



Colorado Athletics Directors Association

53rd Annual Conference

April 25 to
April 28, 2026

Beaver Run Resort
620 Village Road
Breckenridge, CO 80424
1-800-525-2253





We are excited to host our 53rd Annual CADA Conference in beautiful Breckenridge, Colorado, April 25–28, 2026. We look forward to engaging through outstanding professional development, meaningful networking, and valuable opportunities for growth.

Once again this year, we are offering several LTI courses, top-notch speakers, relevant breakout sessions, and opportunities to connect with a wide variety of vendors—and win some great prizes. We are also excited to celebrate our deserving athletic administrators during our Awards Luncheon.

We look forward to spending this time together and gaining valuable tools that will help each of us become the best athletic directors we can be.

Sincerely,

Tom Brieske
President
Colorado Athletic Directors Association



Saturday, April 25, 2026

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM **LTC 504 (CAA): Legal Issues I (Liability for Sports Injuries and Risk Management) with Scott Garvis, LeRoy Lopez & Cora Lanter**

This course provides in-depth coverage of the legal standards governing liability for sports injuries, including the duties imposed by courts and legislatures on athletics administrators, coaches, athletic trainers, and other athletics personnel related to safeguarding the health and well-being of student-athletes and other persons in school sports environments. Strategies are provided for developing, implementing, and documenting an effective risk management program for interscholastic athletics. Required for: CAA, RMSAA, CIAA and CMAA certification. - **Peak 11 & 12**

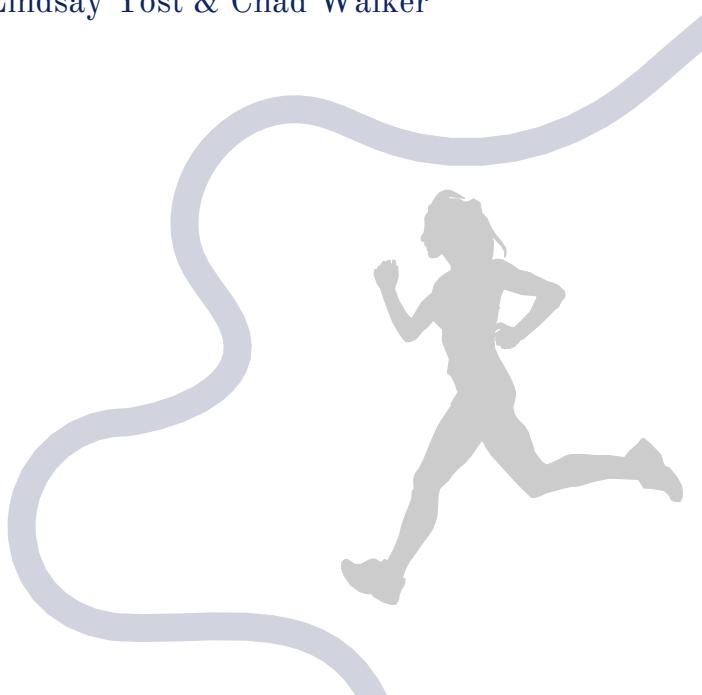
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM **LTC 601: Developing Athletic Department Handbooks with Joey Mahmood & Mike Jacobsma**

This course is designed to assist the athletic administrator, as part of the administrative team in the school district, in the development of comprehensive handbooks for students, staff, boosters and families. Application, development, and annual review of student handbooks, athletic handbooks, coaches handbooks, booster handbooks, and other groups with constitutions and by-laws, with review of legal rights of students, collective bargaining for staff, and non-profit rules and regulations. In this course, athletic administrators, principals, and those aspiring to enter school administration will benefit from the development, discussion and review of the handbook, constitution, bylaws and legal issues related to this process. - **Peak 6 - 8**

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM **LTC 705: Coach Centered Educational Athletics – A Character Based Coach to Coach Mentoring Program with Rob Seymour, Christopher Felton & Mark Puey**

Character based coach to coach mentoring programs utilize the talents, strengths, and qualities of the entire team of coaches to maximize the potential of the coaching staff. Mentoring is an attitude, a relationship, and an investment which provides coaches the opportunity to support and nurture each other professionally, personally, and ethically. This course will highlight mentoring models that demonstrate key behaviors to implement when establishing an effective mentoring program. Since each school/site is different, this course provides athletic administrators strategies and methods to develop and enhance successful coach to coach mentoring programs upon returning to their school/site. - **Peak 9 & 10**

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM **CAA Preparation Workshop with Lindsay Yost & Chad Walker**



