



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Holly Farnese of Pennsylvania to Receive NIAAA Award of Merit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 20, 2013) — Holly Farnese, CMAA, athletic director of Upper Darby High School in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, is the 2013 recipient of the Award of Merit presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Farnese will receive her award December 17 in Anaheim, California, during banquet festivities at the 44th annual National Athletic Directors Conference conducted jointly by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the NIAAA.

The Award of Merit is the most prestigious award presented by the NIAAA to an individual who has shown outstanding leadership in interscholastic athletics or related areas.

Farnese has been a leader in athletic administration in the state of Pennsylvania and the nation for more than 30 years. She currently is in her sixth year as the athletic director of Upper Darby High School, following 27 years as the athletic director at Drexel Hill (Pennsylvania) Middle School.

Farnese began her education career as a Spanish and German teacher at Drexel Hill, also coaching field hockey, gymnastics and track and field at the school.

After becoming athletic director, Farnese quickly became involved at the local and state levels, where she was an Eastern Delaware County League President in 1987-88. Farnese also began serving on the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) District I Committee in 1986, becoming its secretary in 1988 – a position she still holds.

Farnese is also heavily involved with the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA). She has served on the PSADA Executive Council since 1999, including a term as its president from 2002 to 2004. She has also chaired the PSADA Standing Committee and been a member of the PSADA Strategic Planning Committee.

For her service, the PSADA named Farnese the Athletic Director of the Year in 2004 and honored her with the PSADA Distinguished Service Award in 2009.

Farnese's involvement at the national level is just as extensive. She was a member of the NIAAA Awards Committee from 2004 to 2005, and a year later, joined the NIAAA Board of Directors. From 2006 to 2011, Farnese served as Board Secretary.

In addition, Farnese is a NIAAA Leadership Training Institute (LTI) National Faculty Member for 11 LTI courses and is an LTI instructor for 20 courses. She has also been a member of the NIAAA Strategic Planning Committee and the NIAAA Blue Ribbon Panel.

Among her honors, Farnese was honored with the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2002. In 2005, she earned the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award and was bestowed an NFHS Citation in 2010.

Farnese earned her bachelor's degree in secondary education and Spanish from Bloomsburg (Pennsylvania) University and a certification in German Language Education from Villanova University.

Biographical profiles for this press release were written by Chris Boone, NFHS assistant director of publications and communications.

About the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)

The NIAAA is the largest national organization for high school athletic administrators with more than 8,500 individual members. The NIAAA consists of athletic directors organizations in the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and provides an efficient system for exchange of ideas between the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and state athletic administrators organizations as well as individual athletic administrators. The NIAAA, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, strives to preserve the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the curricula of schools. The NIAAA is a full and equal partner with the NFHS.

About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 16 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.7 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions

interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.

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