

2014-2015 RIIAAA Award Nominees

Sister Charlene Tedeschi Distinguished Service Award

Candidate should be someone other than a RIIAAA member who has contributed to Rhode Island athletics in their local community or on a statewide level. Candidate should be nominated for his/her promotion and assistance with the improvement of high school athletics through his/her involvement in youth and/or recreational programs. Candidate should display dedication, compassion and care towards youth, characteristics that Sister Charlene Tedeschi exhibited during her tenure as Director of Athletics at Bay View Academy.

Nominees:

Steve DiGiacomo – Ponaganset Recreation Basketball and Travel Team Director

- Annually works with more than 200 youth yearly in the program, for over a 21 year span.
- In 2001 became the Travel Team coordinator, Took over as director of PBA in 2004
- Currently organizing and operating the Town's Recreational League for youths in grades 2-8 as well as oversee the Travel All-Star Teams
- Maintain accurate and detailed financial records; determine fees; control revenues and expenditures; and make recommendations for future budget appropriations Supplement the budget through the use of fees, contributions, sponsorships, in-kind services and other fundraising alternatives

Simon Kue – Capitol Youth Soccer, City of Providence

- Capital Youth Soccer has changed the soccer culture in the city of Providence
- Much of the success of the city's programs: Central, Classical, Mt Pleasant, & Hope are due to Simon & the Capitol Youth Soccer Program
- He and his program has helped many kids in the inner city both boys and girls.

Darius Shirzadi – Project Goal, City of Pawtucket

- Project Goal is a youth athletic program that uses soccer to promote academic success
- Athletes from inner-city communities are provided tutoring in all academic subjects prior to being rewarded with playing time and instruction
- This program fills the gap created by major cuts in after-school athletics and activities by offering an all-around program that provides a "haven" and structural activities for needy students after school, during summer and school vacations

Male Coach of the Year

Candidate must be a male coach of either a boys or girls team in a Rhode Island high school program. Candidate should be an exceptional coach who is viewed as a quality role model and leader of student athletes. This coach need not be a successful coach in terms of championships and wins, but more importantly, in terms of character development of athletes, sportsmanship, ethics, integrity, and professionalism. Candidate should also possess attributes such as a solid work ethic, knowledge of the game, and have a positive impact on the future direction of their athletes. This candidate does not have to be a head coach.

Nominees:

Ryan Cafferty – Classical Boys Soccer Head Coach

- Four Division II State Championships in the past Five years

Willie Edwards – Moses Brown Head Football Coach

- 2014 Division II State Champions
- Has engulfed himself in the MB community and organizes workouts for all students
- Built a family atmosphere that focuses on mutual respect, and developing each athlete's character.
- Organized the "breakfast club" that runs 6:45-7:30am workouts for the student body
- Has his kids believing in his motto "Work hard, get better"

Kyle Froberg – North Kingstown Boys Soccer Head Coach

- 2014 Season: 8-5-1 Regular Season record for 7th place. Playoffs defeated #10 seed, #2 seed, #3 seed, and the Undefeated #1 seed Shea to win the Division 1 State Championship. 12-5-1 Final Record.
- 2013 Season: NSCAA Big School Coach of the Year; 2013 State Runner-Up
- 2007 Undefeated State Champions

Neil Nachbar - Tolman Boys' Volleyball Head Coach

- Coach of the 2014 D2 state champions (21-0)
- Five time D2 state championships: 2014, 2013, 2011, 2003, 2000
- Overall record from 2011-2014: 72-7
- Six time Boys' Volleyball Coaches Assoc. Coach of the Year: 2000, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014
- President of both the boys and girls volleyball coaches association
- Member of the American Volleyball Coaches' Association
- Coach of 7 team sportsmanship awards since 1997

School of the Year

School should be recognized for the following three seasons: Winter 2013-2014, Spring 2014 and Fall 2014. School should be respected for success and quality of athletic programs in its entirety. School should demonstrate exemplary conduct, decorum, and sportsmanship at all events in as well as out of school. Areas to be highlighted should be: drug/alcohol awareness programs, individual and/or team involvement community service, recognition in the area of sportsmanship, booster club contributions, coaches attending professional seminars and clinics etc...School must also be a member of the RIIAAA. Nomination of your school can be supported by articles, videos, and or letters from local people associated with your programs.

