

# RIIL



## Annual Report 2015-16



# Greetings From the RIIL

## DEAR FRIENDS,

As we begin our 84th year, it is important that we as teachers, coaches, administrators, and parents all make a difference in the lives of our children, athletes, students, and all other people. The impact—whether negative or positive — many times is greater than we realize. We need to do our best to make that impact a positive one. As we know, the important thing in life is not about who we are or what we accomplish, but about the positive impact we have on others.

Educational based athletic programs in our schools give all of us the opportunity to have that positive impact on others. The challenge I present to you....as you get ready to start a new year, a new season, a new project, is to show all what you're made of as you do your best to have a positive impact on all that you come in contact with.

*“Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”*

*~Andrew Carnegie*

**Thomas A. Mezzanotte**

*Executive Director*

*Rhode Island Interscholastic League*

As Chairman of the Principals' Committee on Athletics (PCOA), I am proud to serve along with Vice-Chair Mr. Sean Kelly and the other members of the committee representing the member schools and affiliated groups of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL). The PCOA is the governing body of the RIIL and its members are committed to providing the students of Rhode Island with high quality education based athletics. We truly believe in the RIIL's motto, "The Purest Form of Sport."

Student athletes reap the benefits of education based athletics each day. Whether developing leadership skills, learning how to overcome adversity or developing lifelong healthy habits, the benefits of education based athletics are clear. We believe that some of the most important life lessons are learned on the high school playing field.

Through the PCOA's guidance and leadership, the RIIL is a dynamic organization that keeps the interest of the student athlete at the heart of its decision making process. RIIL Executive Director Mr. Thomas Mezzanotte; Assistant Executive Director Mr. Michael Lunney and the talented office staff work diligently every day to ensure the success of the League. Along with Mr. Kelly, Mr. Mezzanotte and Mr. Lunney, I welcome your feedback and input.

**Kevin J. McNamara**

*Chairman, Principals' Committee on Athletics*

*Principal, Lincoln High School*



Thomas A. Mezzanotte  
Executive Director, RIIL



Kevin J. McNamara  
Chairman, Principals'  
Committee on Athletics

## COACHES EDUCATION

The RIIL has implemented a comprehensive certification process for all athletic coaches hired after January 1, 2012. This certification process which incorporates elements of the NFHS Coaches Ed program will help athletic coaches meet the significant challenges they face each day. This process, which must be renewed every five years, will include a combination of in-house and NFHS online courses approved by the RIIL. To assist, we are organizing an annual conference for new and grandfathered coaches to fulfill their certification obligations. In addition, the conference will offer other coaches and athletic directors the opportunity to address numerous sport-related issues.

During the 2015-2016 school year, we held our pre-season coach's rules interpretation meetings. Through these general meetings coaches were able to hear presentations regarding: Heat Acclimatization, Concussions, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest. In addition, these meetings provided opportunities for all coaches to review current sport rules and discuss other related RIIL issues.

Three free courses have been launched this month, and they are especially relevant:

**Social Media** - this course highlights both the positive aspects of social media, but also illustrates some of the pitfalls of posting information on those platforms.

**Social Media for Students** - same information as above, but emphasizes how social media can directly impact a student's current and future life.

**Concussion for Students** - this course repeats the "when in doubt, sit it out" advice of our existing concussion course, but has been created specifically for the student population and emphasizes how students need to look out for themselves and their teammates. The course content is provided by the Barrow Neurological Institute.

## UNIFIED SPORTS

Unified Sports® in RIIL member schools, creates an inclusive environment where everyone benefits. Unified Sports® combines people with intellectual disabilities (called athletes) and without intellectual disabilities (called partners) on sports teams for training and competition. Special education students experience new social opportunities and make new friends they may not have otherwise. Their non-disabled peers learn valuable lessons of character development and may serve as mentors. Many parents and siblings also find that Unified Sports® offers a new way to spend time together and meet other families.

