, "It does not matter the question, the time of day, or day of week. If I

ask for help, Greg is there and in most cases, immediately. He is extremely knowledgeable. His years of experience have served him well. In addition, he has become part of the system; taking on the responsibility of leadership roles within the IADA and IHSA. The Western Big Six has benefited from including Sterling in our conference. Along with adding a great competitor in all their athletic programs, we also benefited from adopting Greg in our WB6 family. Even though Greg and I are age-mates, he is all of our elder statesman. We look to him for his insights, his creative scheduling ideas, and his familiarity of IHSA rules and regulations."

Greg received his undergraduate degree from Augustana College in 1981 followed by his master's degree from Western Illinois University in 1994. He has two children with his wife, Cathi: Ashli (27) and Trevor (22).



**J.R. Boudouris  
Rochester**

J.R. Boudouris has spent the past 10 years as both the Rochester High School athletic director and the varsity girls' basketball coach. Prior to his role at

Rochester High School, J.R. spent 6 years at Pana High School as the english teacher and varsity girls' basketball coach, 2 years at Carrollton High School teaching english and coaching varsity girls' basketball, 1 year at Illini Central High School teaching english and coaching junior varsity Boys Basketball, and 2 years at Greenville High School where he began his career in education teaching english and coaching freshman and junior varsity boys' basketball. During J.R.'s time at Rochester High School, he has hosted 22 IHSA State football playoff games and 26 IHSA postseason tournaments, and in 2018 he established the first co-ed bass fishing team. In his effort to improve the athletics department, J.R. renovated the baseball/softball facilities in 2013. This improvement updated the batting cages, bleachers, bullpens, and windscreens. J.R. has participated in his respective conference, having been the CS8 conference president (2013-2014). J.R. has been a crucial team member on the scheduling committee since 2011. He also dedicated 2 years as a member of the IHSA basketball advisory committee.

Dan Cox, superintendent of schools, states, "J.R. Boudouris is a bright, talented, and passionate leader in education. He is an experienced athletic director who understands the importance of what it means to be a student-athlete while having the skills to effectively manage the day-to-day logistics of a high quality athletic program at Rochester High School. J.R. has in-depth experience hiring, mentoring, and supervising successful coaches. He coordinates events and schedules all logistics with athletics. J.R. also works with coaching staff and our athletic trainers to keep our programs at the forefront of training, health and safety, competition, and developing



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young people. In addition to leading as our athletic director, J.R. has never left his coaching roots as he serves as our head girls' basketball coach."

J.R. received his undergraduate degree from University of Missouri-Columbia and received his master's degree from Eastern Illinois University. He has four children: Peyton (20), Adria (18), Mabry (14), and Jamison (11).



**Leonard Novara  
Murphysboro**

Leonard has been an athletic director since 1998, dedicating 3 of those years to Valmeyer High School, before he went on to spend the next 20 years and counting at Murphysboro High School. During his time at Murphysboro, Leonard has been instrumental in the implementation of numerous fundraisers, programs, and social media accounts that keep the student body and parents well informed. In 2010 Leonard created the MHS Red Devil's Hall of Fame, of

which he is both a member and president. One of the most notable implementations from Leonard has been the CHOICES special needs students' basketball team as an official Red Devils sport. These games are played during the school day while the entire student body watches, in addition to being open to the public. Leonard has provided many services to both his conference and community by introducing the SIRR conference "Pack the Pantry" event where members of the community bring canned food items to the varsity boys' basketball game. Leonard also implemented an annual free sports physical for all Murphysboro High School athletes, helping the student body save on medical fees, as well as being able to participate if financial means did not allow for a physical. Leonard is a member of the Illinois High School Association mentoring program that aids in the development of new athletic directors. He is also a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association, National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, Illinois Education Association-National Education Association, and the Illinois High School and College Drivers Education Association.

Cody Ellermeier, Murphysboro High

School principal, states, "Professionally, I have witnessed Leonard complete his athletic directing duties to perfection at Murphysboro High School. He is the type of educator that wants things done correctly at all times to ensure that student-athletes receive the most effective education and athletic training possible. Most importantly, he holds true to serving students. Students know that he is someone in our district that truly cares about them and the young adult they can become! I've often witnessed him having positive conversations with students, and I believe this is at the forefront of helping students find their best identity. The amount of time he puts in is simply amazing! His time and efforts certainly bring out the best that our student athletes can achieve, and for this I am grateful for what he does here at Murphysboro High School. Did I mention the environment he puts together at our home sports events? He makes the place feel like a college game or competition! It is absolutely remarkable!"

Leonard received his undergraduate degree from Millikin University followed by his master's degree from Southern Illinois University. He and his wife, Cindy, have two children: Andrew (27) and Emily (23).

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