Nominees:

Classical High School

- Winter 2013-2014
 - o Boys swimming Division champions
 - o Girls Indoor Track Division Champions & State Runner-Up
 - o Boys Indoor Track Division Champions & Runner-Up
 - o Boys Indoor Track Team Sportsmanship Award

- Boys Basketball Division Champions & Elite Eight Open Tournament
- Chess State Championship Runner-Up
- Spring 2014
 - Girls Outdoor Track Division Champions & State Champions
 - Boys Outdoor Track State Runner-Up
 - Boys Tennis DII State Runner-Up
 - Baseball DII Region IV Champions & Final Four
 - 2013-2014 RIIL Challenge Cup Champions Medium School Division
- Fall 2014
 - Boys Soccer JV state champions
 - Boys Soccer Division II Regular Season Champions & DII State Champions
 - Girls Field Hockey JV State Champions
 - Girls Field Hockey Division II Regular Season Champions & DII State Champions
 - Football DIII Semifinalist
 - Boys Soccer Coach of the Year - Ryan Cafferty
 - Field Hockey Coach of the Year - Colleen Laughlin

East Greenwich High School

- Winter 2013-2014
 - Girls Basketball Division II State Quarter-Finalist
 - Boys Basketball 18-0 Regular-Season Record, Division III Semifinalist, State Open Qualifier (lost to Hendricken). Community Service: White out game for Best Buddies (\$500 raised)
 - Boys Swim State Open 5th place & Divisions 4th place
 - Boys Indoor Track Class C Indoor Champions
 - Wrestling Sportsmanship Award
 - Hockey Adopt a family at Christmas
- Spring 2014 All teams qualified for the State Playoffs
 - Girls Softball Division II State Champions (21-2)
 - Boys Outdoor Track Class C Champions
 - Boys Lacrosse Division II State Champions (4th year in a row)
 - RI Lacrosse Officials Sportsmanship Award (Community Service: EG Trash clean up day in downtown)
 - Girls Lacrosse Division I Semifinalist
 - Baseball Division I Quarter Finalist
 - Providence Journal Honor Roll Boy of the year-Andrew Miner
 - USA Today Inspiration Award-Andrew Miner
 - Boys Tennis Division I Quarter Finalist
 - Unified Basketball Division III Semi-Finalist
 - Boys Volleyball Division II State Runner up
 - Golf 5th place team State Open
- Fall 2014 9 teams qualified for state playoffs (6 made finals, 3 state champions)
 - Girls XC Class C Champion - 7th place in States
 - Boys XC Class C Champions (2nd year in a row) - 3rd place in States

- Unified Volleyball Division I finalist (4th year in a row)
- Field Hockey State semi-finalist. Coach of the year: Deb McMullen Community Service: Play for a Cure \$600 raised
- Girls Soccer Division I Quarter-Finalist
- Boys Soccer Division I State Quarter Finalists (first year in Division I)
- Girls Volleyball Division II state Champions
- Football Division III State Runner Up
- Girls Tennis Division I Runner Up

Moses Brown School

- MB has participated in several community service activities including Fans for Cans. The school has sponsored Diversity Training, employed a Nutritionist during the last year, and provided several Drug & Alcohol Awareness events.
- Winter 2013-2014 Playoff Appearances:
 - Boys & Girls Basketball, Wrestling, & Indoor Track & Field
- Spring 2014 Playoff Appearances:
 - Golf, Boys & Girls Lacrosse, Baseball, & Softball
- Fall 2014 Playoff Appearances:
 - Tennis, Girls Cross Country, Boys & Girls Soccer
 - DII Football State Champions
 - Field Hockey State Champions

Female Coach of the Year

Candidate must be a female coach of either a boys or girls team in a Rhode Island high school program. Candidate should be an exceptional coach who is viewed as a quality role model and leader of student athletes. This coach need not be a successful coach in terms of championships and wins, but more importantly, in terms of character development of athletes, sportsmanship, ethics, integrity, and professionalism. Candidate should also possess attributes such as a solid work ethic, knowledge of the game, and have a positive impact on the future direction of their athletes. This candidate does not have to be a head coach.

Nominees:

Joyce Bonner – Cumberland Cross Country Head Coach

- Head Coach of Cumberland’s Cross Country program since 2002.
- Joyce has always worked to instill this love of running on to the athletes she coaches and was very successful at doing that with her own children, Jerry and Adam, both All State runners at Cumberland High School.
- Cumberland teams have had much success under Joyce’s guidance. Her teams have won several Class and Division titles, and added the Northern Division title in 2014.
- Her Cross Country teams have compiled a 116 – 15 record during her tenure as Head Coach.
- She has had the opportunity to coach numerous All State, All Class and All Division athletes over the years. Hilary Dionne is currently nationally ranked in the marathon and was recently a top American woman finisher in the Boston Marathon.
- Joyce was selected Rhode Island DGWS Coach of the Year in 2013

Renee Jarrest – Unified Programs Head Coach (Volleyball & Basketball)