Using sports to help break down barriers that have historically kept people apart, Unified Sports® promotes meaningful inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities in the community. In fact, 93% of partners say they gained a better understanding of their teammates through Unified Sports®.

## RIIL SPORTS MEDIA

The RIIL partnered with the NFHS to stream tournament events and promote a school broadcast program. Presently, there are a number of schools who are participating. In addition, the RIIL agreement with PlayOn (NFHS Network) has been extended another five years to 2020. The NFHS Network is now offering a new price model to fans subscribing at the low price of \$9.95 per month.

We are continuing to upgrade and improve the RIIL.org website. New homepage, online statistics in the sports of football, hockey, baseball, soccer, and basketball have been added. In addition, we have brought Carolyn Thornton, an experienced journalist, to the RIIL as Director of Multimedia Content to coordinate and oversee the RIIL Facebook Page, Twitter and Blog. Carolyn worked with high school students as junior journalists, teaching them about a career as a professional journalist, and covering more RIIL events from around the state throughout the year.

## STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

The RIIL Student Advisory Committee met throughout the year to discuss many interscholastic issues (rules, activities, alignment, post season play, etc). In December, the RIIL Student Advisory Committee hosted a Leadership Conference that brought together over 300 students to discuss the qualities of leadership and implementation of a statewide community service program – Peanut Butter Express. Through the efforts of the Student Advisory Committee this project was a great success and collected over 7,881 lbs of peanut butter for the RI Food Bank. The Mount Saint Charles Academy was recognized as the school contributing the most peanut butter.



Once again RI students will be attending the New England Student Leadership Conference. Members of the RIIL Student Advisory Committee will be selected from those attending this conference. In addition, the RIIL will be sending three RI students to the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit in Indianapolis, IN.

## STUDENT/TEAM RECOGNITION

We continue with the recognition programs of the RIIL “Student Athlete of the Month” and “Team of the Week.” Outstanding Students and Amazing Team Accomplishments are recognized and publicized through the media. In addition, “Student athletes of the Month,” “Coach of the Year,” “Athletic Director of the Year,” “RI Spirit of Sport,” “RI Heart of the Arts,” “Team of the Year” and “NFHS Coaches Association 2015 Sectional Coach of the Year in RI” recipients were honored at our annual luncheon. The overall 2016 Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year were selected and each received a \$1,000 scholarship.

- **Student Athletes of the Month:** *September:* Grace Cavanagh, Portsmouth and Zachary Durand, Burrillville; *October:* Kayla Kanakry, Mount St. Charles and Austen Clark, Classical; *November:* Riley Turcotte, Middletown and Kyle Beaulieu, Woonsocket; *December:* Lysah Russell, Classical and Noah Simmons, North Kingstown; *January:* Caylee Luebeck, North Kingstown and Yeury Galva, Central Falls; *February:* Erin Blake, Cranston West and Samuel Adofo, Central Falls; *March:* Kelly Gershkoff, Narragansett and Sean Laverty, Cumberland.
- **2015 Male and Female Student athletes of the Year Winners:** Erin Blake, Cranston West High School and Austen Clark, *Classical High School.*
- **Coach of the Year—Male:** Andrew Tuetken, *Cumberland High School, Baseball*  
**Coach of the Year—Female:** Julie Maguire, *North Kingstown High School, Field Hockey*
- **Athletic Director of the Year:** George Finn, *Barrington High School*
- **RI Spirit of Sport:** Alyssa Raye Raposo, *Mt. Hope High School*  
**Honorable Mention:** Bert Reid, *Olympic Physical Therapy*; Jade Annaldo, *Scituate High School*; Kayla Kanakry, *Mount St. Charles Academy*; Leeann Phillips, *Ponaganset High School*
- **RI Heart of the Arts:** Virginia Ann Cafferky, *Cumberland High School*
- **Team of the Year:** Smithfield High School, *Girls Outdoor Track & Field*
- **Administrator of the Year:** Kevin McNamara, *Principal, Lincoln High School/Chair, Principals’ Committee on Athletics*
- **NFHS Coaches Association 2015 Sectional Coach of the Year in RI:** Kenneth Skelly, *Boys Cross Country, La Salle Academy*
- **RI National Guard Adjutant General Award:** Jesse Kingman, *Ponaganset High School*

