

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Men's and Women's Basketball Candidates Announced for the 2016-17 Senior CLASS Award

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (January 5, 2017) – Sixty NCAA[®] men's and women's basketball student-athletes who excel both on and off the court were selected as candidates today for the 2016-17 Senior CLASS Award[®] in collegiate basketball. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition. The complete list of candidates follows this release.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*[®], the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

Among the 60 candidates, all are in excellent academic standing with 10 having grade-point averages of 3.5 or higher. Five of this year's candidates were 2015-16 CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-Americans[®], and 20 returned to the court this season after receiving All-America honors for their performances a year ago. Each of the candidates also volunteers his or her time with charitable organizations and causes while upholding a reputation for positive character on campus and in the community.

Each of the 30 candidate classes will be narrowed to fields of 10 finalists in February, and those 10 names will be placed on the official ballot. Ballots will be distributed through a nationwide voting system to media, coaches and fans, who will select one male candidate and one female candidate who best exemplifies excellence in the four Cs of community, classroom, character and competition.

The Senior CLASS Award winners will be announced during the 2017 NCAA Men's Final Four[®] and NCAA Women's Final Four[®] this spring. For more information on each of the candidates, visit seniorCLASSaward.com.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL CANDIDATES:

Brett Bisping	Siena	Peter Jok	Iowa
Jaron Blossomgame	Clemson	Przemek Karnowski	Gonzaga
Evan Bradds	Belmont	Tim Kempton	Lehigh
Troy Caupain	Cincinnati	Moses Kingsley	Arkansas
T.J. Cline	Richmond	Bronson Koenig	Wisconsin
Willie Conner	Buffalo	Luke Kornet	Vanderbilt
Steven Cook	Princeton	Frank Mason III	Kansas
Garret Covington	Western Illinois	Jason McManamen	Wyoming
Billy Garrett Jr.	DePaul	Jalen Moore	Utah State
Darius Graham	UC Davis	Omar Prewitt	William & Mary
Josh Hart	Villanova	Austin Price	Lehigh
Josh Hawkinson	Washington State	Davon Reed	Miami
Nigel Hayes	Wisconsin	Matt Thomas	Iowa State
Malcolm Hill	Illinois	Derrick Walton Jr.	Michigan
Amile Jefferson	Duke	Maurice Watson Jr.	Creighton

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CANDIDATES:

Lindsay Allen	Notre Dame	Taylor McCarley	UMBC
Evelyn Akhator	Kentucky	Lanay Montgomery	West Virginia
Sophie Brunner	Arizona State	Adrienne Motley	Miami
Nina Davis	Baylor	Kendall Noble	Western Kentucky
Jessica Jackson	Arkansas	Ellen Nystrom	Colorado State
Marissa Janning	Creighton	Kelsey Plum	Washington
Jessica January	DePaul	Rosanna Reynolds	Detroit Mercy
Seanna Johnson	Iowa State	Leticia Romero	Florida State
Brionna Jones	Maryland	Elle Tinkle	Gonzaga
Sigi Koizar	Maine	Shatori Walker-Kimbrough	Maryland
Kari Korver	UCLA	Madison Weekly	Northern Iowa
Kelsey Lang	Texas	Lizzy Wendell	Drake
Breanna Lewis	Kansas State	Kindred Wesemann	Kansas State
Marina Lizarazu	Iona	Sydney Wiese	Oregon State
Erica McCall	Stanford	Ronni Williams	Florida

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ABOUT THE AWARD

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the Senior CLASS Award honors the attributes of senior student-athletes in four areas: community, classroom, character and competition. The award program is designed exclusively for college seniors who are utilizing their complete athletic eligibility, remaining committed to their university and pursuing the many rewards a senior season can bring. Premier Sports Management manages the award.

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