

7-18-17: Dear National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Quality Program Reviewers:

On behalf of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District, which includes the Board of Education, District/Building Administration, Staff and Students, we thank the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Quality Program Reviewers, Board of Directors, Committee Members, Mr. Michael Blackburn and Mr. Don Bales, the Quality Program Coordinator, for acknowledging the North Hunterdon High School Athletic Program at the highest Exemplary Level for the NIAAA Quality Program Award for 2016-2017.


The rigorous Quality Program Standards process is similar to a school receiving [National Blue Ribbon Schools Program](#) accreditation and has allowed us the opportunity to see our strengths and weaknesses in our Athletic Program. This validation process has given our school and community a great sense of Lion pride, knowing that our educationally based athletic program is following the highest Best Practice Industry Standards in the country.


North Hunterdon won the State ["Athletic Program of Excellence"](#) Award for 2015-2016 and we are even more proud for being recognized at the National Level for 2016-2017. There are currently 25 schools who have won the NIAAA National Quality Program Award since its inception, and North Hunterdon is the first NJ High School to receive this honor.

The NIAAA has become the first association to receive [accreditation](#) from [AdvancED](#). The NIAAA champions the profession of administering athletic programs in our nation's high schools and middle schools. No other body values, promotes, preserves, supports and stands ready to uplift the cause of the athletic administrator as does the NIAAA. The NIAAA award recognizes excellence in implementation and administration of a high school athletics program. The Quality Program Award also recognizes the continuing research and implementation of professional benchmarks and best practices through Evidence Based Criteria of Philosophy, Educational Compatibility, Mentoring Staff and Students, Program Safety and Risk Management, Program Access and Equity, Budget and Supplemental Fund-Raising, Personnel and Program Assessment, Technology, Sports Medicine, Innovation and Creative Leadership Strategies.

In conclusion, we believe by participating in athletics, young people have the opportunity to learn, grow and develop just as they do in the classroom. This principle is essential to North Hunterdon's approach to developing the whole child. Receiving this NIAAA Quality Program Accreditation demonstrates our dedication to our students. Thank you for selecting the North Hunterdon Athletic Department as the NIAAA National "Quality Program of Excellence" for 2016-2017. We are proud of our staff and community, who focus on the positive development of our students.

Respectfully,


Jeffrey Bender
Superintendent


Michael P. Hughes
Assistant Superintendent


Richard Bergacs, Ed.D
Principal



John Deutsch
Athletic Administrator