## NFHS NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (NSLS) AND NEW ENGLAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (NESLC)

Three RIIL student athletes, chaperoned by RIIL Assistant Executive Director Michael Lunney, headed to Indianapolis, IN to represent RI at the NFHS newest student leadership initiative—the National Student Leadership Summit. On July 26-29, thirty-one student athletes from RIIL members schools across the state attended the 6th Annual New England Student Leadership Conference held at Stonehill College, Easton, MA. (*Read more about the conferences on pages 9 & 10....*)

## SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

- Promoted and encouraged ways of minimizing risk in all sports (Concussion Management, Heat Acclimatization, Overuse Injuries, Limiting “contact” in collision sports, the use of appropriate pre-participation physicals for all athletes, and urging all school athletic teams to have access to certified athletic trainers).
- Worked with the football sport committee to implement a limited contact program throughout the entire season.
- Dr. Peter Kriz worked with the RIIL Hockey Sport Committee to implement a plan to improve safety in Boys/Girls Ice Hockey by penalizing athletes who exceeded the maximum number of penalty minutes throughout the regular season and playoffs. Through these efforts the number of player ejections, and “dangerous hits” were greatly reduced.
- Throughout this past year, members of the RIIL SMAC attended and spoke at numerous school and RIIL functions. Topics included heat acclimatization, sudden cardiac arrest, emergency action planning, care and prevention of athletic injuries in baseball pitchers, etc.

RIIL Executive Director and George Finn, Chair of the RIIL SMAC, attended the second annual Collaborative Solutions for Safety in Sport national meeting sponsored by the National Athletic Trainers’ Association.

Through a grant from the NFHS Foundation, the RIIL distributed to all schools the “Anyone Can Save A Life Program” that was developed by the Minnesota State High School Association. This program helped schools to establish a comprehensive emergency action plan for after school practices and events.

## RIIL HALL OF FAME/OUTSTANDING SERVICE

On October 28, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI, twelve individuals were inducted into the 13th Class of the RIIL Hall of Fame. Also recognized was the recipient of the 2015 State Award for Outstanding Service from the NFHS and RIIL (see page 9).

## RI PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS/RI INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (RIIAAA)

1. Expanded the Arbiter Pay Program which allows the RIIL to register, assign and pay all officials at all sport levels. Utilizing the capabilities of the Arbiter Software, this system continues to streamline, improve, and assist School and District Business Offices as well as School Athletic Administrators in the assignment and payment of all officials.
2. Approved all fall and winter sport alignments for 2016-2018.
3. Approved new Junior Varsity Sport guidelines and scheduling procedures.
4. Approved a regulation mandating that all sport officials become members of the NFHS Officials Association.
5. Approved agreement with *R Schools Today* to develop and implement (July 2017) a new Computer Management System and a new updated mobile RIIL Home Page.
6. Approved and implemented Football Guidelines to Minimize Head Impact and Concussion Risk in Football.
7. RIIL/RIIAAA continue to meet regularly to discuss sport related issues to improve the overall program.
8. To improve communication among all school Athletic Administrators the RIIL hosted four seasonal meetings to discuss and share pertinent information that applies to all schools.

## ADDITIONAL 2015-2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the 2015-2016 school year, we held our pre-season coach's rules interpretation meetings. Through these general meetings coaches were able to hear presentations regarding: Heat Acclimatization, Concussions, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest. In addition, these meetings provided opportunities for all coaches to review current sport rules and discuss other related RIIL issues.

We negotiated and or renewed sponsor agreements with many corporate sponsors.

