

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Tyre Gathright Named Lowe's CIIA Senior CLASS Award Winner for Men's Basketball

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (March 2, 2019) – All-CIIA guard Tyre Gathright from Saint Augustine's University has been named the winner of the 2018-19 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award for men's basketball. The award, chosen by a combination of votes from CIIA men's basketball coaches, CIIA media and fans, is awarded to the most outstanding senior student-athlete in CIIA men's basketball.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the national Senior CLASS Award was launched in 2001 to honor the attributes of college basketball seniors who remained committed to their university and pursued the many rewards that a senior season could bring. This season, Lowe's brought the Senior CLASS Award to the CIIA to recognize senior men's and women's basketball players from the conference. In addition to the core requirement that a candidate be an NCAA Division II CIIA senior, the award winner is selected based on personal qualities that define a complete student-athlete. These areas of excellence are defined by the four Cs: Classroom, Character, Community and Competition.

"It is a humbling accomplishment to be recognized for something that I love doing and have been doing since my high school days as far as community service," said Gathright, who earned All-CIIA honors this season. "Also, having good character was something that I was taught and is always important to me. It feels good knowing that people voted for me based on who I am."

On the court, Gathright has earned a reputation as one of the top shooting guards in the conference. Finishing the regular season ranked third in the conference in points per game (20.7), Gathright regularly torched opponents with high scoring totals including a 40-point performance against Livingstone on Feb. 20 and a 32-point effort against Winston-Salem State on Feb. 9. Also earning all-conference honors as a junior, Gathright shot an impressive 45.7 percent from the field during the regular season, good for sixth in the conference.

Also a standout in the classroom as a business administration major, Gathright maintains a 3.24 grade-point average and has earned spots on both the dean's list and the scholar-athlete list at Saint Augustine's during his career.

"The Lowe's CIAA Senior CLASS Award is a great accomplishment for Tyre," said Head Coach MarQus Johnson. "It shows that he is a good ball player and an even better person."

While starring on the court and in the classroom, Gathright has displayed excellent character and a commitment to his community. According to Johnson, Gathright is the ideal student-athlete. He has prioritized service projects in the local community as a way of giving back and has assisted the Helping Hand Mission in Raleigh, N.C., with its annual Thanksgiving food drive. He also has provided mentorship to middle school kids in the Helping Hand program for Wake County Schools and coached middle school and elementary school kids in little league games at the J.D. Lewis Multipurpose Center in Raleigh, N.C.

In addition to Gathright, Virginia Union University guard Rejoice Spivey also was named the winner of the Lowe's CIAA Senior CLASS Award for women's basketball. Both were recognized on-court during the CIAA Tournament championship games.

"Lowe's is proud to partner with the CIAA to honor these two senior guards who are not only outstanding student-athletes but great role models," said Lowe's Executive Vice President of Supply Chain Don Frieson. "Congratulations to Tyre, Rejoice and all the finalists. We applaud their leadership and the positive impact they've made on the court, in the classroom and in the community."

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CONTACT

Jill Lee

Phone: (913) 563-5417

jill@seniorclassaward.com

ABOUT THE AWARD

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the Lowe's CIAA Senior CLASS Award recognizes the CIAA's top senior men's and women's basketball student-athletes. In addition to the core requirement that a candidate be an NCAA Division II CIAA senior in men's or women's basketball, the award winners are selected based on personal qualities that define a complete student-athlete. These areas of excellence are defined by the four Cs: community, classroom, character and competition. Premier Sports Management manages the award.

ABOUT LOWE'S

Lowe's Companies, Inc. (NYSE: LOW) is a FORTUNE® 50 home improvement company serving more than 18 million customers a week in the United States, Canada and Mexico. With fiscal year 2018 sales of \$71.3 billion, Lowe's and its related businesses operate or service more than 2,200 home improvement and hardware stores and employ approximately 300,000 associates. Founded in 1946 and based in Mooresville, N.C., Lowe's supports its hometown Charlotte region and all communities it serves through programs focused on safe, affordable housing and careers in the skilled trades. For more information, visit [Lowe's.com](https://www.lowes.com).

ABOUT THE CIAA

Founded in 1912, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) is the first African American athletic conference and one of the most recognized conferences in Division II. The CIAA conducts 14 championships attended by more than 150,000 fans from around the country. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, the CIAA is governed by the Presidents and Chancellors of its 13 member-institutions: Bowie State University, Chowan University, Claflin University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, Livingstone College, Saint Augustine's University, Shaw University, Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, and Winston-Salem State University. For more information on the CIAA, visit [theciaa.com](https://www.theciaa.com). For more information on the CIAA Basketball Tournament, visit [CIAATournament.org](https://www.CIAATournament.org), like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.