- Helped start both Unified teams

- Devotes extra time on weekends to help each athlete learn the game & actively recruits partners throughout the school
- Coordinates pep rallies, senior nights, and post-game events with visiting schools for total inclusion
- Volleyball team was a state semi-finalist and state-runner up the past two seasons

Colleen Laughlin – Classical High School Field Hockey Head Coach

- Two State Championships in the past three years

Melissa Lipa – Mt. Pleasant Outdoor Track Head Coach

- President of the RI Girls Track Coaches Association 1996-2006
- RI Interscholastic Female Coach of the Year 2000
- American Chemical Society's RI Chemistry Teacher of the Year 1999
- Excellence in Education, Mt Pleasant High School Teacher of the year 1996
- Coaching Outdoor Track and Field since 1994
 - o 2009 Boys State Champion runner up,
 - o 2014 State champions in the 4x100, 100. New England Championship 4x100 placed 2nd, and two in the 100 both 3rd and 6th In the 200 and athlete placed 3rd I am the head coach for both boys and girls. Annually host the Mt Pleasant Performance Championship.
 - o Coached the only boy to ever have won the 100, 200, and 400 in the New England Championship, Bobby Young who was ranked 7th in the country.
 - o Coached Destiny Woodbury, member of the girls state championship 4x100 meter relay team that went on to set the 400 record at URI.
 - o Coached Ruth Hernandez, 3rd in the state in the pole vault
 - o 1st Hispanic women to become a state trooper Ajoke Ogundolani, state champion 100 meter hurdler, 3rd in triple jump
- Melissa believes it is not the wins but the opportunity to have girls and boys participate in a sport that gives them the desire to be in school and better themselves everyday. Many of my athletes never win. For many of the girls and some boys it is the first sport they have ever done in their life. They work on personal records and they feel part of something and learn a healthy activity that can become a lifelong good habit, running.

School Administrator of the Year

The candidate shall be an administrator in a RIIAAA member school district. The award is designed to honor an administrator other than an athletic director who has demonstrated concern and support of high school athletics. The candidate should be visible at athletic events and serve as an advocate of the importance of athletics in an educational setting.

Nominees:

Dr. Michael Barnes – Ponaganset (Foster-Glocester School District) Superintendent

- 2013 Superintendent of the Year.
- Developed STEM Academy and "Pathways" for all electives leading to industry certifications and/or college credit.
- Always in attendance at athletic events.
- Helped to grow Ponaganset athletic department (Increased by 5 teams past 6 years).

- Supports & Hosts to DII Wrestling Sectionals and RIIL XC Championship Meets.
- Rise in NECAP test scores during his tenure.
- Fosters a as strong relationship with community and community leaders (Town Councils).
- Sets aside \$ for large athletic-related capital projects (field house (2008), new track (2013), weight room (2014) tennis courts (2015).

Mrs. Michaela Keegan – Juanita Sanchez Principal

- Arrived at Juanita Sanchez in January 2013
- Since her arrival and under her leadership we've added 7 varsity programs: Most recently breaking from Wrestling Coop with PCD to begin our own program. (Softball 13', Girls Volleyball 13', Boys & Girls Indoor Track 13, Boys & Girls Outdoor Track 14, and Wrestling 14".
- Produced additional funding to secure brand new wrestling mat- \$9000
- Under her reign JS Athletic Programs have appeared in: 2 consecutive Fastpitch Softball Finals (13',14') 1 Girls Volleyball Semi-Final (14), 2 consecutive Girls Basketball Division III Champions (12-13, 13-14), 1 Boys Basketball Division III State championship (13-14)
- Member of PCOA
- Principal Representative on the RIIL Tennis Committee

Mr. Bob McCarthy – South Kingstown Principal

- Member of the PCOA from 2010 to Present
- Sport Director for RIIL Girls Soccer 2007 to Present
- Establishing a credit recovery system which has helped to increase graduation rates
- AP Honor Roll school (increased AP scores and increase in participation) two years in a row
- 9th grade activities fair which has increased the number of kids who get involved in athletics and clubs
- Served as Assistant Chair (3 visits) or chair (4 visits) on NEASC accreditation visits

Athletic Director of the Year

The candidate shall be an athletic administrator who is recognized in the community as an educational leader and one who maintains athletics as an integral part of the total educational process. He/she shall administer an exemplary athletic program, making full use of school and community resources and involving as many students as possible.

He/she shall have achievements in the following areas:

- 1.) Attends state and/or national Conferences.
- 2.) Involved in state association and/or interscholastic league committees.
- 3.) Involved in RIIL activities and programs that promote wellness, sportsmanship and leadership.
- 4.) Taking Leadership Training Courses that promote professional development.
- 5.) Having achieved or striving for RAA, CAA or CMAA status.