Revenue returned to schools/students:

RIIL /School Revenue Share Program. 2015-2016	\$ 60,000
RIIL Sportsmanship/Leadership Grants to Schools	\$ 7,425
Student Conferences and Activities	\$ 16,734
NFHS Student Leadership Conference	\$ 2,104
MIAA Leadership Conference	\$ 2,428
NIAAA Annual Conference	<u>\$ 1,337</u>
Total	\$ 90,028

We are in the process of recommending alignment in all sports for the 2016 – 2018 school years.

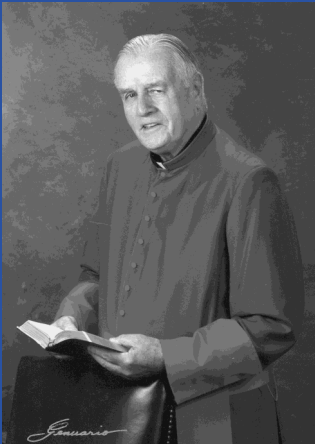
Hosted a breakfast with the RI School Superintendents Association to discuss Unified Sports, Emergency Action Athletic Plans, Athletic Trainers, Coaches Certification, Sports Funding, etc.

Continued to provide our schools with the RIIL Annual Report and the Principals' Committee on Athletics continues to receive monthly updates.

Conducted annual meetings with RI Principals to discuss issues relevant to schools, coaches, and athletic directors.

The RIIL Executive Director presented at several NFHS National and Regional conferences.

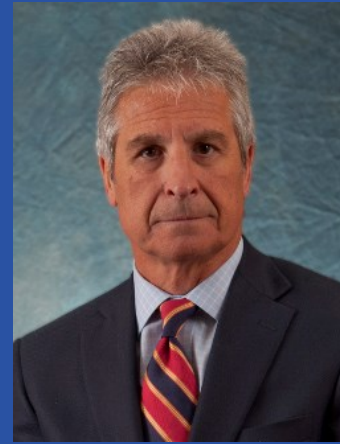
# History



Msgr. Robert C. Newbold  
Executive Director, RIIL 1969-1994



Richard B. Lynch  
Executive Director, RIIL 1994-2004



Thomas A. Mezzanotte  
Executive Director, RIIL 2004-Present

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League was established in 1932. It is a voluntary, private, incorporated, non-profit organization of principals who pledge their high schools and participants to follow the Rules and Regulations of the League.

There are sixty (60) public, private, and parochial high schools that make up the membership. These schools sponsor athletic activities in twenty-eight (28) sports. Over twenty thousand (20,000) young men and women compete annually in thousands of competitions.

The purpose of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is to supervise and administer the athletic programs, contests, schedules and matters related to participating schools in the state of Rhode Island.

## Organizational Chart



The legislative body of the League is the *Principals' Committee on Athletics*, which consists of principals/assistant principals of the sixty (60) member high schools. The Committee meets regularly. All meetings are open to the public and anyone who wishes may attend.

Standing Committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Principals' Committee on Athletics with the approval of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. Standing Committees are established for each sport. Others are established to address issues of general concern to the RIIL membership and to plan programs/activities for the members.

Membership on standing committees is open to superintendents, school administrators, athletic directors, coaches, game officials, and physicians. Recommendations are made by these committees to help the Principals' Committee on Athletics set rules and regulations and to provide programs for its schools.

The following administrators served on the Principals' Committee on Athletics during the 2015-2016 school year:

Kevin J. McNamara, *Chairperson*  
*Principal, Lincoln High School*  
Michael Sollitto, Ed.D., *Assistant Chairperson*  
*Principal, Scituate High School*