Sunday, April 26, 2026

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM **LTC 506 (CAA) Legal Issues II: Title IX and Sexual Harassment with Chad Walker, Ron Alexander & Larry Bull**

This course provides in-depth coverage of the legal standards regarding Title IX compliance and gender equity assurance for interscholastic athletics programs. This includes the methodology for a school to perform a Title IX self-audit in order to proactively identify problem areas and necessary corrective actions to satisfy all applicable Title IX legal mandates. This course offers extensive coverage of the legal standards governing sexual harassment and sexual violence in school sports programs and strategies for developing, implementing, and documenting an effective anti-sexual harassment policy. Required for: CAA and CMAA certification. - **Peak 11 & 12**

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM **LTC 719: Leadership, Decision-Making, and Strategic Influence in Athletic Administration with Scott Garvis, Michael Krueger & Craig Denney**

This course examines relevant strategies and principles that enhance the skills of athletic administrators in leadership, management, supervision, and decision-making. Participants will explore the distinctions and intersections between these roles and engage in a deep dive into each area. Emphasis is placed on developing visionary leadership, applying strategic communication, and understanding the balance of power and influence. Through analysis of effective leadership traits, the giant leadership framework, and structured decision-making models, administrators will strengthen their ability to lead with clarity, inspire growth in others, and navigate organizational challenges. Interactive activities, self-assessments, and practical tools support ongoing reflection and skill application. Appendices provide supplemental materials, assessment instruments, and real-world applications that reinforce course concepts and further promote leadership development. - **Peak 9 & 10**

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM **LTC 615: Athletic Field Management with Rob Seymour, Dianne Shuck-Gray & Christopher Felton**

This course examines the role the athletic administrator plays in the practical, cost-effective, and scientific approach to athletic field management. With media coverage and increased societal concerns regarding the health and safety of participants; it is critical that the athletic administrator has a knowledge base of skills and understanding of the requirements for maintaining safe, resilient, and attractive athletic fields. In addition, the course will help athletic administrators develop long-range, operational assessment plans, and the documentation process for outdoor playing surfaces. - **Peak 6 - 8**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM **CAA Exam with Melynda Brown & Mike Hughes - Beaver Den**

11:00 AM - 12:45 PM **Registration & Vendors - Colorado Ballroom**

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM **New AD Meeting with Jason Wilkins & Matt Heckel - Beaver Den**

12:50 PM **Vendors & Drawing - Colorado Ballroom**



Sunday, April 26, 2026- Continued

1:30 PM - 1:35 PM **CADA Welcome with CADA President Tom Brieske - Breckenridge Ballroom**

1:35 PM - 2:50 PM **From Welfare to Warrior: How Love and Connection Empowers Students to Achieve Big Dreams and Goals with Sandy Zimmerman**

Sandy's keynote, "From Welfare to Warrior: How love and connection empower students to achieve big dreams and goals," focuses on the transformative power of relationships within education and sports. This session highlights how genuine love and meaningful connections can help students-athletes overcome obstacles and realize their full potential.

Learning Targets

- Discover the Five Key Ingredients: Attendees will learn about the essential components required to develop a life-changing relationship with students. These ingredients form the foundation for meaningful connections that foster growth, resilience, and achievement.
- Be Inspired and Empowered: This session aims to motivate educators, coaches and leaders to BE THE ONE who can make a lasting impact on a student's life. Attendees will leave feeling empowered to change the trajectory of those they serve through intentional acts of love and connection. - **Breckenridge Ballroom**

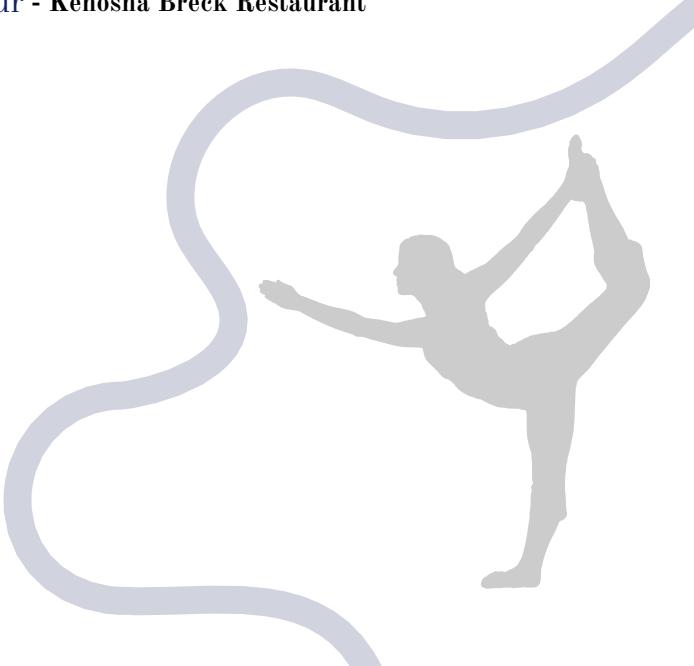
2:55 PM - 3:25 PM **Vendors & Drawing - Colorado Ballroom**

