

2021 NCAA® Division II Award of Excellence



The Division II approach provides growth opportunities through academic achievement, learning in high-level athletics competition, and development of positive societal attitudes in service to the community.

As part of Division II's emphasis on community engagement, each active Division II school and conference is eligible to submit its best community engagement activity and/or event that promotes student-athletes giving back and serving as leaders within their communities. A few initiatives schools may consider include student-athlete leadership development, educational programming, military appreciation, game environment, Make-A-Wish® or Team IMPACT®.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual activities or events are encouraged. If events or activities are held in person, local public health and physical distancing guidelines should be followed.



The 2020 grand prize was awarded to Virginia State University for its Samaritan's Feet event, providing 300 new pairs of athletic shoes and socks to schoolchildren.

Entry Nomination Guidelines

Digital submissions telling the story of the activity or event must be received not later than **FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 2020**, and should combine these items into one PDF document:

- 1 An overview of the activity or event. Identify the theme for the activity or event and note the means in which the theme was used. Within the overview, explain how the activity or event has made an impact on the campus or in the community.
- 2 Still photos (not more than 10) or video links highlighting the activity or event. Videos should not be longer than three minutes in length.
- 3 Any fliers or other promotional materials related to the activity or event (including any newspaper or online articles).

To be eligible for consideration, the activity or event must have occurred between December 2019 and November 2020.

The 23 conference winners, winning independent institution and at-large honorees will be announced on ncaa.org in January. New this year, Division II will recognize a few at-large honorees for submitting a strong nomination that was not chosen as a conference or independent winner. The 2021 Division II Award of Excellence national winner will be recognized virtually during the 2021 NCAA Convention. Submit your nomination for receipt not later than **NOV. 20** to D2award@ncaa.org.

Recent Past Winners

2020 – Virginia State University for Samaritan's Feet event

2019 – Midwestern State University for "24 Strong Week"

2018 – Northwood University for "Go M.A.D. Day"

2017 – University of North Georgia for "Operation Nighthawks of Honor"

2016 – Lee University for "Volley for a Cure"

The Prizes

**EACH CONFERENCE WINNER,
INDEPENDENT WINNER
AND AT-LARGE HONOREES:**

\$500

**THIRD-PLACE
NATIONAL FINALIST:**

\$1,000

(initial prize plus additional \$500)

**NATIONAL
RUNNER-UP:**

\$1,250

(initial prize plus additional \$750)

**THE 2021 DIVISION II AWARD
OF EXCELLENCE WINNER:**

\$2,500

(initial prize plus additional \$2,000)