



Tiffin U. Joins Few Schools With Faculty Sport Mentors

Tiffin University, a NCAA II institution, is on the cutting edge of institutions with a formal program designed to improve faculty engagement and academic performance of student-athletes. TU joins Trinity College, M.I.T., Wesleyan University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Dartmouth, Case Western Reserve, and Lynchburg College who are among the few institutions publicizing similar programs.

Thirty-nine percent of full time professors on Tiffin's main campus will participate in the program in 2008-2009 which represents a critical mass of faculty who understands the importance of athletics in the overall scheme of the university.

The program is designed to open lines of communication and bridge the connection between academics and athletics. The primary beneficiary is the student athlete. Since implementing the program a year ago, 13 of the 17 Dragon sport teams improved their GPA from the fall to the spring semester which was highlighted by 98 student-athletes earning scholar-athlete honors (minimum 3.5 GPA). The overall semester GPA for all sport teams was 3.01.

Faculty sport sponsors enrich the overall experience for team members, encourage student athletes to be fully engaged in the curriculum and provide faculty colleagues with under-

standing of the mission of intercollegiate athletics. While the level of interaction may widely vary among participating faculty, all are committed to the improvement of the student athlete experience, especially in the classroom.

98*

*Number of Spring Semester Scholar Athletes with a minimum 3.5 GPA**

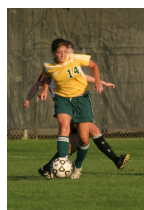


Measuring the Value and Effectiveness of Faculty Sport Sponsor Programs

The potential benefits of establishing a faculty sport sponsor program on campus are relatively obvious in terms of enhancing the communication lines between academics and athletics. Measuring the program outcomes is an important step to maintaining

the effectiveness of the program. When inviting the faculty sponsors to participate their second year, a few follow-up questions can help the evaluation

process. In addition, questions related to the goals & activities should appear on annual performance reviews of coaches and on student – athlete surveys. The FAR and SID should collectively track and publicize academic achievements.



Coach & Faculty Sponsor Listing

Football: Dave Walkosky	Tim Shaw
Volleyball: T.J Shouse	Gene Crutsinger & Jamie Orr
Men's Cross/Track: Jeremy Croy	Vinnie Gajjala / Lee Fearnside
Women's Cross/Track: Jeremy Croy	Vickie Ingalls
Men's Soccer: Rudy Brownell	Becky Fox
Women's Soccer: Rudy Brownell	Sherry Truffin
Women's Tennis: Chris Stambaugh	R. Gilreath & Mike Herdlick

Women's Golf: Ryan Sams	Danielle Foster
Men's Basketball: Rodney Martin	Kellie McGilvray
Women's Basketball: Pam Oswald	Tim Schultz
Baseball: Lonny Allen	Gene Chintala & Scott Blough
Softball: Jeff Nickerson	Erin Dean
Men's Golf: Darby Roggow	Perry Haan
Men's Tennis: Chris Stambaugh	Terry Sullivan
Equestrian: Julie Vogel	Phyllis Watts



www.tiffin.edu/athletics

TIFFIN UNIVERSITY

Athletic Director: Lonny Allen
Assistant Athletic Directors: Darby Roggow & Jeremy Croy
Senior Woman Administrator: Pam Oswald
Director of Compliance & Athlete Services: Kelly Daniel
Sports Information Director: Shane O'Donnell



**Member of the Great Lakes
Intercollegiate Athletic Conference**

Contact Dr. Bonnie Tiell, FAR
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Engagement Ideas for Faculty

- Become a familiar face to the coach and student athletes
- Schedule a meeting to address student athletes about the importance of academic priorities and proactive communication with their professors.
- Publically praise student-athletes who are recognized as scholar athletes.
- Notify student—athletes of NCAA scholarship opportunities.
- Host a dinner, barbeque, community service project, or movie night
- Attend a practice session or travel with team on a road trip

Remember—faculty sponsors will have their own style and way of interacting with the student-athletes and coaches.



**ORIENTATION TRAINING FOR FACULTY SPORT SPONSORS & HEAD COACHES:
WED., SEPT. 3RD, 11:15-12:30—FACULTY-STAFF DINING ROOM.
LUNCH AND ORIENTATION MATERIALS PROVIDED**

NCAA Academic & Service Commitment

Faculty Sport Sponsors should be knowledgeable and willing to discuss two key commitment components of the NCAA CHAMPS—LIFESKILLS program. Coaches should arrange a team meeting around study-table or practice times for the Faculty Sponsor to communicate with student-athletes. The first component faculty should address is “*Academic Commitment*” and includes information about how to improve academic performance and tap into campus resources. The faculty sport sponsor should distribute a hand-out to student-athletes explaining the NCAA Post Graduate Scholarship Program and general information about academic recognition programs at the institution, conference, and national level. The second component faculty should address is “*Service Commitment*”. Faculty Sport Sponsors should learn the community service project for their team and advise students about opportunities to engage in service on campus and in both the Tiffin and their home communities.

The **ACADEMIC** Commitment includes

- Study Skills
- Goal Setting & Time Management
- Tutoring & Structured Study
- Academic Advising
- Register in Meaningful Curriculum
- Awards, Honors, Recognition
- Scholarships Available

For the program to be the most effective, it is expected that coaches reciprocate the faculty involvement by providing team apparel and an invitation to special team events (awards banquets, media days, etc).

The **SERVICE** Commitment includes

- Mentoring
- Peer Education & Counseling
- Community Involvement



College Scholarship Programs

