

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## Oregon State's Sydney Wiese Wins 2016-17 Senior CLASS Award for Women's Basketball

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (March 30, 2017) – Two-time AP All-American Sydney Wiese of Oregon State University has been selected as the 2016-17 Senior CLASS Award® winner in NCAA® Division I women's basketball.

The award, chosen by a nationwide vote of Division I women's basketball coaches, national basketball media and fans, is given annually to the most outstanding senior student-athlete in Division I women's 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: classroom, community, character and competition.

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.

"It's an honor to be named the Senior CLASS Award winner," said Wiese, Oregon State's first Senior CLASS Award winner. "To not only have the opportunity to get my degree while playing basketball, but to do it at Oregon State is really special. It's easy to get caught up in winning and losing, but the whole purpose behind what we do is building relationships. This four-year college journey has helped me grow, and I've learned so much in my time at OSU, not just in class, but through all of the experiences I've been able to have both on and off campus. There have been so many lessons on how to improve as a leader, how to compete, and how to be a teammate, and I will carry those with me moving forward."

A finalist for the Wooden Award this season, Wiese finished her senior season averaging 15.2 points, 4.9 rebounds and 4.5 assists per game while helping OSU to a 31-5 record, a third consecutive Pac-12 regular-season title and second consecutive Sweet 16 appearance. Also setting the Pac-12 record for career three-pointers (373) and the OSU record for career assists (626), Wiese earned her fourth All-Pac-12 selection and an All-Region selection by the WBCA in addition to her All-America honors.

"Sydney is a one-of-a-kind student athlete, and her ability to engage with her teammates, her professors and the community have made her an incredible ambassador for Oregon State University and the basketball community in general," said Head Coach Scott Rueck. "Sydney is an elite player and an even better person. She lives moment by moment with an outward focus that allows her to positively impact everyone she meets

and those who watch her. Her work ethic is legendary, and her performance on the court, in the classroom and in the community led her to great success and demonstrated the highest levels of leadership. She is simply an outstanding role model.”

Wiese’s commitment to excellence both on and off the court has been well-noted throughout her career. A speech communication major, Wiese earned Pac-12 Scholar Athlete of the Year and an Academic All-America Third Team honors this season along with her third consecutive Academic All-Pac 12 honor. She also has worked extensively in the community, working with the local Boys and Girls Club, participating in a Candlelighters for Cancer fishing trip over the summer and, most recently, donating her hair in a special Haircuts for Cancer ceremony in February.

“Not only has Sydney had an outstanding career on the court, she’s also proven that you can succeed in competition while focusing on academics and community involvement while maintaining excellent character,” said Erik Miner, Executive Director of the Senior CLASS Award. “We are thrilled that Sydney was voted the Senior CLASS Award winner and offer our sincere congratulations to her and to Oregon State University.”

For more information on all the finalists, visit [seniorCLASSaward.com](http://seniorCLASSaward.com).

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#### **Senior CLASS Award First-Team All-Americans**

Kelsey Plum, Washington

Leticia Romero, Florida State

Shatori Walker-Kimbrough, Maryland

Lizzy Wendell, Drake

Sydney Wiese, Oregon State

#### **Senior CLASS Award Second-Team All-Americans**

Lindsay Allen, Notre Dame

Nina Davis, Baylor

Brionna Jones, Maryland

Erica McCall, Stanford

Adrienne Motley, Miami (FL)

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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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