



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Dennis Fries of New York to Receive NIAAA Award of Merit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 20, 2012) — **Dennis Fries**, CMAA, retired athletic administrator of the West Irondequoit Central School District in New York, is the 2012 recipient of the Award of Merit presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Fries will receive his award December 18 in San Antonio, Texas, during banquet festivities at the 43rd 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.

Fries retired in 2006 after 39 years as a teacher, coach and administrator in the West Irondequoit Central School District. After a four-year break, Fries served his 40th

year in education in 2011–12 as director of athletics for the Churchville (New York) School District.

From 1984 to 2006, Fries was district director of physical education and athletics in West Irondequoit. After his first two years with the district, Fries was promoted to assistant athletic director, a position he held for 15 years before becoming district director.

Fries' contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels have been extraordinary. Locally, he has been executive director of the Monroe County Public School Athletic Conference since 1996, and he is co-chair of the New York State Concussion Management Program. He has served as the executive director since 1997 and as treasurer since 1989 of Operation Offense, Inc., a national, award-winning drug and alcohol prevention program for scholastic athletes.

At the state level, Fries served as president of the New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA) in 1996–97, and has been the organization's treasurer since 1998. From 1987 to 1996, Fries was the Section V representative to the NYSAAA, and he was president of the NYSAAA's Chapter 5 from 1989 to 1991. In 1992, Fries was named Section V Athletic Administrator of the Year, and a year later, he received the Section V Distinguished Service Award. In recognition of his achievements in athletic administration, Fries received the New York State Director of Physical Education of the Year award in 1998.

Fries has taught workshops at state and national athletic administrators conferences regarding Internet surfing, computer office program management and personal data assistant use.

Nationally, Fries served on the NIAAA Board of Directors from 2002 to 2006, culminating with a one-year term as president. He served six years on the NIAAA

Publications Committee from 1997 to 2003 and was selected to the Finance Committee of the third NIAAA Strategic Plan in 2009. He has served on the NIAAA Hall of Fame Committee since 2008 and was appointed vice-chair in 2010. Since 2004, Fries has been co-director of the Section 1 NIAAA Summer Leadership Training Institute (LTI).

Fries has completed 20 Leadership Training courses and has been an instructor for several LTI courses. He also has been a regular contributor to *Interscholastic Athletic Administration* magazine with his “Techno Talk” column.

Among his other awards, Fries received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2000, the NFHS Citation in 2003 and the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2009. In 2007, he received the “Ellis H. Champlin” Award – the highest award given in New York state for administration in physical education.

Fries, who earned his bachelor’s degree from Cortland (New York) State College, earned master’s degrees in both education and educational administration from Brockport (New York) State College.

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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 director 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 17 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 7.6 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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