



Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc.

Pursuing Victory with Honor AIA Student of the Year Award:

Sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services

Christopher Rodgers

Central High School

Chris Rodgers participates on the Football, Basketball and Track teams at Central High School, and is a member of the Jazz Choir, Concert Choir, Student Government, and Varsity Club. He also is a peer tutor, helping his fellow student-athletes rise above the no-pass no-play policy at Central, and is very involved with his church in the youth group and choir. Chris has had the honor of singing the National Anthem at two Arizona Diamondbacks games and a Phoenix Suns game. He will be attending Ohio University on a Football scholarship and majoring in Computer Engineering.

Pursuing Victory with Honor Administrator of the Year Award:

Sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services

Karyn Blair

Flowing Wells High School

Ms. Blair started out as a teacher at Flowing Wells in 1975 and is now the school's principal. She was named Arizona's Principal of the Year in 2004 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Karyn is also involved with American Red Cross, Saguaro Rotary Club, Special Olympics, Tucson Planning Council for Homeless, and Jobs for Arizona's Graduates.

Pursuing Victory with Honor Official of the Year Award:

Sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services

Sam Borozan

Flagstaff, AZ

Mr. Borozan began his officiating career with the AIA in 1953, officiating Boys Basketball, Baseball, and Football, and officiating girls sports when high schools began establishing those programs in the late 1960s. Today, at age 77, he still officiates Football, Boys and Girls Basketball, Baseball, Volleyball and Softball. Since 1960, all of the money Sam has earned officiating he has donated to scholarship programs for deserving students.

Pursuing Victory with Honor Coach of the Year Award:

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Dick McConnell

Sahuaro High School

Mr. McConnell has coached Boys Basketball at Sahuaro High School (in the Dick McConnell Gymnasium) since the school opened in 1968. He has won four State Championships and been named Arizona Coach of the Year, Tucson Coach of the Decade, and an Arizona High School Coaching Legend. He is Arizona's all-time winningest high school Basketball coach with over 700 wins.

Tony Komadina Awards for Outstanding Girls' Athletic Programs:

4A–5A Recipient

Flowing Wells High School

1A–3A Recipient

River Valley High School

Cox Technology in Education Award:

Apache Junction High School

AIMS Triage

Apache Junction High School implemented the AIMS Triage program in 2003 when their AIMS test scores reflected an anticipated 40% failure rate for the 2006 class. The Triage program puts students whose test scores are in the “Falls Far Below” range into intensive, two-hour block sessions employing advanced teaching methods and a variety of computer software programs. Utilizing a multi-tasking approach, five small groups of students are instructed at the same time. The school's 2004 test scores show a significant improvement thanks to the Triage program.

Cox7 After the Bell Award

Rachel's Challenge Club

Marcos de Niza High School

Rachel Joy Scott was killed in the Columbine shootings five years ago. But out of that tragedy came Rachel's Challenge, a club at Marcos de Niza that encourages students to put aside their differences and accept each other as just teenagers. Through random acts of kindness, the club members are improving the atmosphere at the school, one student at a time.

Dr. Voie Stuart Chase Coy Scholar-Activity Participant of the Year Awards:

Sponsored by Fry's and Fry's Marketplace

1A/2A/3A Boys

Brandon Apperson

Arizona School for the Arts

Brandon Apperson is a member of the Chamber Music and String Sinfonia groups at Arizona School for the Arts. He has been selected to the Regional and All-State orchestras several times, and has won several solo competitions. Brandon also volunteers his time with Rosie's House, a music academy for underprivileged children. He plans to attend the University of Arizona and study Physics.

1A/2A/3A Girls

Megan Gjersvig

Valley Christian High School

Megan Gjersvig is ranked number one in her class at Valley Christian and is involved in Speech, Drama and Choir. She is secretary for the National Honor Society, a member with distinction of the National Forensic League, and has won the AIA State Championship for Impromptu Speaking and Dramatic Interpretation. Megan plans to attend Arizona State University and become a journalist.