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM **The Mental Edge: Integrating Mental Strength Training to Elevate Performance with Chad McGehee**

Chad will share the latest research from performance psychology and sports-focused meditation and mindfulness as high-impact tools for enhancing focus, emotional regulation, and recovery in sport. This keynote will dive into sport's unique mental demands, such as performing under pressure, recovering from set-backs in the moment, sustaining focus in a dynamic environment, and cognitive performance under physical stress. We will set the stage to help players, coaches and staff develop personal and team-wide training for mental clarity and resilience. - **Breckenridge Ballroom**

5:00 PM **President's Open House & Drawings - Colorado Ballroom**

7:00 PM **Women in Leadership Happy Hour - Kenosha Breck Restaurant**



Monday, April 27, 2026

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Breakfast

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM Vendors & Drawings - Colorado Ballroom

8:45 AM - 9:45 AM Leading Struggling Programs with Mike Hughes

There have been a tremendous number of changes in society over the last 20 years, but one major change is that patience seems to be a thing of the past, especially when it comes to struggling programs and programs that have recently hit hard times. Parents and athletes are no longer willing to be a part of struggling programs and wait for programs to "get better." Mike will go through the steps that Athletic Directors can go through to help identify and correct problem areas in their athletic department that are components of struggling programs. In this presentation, Mike will detail what they identified as core problems with the athletics department, steps they have taken to diagnose and correct those problems and steps in the future to be taken as they continue to try and find ways to create programs of excellence and turn around programs that are struggling. - **Breckenridge Ballroom**

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakouts:

Inner Edge Mental Performance Training with Chad McGehee

This breakout session blends sport psychology, leadership, contemplative neuroscience, and real-world case studies to help coaches and performance staff understand and begin to apply performance psychology and sports-focused meditation and mindfulness to their own performance along with ways to incorporate into overall training for their teams. - **Peak 9 & 10**

Leveraging AI Tools to Improve Efficiency and Student Service in Athletic Administration with Lindsay Yost & Rob Seymour

This course introduces Colorado athletic directors to practical, responsible uses of AI tools such as customized myGPTs to increase efficiency, improve communication, and better serve student athletes within an education-based athletics framework. Participants will explore how AI can support daily administrative tasks, streamline professional development and certification guidance, and provide consistent, student centered responses to common challenges. The focus remains on using technology as a leadership tool to reduce administrative burden, enhance decision making, and create more time and capacity for meaningful student impact. - **Peak 11 & 12**

Administrative Skills for Eligibility, Hiring Coaches and Time Management with Diane Shuck-Gray, Brynn Thomas & Jeremy Kerns

Learn practical, real-world organizational tools and techniques from Athletics Directors of all classifications. This session shares proven strategies and efficient processes for managing academic eligibility so no student-athlete is overlooked. Another part of the presentations will help attendees gain a comprehensive understanding of the hiring and clearance cycle for both volunteer and paid coaches, walking through each step from initial requirements to final clearance. Finally come hear about organizational tools and techniques coming from an Athletic Director who also coaches multiple sports and teaches during the day. This session will prove to have tangible items you can implement immediately when you return to your buildings! - **Beaver Den**

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Vendors & Drawings - Colorado Ballroom

Monday, April 27, 2026 - Continued

12:00 PM - 1:45 PM **Awards Luncheon - Breckenridge Ballroom**

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM **Breakouts:**

Leading with Resilience: Mental Health Awareness & Support Strategies for Athletic Directors with Scott Garvis

In today's high-pressure athletic environment, athletic directors are uniquely positioned to shape the culture of sport — not only for performance, but for the mental well-being of student-athletes, coaches, and staff. This presentation will empower athletic administrators to recognize mental health challenges, reduce stigma, implement proactive support practices, and cultivate resilient, healthy athletic programs. Scott Garvis will share evidence-based strategies, real-world examples, and practical tools to strengthen mental health advocacy within your athletic department, while also addressing the stress and burnout often experienced by athletic administrators themselves. - **Beaver Den**

