2023 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 and conferences may consider include student-athlete leadership development, educational programming, military appreciation, game environment, Make-A-Wish® or Team IMPACT®.

ENTRY NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Digital submissions telling the story of the activity or event must be received not later than FRIDAY, NOV. 18, 2022, and should combine these items into one PDF document:

• 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.
• Still photos (not more than 10) or video links highlighting the activity or event. Videos should not be longer than three minutes in length.
• 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 2021 and November 2022.

The 23 conference winners, winning independent institution and at-large honorees will be announced on ncaa.org in January. The 2023 Division II Award of Excellence national winner will be recognized during the 2023 NCAA Convention. Submit your nomination for receipt not later than FRIDAY, NOV. 18 to D2award@ncaa.org.

THE PRIZES

Each conference winner, independent winner and at-large honoree:

$500

Third-place national finalist:

$1,000 (initial prize plus additional $500)

National runner-up:

$1,250 (initial prize plus additional $750)

The 2023 Division II Award of Excellence winner:

$2,500 (initial prize plus additional $2,000)

RECENT PAST WINNERS

2022
University of Minnesota Duluth for the school’s Green Bandana Project

2021
Roberts Wesleyan College for partnership with Golisano Children’s Hospital

2020
Virginia State University for Samaritan’s Feet event

Minnesota Duluth won the 2022 Award of Excellence for its student-athlete led Green Bandana Project and mental health awareness games. This initiative brings student-athletes together to break the stigma surrounding mental health.