Nominees:

Bob Duarte – East Providence Athletic Director

- Director of Athletics since 2013
- Assistant Athletic Director prior to 2013
- Teacher in the East Providence School District
- Serves on seven RIIL Sport Committees including Football & Golf

Greg Kortick – West Warwick Athletic Director

- Athletic Director-West Warwick High School (2012-present)
- Assistant Athletic Director-West Warwick High School (2005-2012)
- West Warwick High School (RIIAAA 2014 George Nasuti School of the Year)
- RIIAAA Executive Board Member (2010-present)
- RIIAAA Executive Board-Recording Secretary (2015)
- RIIAAA Executive Board-Liason to RIPCOA 6-8 (2011-present)
- Rhode Island Principals Committee on Athletics 6-8 Member (2011-present)
- RIIAAA State Conference Attendee (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)
- NIAAA National Conference Attendee (2012)
- Director: RIPCOA 6-8 Softball (2011-2013)
- Director: RIPCOA 6-8 Boys and Girls Basketball (2013-present)
- Co-director RIIL Boys Basketball Committee (2011-present)
- Teacher-West Warwick Schools (1995-present) (1995-2013: John F. Deering Middle School) (2013-present: West Warwick High School)

Kevin Ryan - Scituate Athletic Director

- Fifth year as Athletic Director at Scituate High School and Middle School
- Department Chairperson for Health & Physical Education
- Attended past four years of the RI/MA State conference
- Attended National NIAAA Conference 2012 and 2014
- Developed a coaching evaluation to be used to evaluate every coach and for reappointment of the coaches
- Member of the RIIAAA Executive Board
- Athletic Director representative for Boys & Girls Tennis Sports Committee.
- Currently serving on a Scituate community based committee that is trying to improve both school and town athletic facilities
- Added both Boys and Girls Outdoor Track, as well as Unified Basketball at Scituate High School

NIAAA Award of Merit

Candidate must be a current athletic administrator. He/She should have a history of contributions to state athletic programs and may have attended state, Section 1 and national conferences representing his/her state and school. Candidate should be involved in professional development through the Leadership Training Program having achieved or striving for CAA and/or CMAA status. Preferably candidate should involve themselves in state and national association committees.

Nominees:

George Finn - Barrington Athletic Director

- RIIL Sport Director for both Boys and Girls Lacrosse
- Attended 2014 National Athletic Director's Conference in Maryland
- Chair of the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee
- Member of the RIIAAA Executive Board.
- Member of the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee (2003 to 2006, 2012 to 2014).

- In 2005, appointed by the Governor of Rhode Island and continues to serve as a committee member on the Department of Health Board of Athletic Trainers
- Certified member of the National Athletic Trainer's Association, and is a Licensed Athletic Trainer in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Tom Marcello – Ponaganset Athletic Director

- Chairman of the RIIAAA realignment committee
- Member of the following sport committee's – Football, Cross Country (Boys & Girls), Unified Sports, & Baseball
- Member of the RIIAAA Executive Board since 2011
- Attended 2014 NIAAA National Conference in Maryland
- President-Elect of the RIIAAA Executive Board
- Annually hosts the RI Class and State XC championships for boys and girls and works with his coaching staff and entire community to be sure the events are run properly and safely

Jamey Vetelino – Westerly Athletic Director

- President of the RIIAAA Executive Board
- Director of the RIIL Outdoor Track & Field Sport Committee (boys & girls)
- Member of the RIIAAA Executive Board since 2010
- Attended 2014 NIAAA National Conference in Maryland and previous years

Media Award

Candidate must be a member of the print or news media at either the local, state or regional level. Candidate must possess exemplary contributions to High School Sports through his/her promotion and publicizing of athletic events.

Nominees:

Eric Benevides – Currently employed by Valley Breeze, formerly the Asst. Sports Editor at Woonsocket Call

- Has led his newspapers toward excellent coverage of high school sports in the Northern RI area

Bob Duva – The Italian Echo

- Covers the Providence and suburban Providence area news including high school sports

Bob Marr – The Westerly Sun

- Covers Westerly HS, Chariho HS, North Stonington HS and Stonington HS
- Wrote a book called "The Swish Kids" which is a historical piece from the good old days 1938-1965 of westerly basketball
- Covers all sports, boys and girls, popular and less attended and gives them all the attention they deserve
- Helped develop the online statistical feature that is far superior to anything else in the state
- Writes his articles with understanding that this is HS athletics, doesn't attempt to make this out to be professional
- Has an appreciation for the coaches and the athletes and it translates into his articles