Gail Abromitis, Principal, <i>Middletown High School</i>	Carnell Henderson, Principal, <i>Woonsocket High School</i>
Scott D. Barr, Principal, <i>Classical High School</i>	Donald J. Kavanagh, Principal, <i>La Salle Academy</i>
Kathryn Crowley, RISSA / Superintendent, <i>Little Compton</i>	Michaela Keegan, Ed.D., Principal, <i>Juanita Sanchez Complex</i>
Joseph T. Brennan, Jr., <i>Bishop Hendricken High School</i>	Sean T. Kelly, Principal, <i>Cranston East High School</i>
Robert DiMuccio, Asst. Principal, <i>Johnston High School</i>	Robert Littlefield, Principal, <i>Portsmouth High School</i>
Joseph Goho, Principal, <i>No. Providence High School</i>	James Vetelino, RIIAAA/Athletic Director, <i>Westerly School</i>
Colleen Gribbin, Principal, <i>St. Mary Academy-Bay View</i>	Daniel F. Warner, Principal, <i>Narragansett High School</i>
	Michael Whaley, Ed.D., Principal, <i>Burrillville High School</i>

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the PCOA for their dedication, compassion and loyalty to student athletes and the Mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. In addition, I would like to acknowledge our Committee Chair, Mr. Kevin McNamara, Principal of Lincoln High School, and Assistant Chair Dr. Michael Sollitto, Principal of Scituate High School for their leadership and counsel. Throughout the past year they have served with distinction on numerous committees and dedicated countless hours to many important League matters.

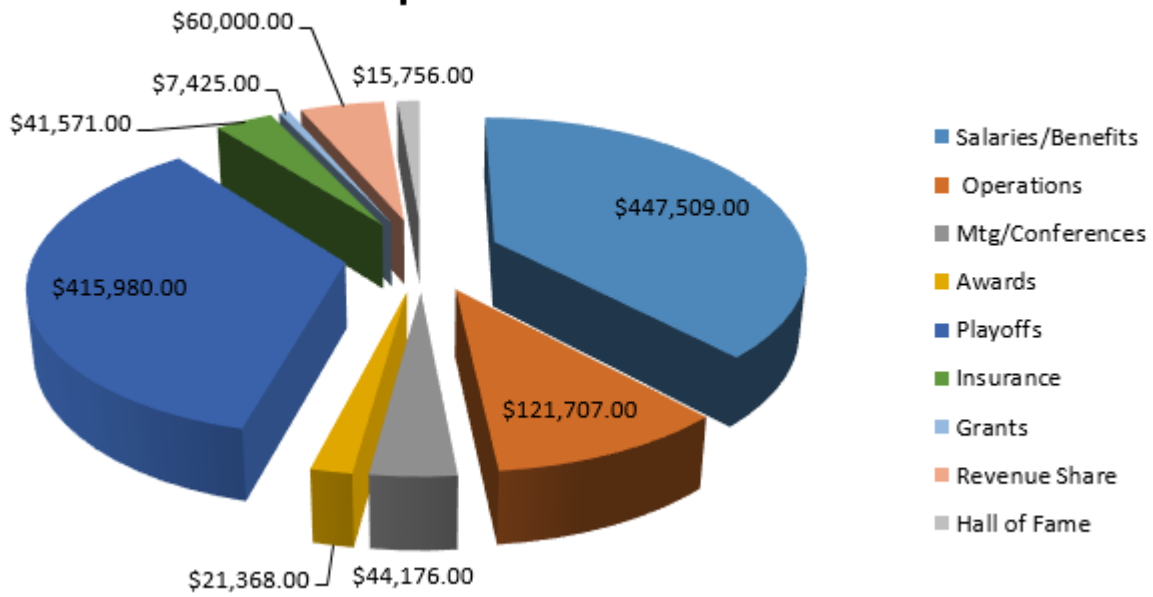
The RIIL and the Principals' Committee on Athletics are deeply grateful to the RI Association of School Principals, the RI Athletic Administrators Association, and the RI School Superintendents Association for their continued support of its membership. Without the strong support of the principals and athletic administrators of our member schools, the Rhode Island Interscholastic League would not enjoy the level of success that presently exists.