4A/5A Boys

Eric Parks

Highland High School

Eric Parks is first in his class at Highland and is president of the Drama and Ecology Clubs. He is also involved with National Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Best Buddies, Extra Mile Club and Arizona Fencing Center, and has been selected United Way East Valley Youth Volunteer of the Year and American Legion 's Arizona Boys State Delegate. Eric plans to attend Colgate University.

4A/5A Girls

Kirsten Pickering

Mesa Mountain View High School

Kirsten Pickering is a member of the National French Honor Society, correspondence secretary for the Speech team, speaker of the house for YMCA Youth and Government and secretary general for Model United Nations. She is also a National Merit and Flinn finalist and received a Degree of Distinction from the National Forensic League. She plans to attend either Tufts or Arizona State University.

Dr. Voie Stuart Chase Coy Scholar Athlete of the Year Awards:

Sponsored by Fry's and Fry's Marketplace

1A/2A/3A Boys

Alex Ashby

Phoenix Country Day School

Alex Ashby has played Varsity Soccer, Basketball and Baseball at Phoenix Country Day since Freshman year. He is also sports editor for the school newspaper, captain of the Varsity Soccer team, and student body president. Alex is involved with the Service & Awareness Club and Students Against Destructive Decisions, has received numerous awards from the school, as was a National Merit semifinalist.

1A/2A/3A Girls

Suzie Aparicio

Superior High School

Suzie Aparicio has been on the Volleyball, Basketball and Softball teams, Student Council and Girls Varsity Club, and involved with St. Francis Catholic Youth Ministry for all of her four years at Superior High School. She also received a National Scholar-Athlete Award from the United States Army Reserve and an American Legion Plaque Award. Suzie plans to attend Arizona State University.

4A/5A Boys

Paul Kierstead

Mountain Pointe High School

Paul Kierstead has been on the Soccer, Tennis and Cross Country teams at Mountain Pointe. He has also participated in the Foreign Language Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta Honors Society, Math League, Asian Student Union, Indian Student Union, Teen Court, Cowboy Club, Barbeque Club, Physics Club, Astronomy Club, and the Renaissance Club. Paul plans to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara and study Bio-Engineering.

4A/5A Girls

Noelle Lopez

Salpointe Catholic High School

Noelle Lopez is the captain of the Cross Country and Track teams at Salpointe Catholic High School and was recently named Southern Arizona Runner of the Year by the *Tucson Citizen & Arizona Daily Star*. She is also in the top one percent of her class, a member of the National Honor Society, an officer in Students Against Destructive Decisions, and a National Hispanic Merit Scholar. She plans to attend Santa Clara University.

Overall Excellence Awards

1A Conference

Mogollon High School

2A Conference

Valley Christian High School

3A Conference

Winslow High School

4A Conference

Catalina Foothills High School

5A Conference

Desert Vista High School

The Blue Cup Awards

Sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Arizona

1A/2A/3A Recipient

Thatcher High School

Like many schools, character education is a priority at Thatcher High School. It's the creativity and consistency in delivering the message however, which sets this school apart. For the last five years students have been meeting monthly to analyze how character can add or detract from any situation. The school's faculty and administration have worked hard to ensure these discussions include all students. Furthermore, by making sure each group contains an equal number of students from each grade they've also allowed older students the opportunity to assume leadership roles within the school. Character education at Thatcher High School has brought about positive change in the lives of its students.

67.5% of the student body participates in AIA-sanctioned activities, boasting a 3.23 cumulative GPA.

4A/5A Recipient

Mesa Mountain View High School

At Mesa' Mountain View High School, it's the school's own Honor Code, which provides the foundation for the six Pillars of Character. "How do you live your life when nobody's watching", is the question students are asked from the first day they enter Mountain View's hallways. They also sign a statement pledging to be "responsible, respectful, trustworthy and academically honest", and posters reminding them of that promise hang in every classroom. 57.8% of the school's students participate in AIA-sanctioned activities, carrying a 3.434 cumulative GPA. At Mountain View High School, the Honor Code "sets the bar" for student and staff expectations and they believe that it is through this commitment they may "trust and be trusted, and respect and be respected in all areas of life."