As Executive Director, I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation to Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, for his cooperation, support and efforts on behalf of the League and its student athletes. I would also like to thank Donna Kane, Business Manager/Treasurer; Gail Lepore, Office Manager; Susana Costa and Julie Mancini, Administrative Assistants; Tracy Quarella, Director of Marketing and Carolyn Thornton, Director of Multimedia Content for the important role they play in the success of the League.

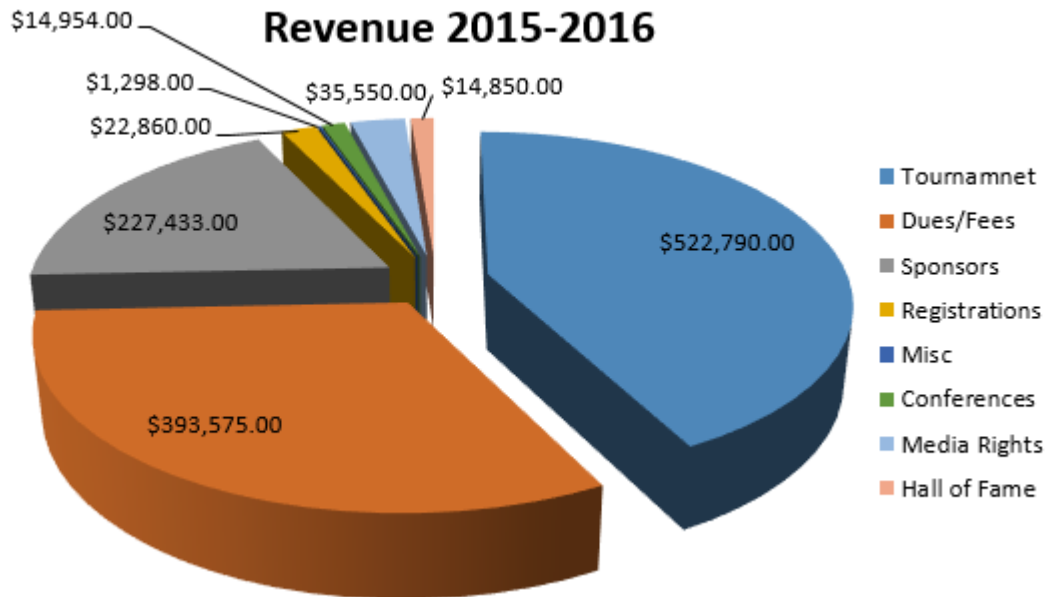
# Financial Report



### Expenses 2015-2016



### Revenue 2015-2016





The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is a service organization providing its member schools with publications, training opportunities, recognition programs, tournaments, rules interpretation meetings, and other services that assist in the administration of interscholastic sports.

## **Athletic Rules and Regulations**

Includes the by-laws and regulations for the RIIL.

## **Communications**

The League posts on its website.

## **Recognition**

The League sponsors the RIIL Hall of Fame for the most distinguished individuals involved in high school athletics.

## **Arbiter Pay Program**

Implementing the Arbiter Program Software, will streamline, improve and assist school Athletic Director and Business Offices in the assignment and payment of game officials.

## **Revenue Share Plan**

The RIIL will share yearly profits it has accumulated and distribute these funds to schools.

## **RIIL Foundation**

The RIIL Foundation was created to serve the interests of student athletes by awarding grants in the areas of character, education, sportsmanship and leadership.

## **RIIL/NFHS Network**

The heart of the RIIL/NFHS Network primarily consists of the season-ending RIIL Sport Tournaments. The RIIL/NFHS Network has produced internet broadcasts for most sports during this past two years of operation.

While high school state associations like the RIIL provide an immense potential for content, there are nearly 20,000 member high schools coast-to-coast who now have the opportunity to broadcast their own school specific content. It is this local content through the School Broadcasting Program that gives the network its legs.

School sports are first, last and always about local teams and it's not just about high-profile sports and varsity teams; it's just as much about lower-profile programs and events.

The success of the NFHS Network will not be "made for TV," national tournaments or matchups between teams with the most highly regarded players. Our success will come from the aggregation of hundreds of typical local rivalries that are played all school year long in every nook of our State.

The NFHS Network School Broadcasting Program gives all of our schools and communities the opportunity to highlight our programs, our fans and our athletes. It is for all these reasons that I encourage every Rhode Island high school to become part of this great opportunity.

## **Tournament Programs**

Provide tournament fans with information about the teams participating in each League-sponsored tournament/meet.

## **Tournaments**

- The League supervises and administers state tournaments in 28 athletic events for its member schools.
- Assists the media outlets statewide in their coverage of high school sports.
- Provides accident insurance for every student, coach, and official that participates in a league-sponsored activity.

## **Student Leadership Conferences**

The League sponsors numerous opportunities for student athletes to take part in an assortment of leadership and sportsmanship activities.

## **Student-Athlete Wellness Program**

*The Performance Edge: Wellness for Winners* is a program designed to provide our student athletes and coaches with a comprehensive wellness program that will support our high schools by embracing the health and wellness of all participants.

**Web Site [www.riil.org](http://www.riil.org)** keeps member schools and fans up to date on League activities, rules and events.

# Awards and Conferences

## RIIL STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR WINNERS Presented by: **SHOWCASE**



**Erin Blake** is a senior at Cranston West High School. She was captain of both the Girls' Soccer and Basketball Teams. She was an All-League performer in Girls Basketball and was named the RI Girls Basketball Coaches Association's All State Academic Team this past winter. Erin is a National Honor Society member and a Rhode Island Presidential Scholar's Award finalist. She is a Student Council member, a Freshman Mentor and maintains a 4.6 GPA in Honors and AP Courses. In the community, Erin is a volunteer youth basketball coach and was an intern at the Cedar Crest Nursing Home and the RI Hospital Emergency Department. More impressively, Erin is the Founder and Director of a student run charity organization called "Running for Remission: From Kids to Kids" which raises much needed funds for children who cannot afford medical treatment.



**Austen Clark** is a senior at Classical High School. He has participated in Boys Soccer, Indoor Track, Football, Swimming and Tennis. Austen was named captain of both the soccer and tennis teams and is a two time All State recipient in the sport of tennis. Academically, he is the class Valedictorian, a Harvard Book Award winner and has taken many AP and Honors classes throughout his high school career. Interestingly, Austen is also a member of the Providence Hurling Club and has participated in events in Massachusetts and Connecticut which showcase the National Sport of Ireland. In the community, Austen is an active member of his church, assisted in food drives and has been a youth tennis instructor. He has helped organize a "Go Green" fundraiser to help a soccer teammate's family that was impacted by cancer.

## HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2015/ OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Introducing the 13th class to be inducted into the RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

*(Seated L-R)* Athlete/Coach and Golden Legacy: Frank J. Murgo, Athlete: Holly Morris, Admin/Coach: Elaine E. Botelho, Admin: Kenneth V. Reall, Athletes: Jane Corcoran and Sarah DeCosta-Hayes  
*(Standing L-R)* Athlete: Gary Hudson, Coach: Tom Kenwood, Coach/Official: Bob Gourley, Athletes: Henry Z. Brenner, Daniel Wheeler and Paul Guay.

Also honored was the 2015 State Award for Outstanding Service recipient:

Dr. Albert J. Puerini, Jr. for his dedication and support of the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.



## NFHS NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



Seraphina Negash of Classical, Sara Anoushian of North Kingstown and Ponaganset's Nicole Bryant represented the Rhode Island Interscholastic League at the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit, July 18-20 in Indianapolis.

Accompanied by RIIL Assistant Executive Director Mike Lunney, the three RIIL Student Advisory Board members listened to keynote speakers, participated in team-building workshops with student ambassadors from 26 other states and worked with athletes from Special Olympics Indiana.

*"All of the presentations were eye opening and made me think about things that had never crossed my mind before. . . . My favorite activity was the Special Olympics Event. Seeing the smiles on all their faces brightened my day, and playing sports with everyone was a blast. It's heartwarming to know that just playing with everyone can have such a big impact on somebody."*

- Sara Anoushian, North Kingstown  
*"One of my favorite quotes from the summit is 'If serving is below you, then leadership is beyond you.' I hope to be a leader better focused on support and service to my teammates and classmates. I hope that with this mentality, I will be able to influence such a culture in my school community."*
- Seraphina Negash, Classical  
*"In the 'building relationships' session, Deb gave us her definition of leadership: 'Leadership is influence. Based on your behavior, you have the ability to make people think, feel, and act a certain way.' So, I plan to bring this idea back to my school community and give a positive mentality one person at a time."*
- Nicole Bryant, Ponaganset



—Article by Carolyn Thornton, RIIL Director of Multimedia Content

## NEW ENGLAND STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Destiny Monteiro had a couple of objectives when she arrived at the Stonehill College campus last month for the sixth annual New England Student Leadership Conference.

“My personal goal was to meet new student leaders, as well as to expand my knowledge about citizenship skills,” said the Shea High School junior.

The experience, she says, “exceeded my expectations.”

“Being surrounded by adolescents my age who have high expectations, too, for their team/community/school, gave me the confidence and motivation that I needed to continue to do great things within my community,” said Monteiro, who particularly enjoyed working on a local farm. “It was truly an honor to take part in the wonderful conference. Words can’t describe how thankful I am to have had this experience.”

Monteiro was among the nearly three dozen high school student athletes from Rhode Island, who attended the overnight conference in North Easton, Mass. They spent four days participating in various workshops and activities that focused on “Respect, Positive Values, Perspective, Sportsmanship, Teamwork, Healthy Lifestyles, Community Service and Self-Evaluation.”

Volunteering with a group of Special Olympians at the conference left a lasting impression on Christina Liberto.

“Before the conference, I had never participated in something quite like the Special Olympics,” said the Bay View junior, who plays soccer and rows on the Bengals’ crew team. “It was not only an eye-opening experience, as it made me realize how fortunate I am to be able to participate in different sports, but it also was a heart-warming experience, as the smiles on the children’s faces were priceless. On top of this, I also created bonds with a few of the children, which is something that I will always remember. After being given the opportunity to work at the Special Olympics, I was extremely inspired, so I reached out to my local Special Olympic organization in order to become involved in the work they do. Thank you to the NESLC for giving me this amazing opportunity.”

“I learned at the conference that you can make a difference by doing little things in your school to help others in your community. Something I want to bring back to my sports teams is positive energy and team-building exercises to help better my teams and my school.”

~Sydney Chabot, North Kingstown High School



Accompanying the students to the conference were chaperones, Jennifer Wasson, Athletic Director, Bay View Academy and North Kingstown Coach, Sydney Culbertson.

—Article by Carolyn Thornton, RIIL Director of Multimedia Content

# Mission Statement



**The mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is to provide its member schools governance, leadership and support for interscholastic athletics which gives student athletes opportunities to compete in an environment that stresses education, sportsmanship, integrity and safety.**

## Core Values

### We Believe

- Athletics is an integral part of education in our schools;
- Interscholastic athletics is a privilege that enhances the education of students;
- Leadership, responsibility, sportsmanship and scholarship are essential parts of athletics;
- Athletics is an enjoyable experience which fosters valuable life lessons;
- All member schools have the opportunity to be represented and are accountable to the standards of the RIIL;
- Fostering a professional relationship among its colleagues is a responsibility of the RIIL.

## Vision Statement

The RIIL is an organization with high standards for its member schools, student athletes, and constituencies. Through professional collegiality the League advocates and promotes the value of interscholastic athletics. The League provides athletic experiences that enable student athletes to reach their highest level of academic and athletic potential and prepares them to become responsible citizens.