Partnering with Parents to Build a Positive Athletics Culture with Marty Tonjes & Kevin Clark

Discuss and get strategies regarding how to develop positive interactions, quality relationships, and collaboration with parents. - **Peak 9 & 10**

ElevateHER - The Competitive Advantage: Recruiting, Retaining, and Supporting Female Leaders in Athletics with Melynda Brown & Cora Lanter

To build elite athletic programs, directors must view female leadership as a strategic advantage rather than a compliance requirement. This session examines the systemic hurdles and perception traps that lead to turnover, offering actionable strategies to bridge the representation gap. We will discuss auditing recruitment language, shifting from passive mentorship to active sponsorship, and fostering a culture where female leaders can trade defensive armor for authoritative confidence. By refining communication and intentionally developing the talent pipeline, departments can improve athlete retention and ensure the best leaders are on the field and in the front office. - **Peak 11 & 12**

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM **The Relationship Between an AD and Coach with Luke DeWolfe & Wendy Hall**

This presentation explores the vital partnership between an Athletic Director and a Coach—how trust, communication, and shared vision create a foundation for successful athletic programs. Participants will gain insight into effective collaboration, conflict resolution, and leadership alignment that support both student-athletes and the broader school community. - **Breckenridge Ballroom**

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM **Classification Breakouts & Happy Hour**

These breakouts will be relevant, hot button issues that are impacting our classifications in unique ways. These topics will range in the various breakouts from potential adjustments due to legislative council bylaw changes to recent changes in society that are impacting Colorado Sports and the impact on Athletics Directors.

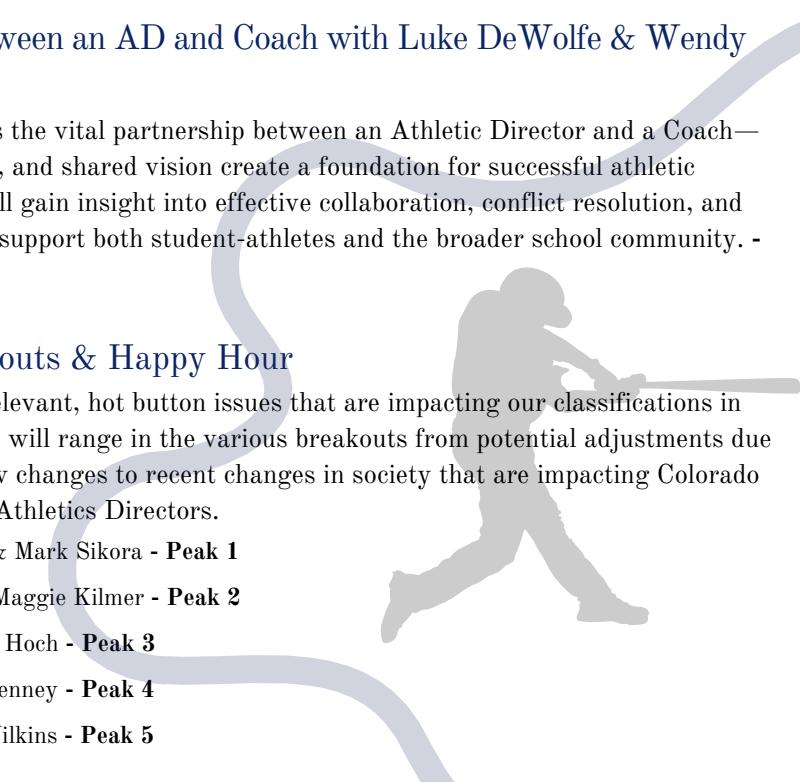
Middle School: Kevin Clark & Mark Sikora - **Peak 1**

1A & 2A: Dirk Pedersen & Maggie Kilmer - **Peak 2**

3A: Mike Jacobsma & Dylan Hoch - **Peak 3**

4A: Chad Walker & Craig Denney - **Peak 4**

5A: Tom Brieske & Jason Wilkins - **Peak 5**



Tuesday, April 28, 2026

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Breakfast

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Fueling the High School Athlete: Nutrition, Hydration, Recovery, and Sleep for Peak Performance with Bryan Snyder

This presentation is designed to address the most common—and most fixable—nutrition challenges facing high school athletes today. The focus is on practical, real-world strategies athletic directors and coaches can immediately apply to better support athlete health, performance, and consistency throughout the season.

We'll cover the areas high school athletes tend to struggle with most: recovery nutrition (what to eat and when), hydration (daily habits and game-day execution), and sleep (simple routines that actually work with busy schedules). We'll also walk through how to pack a basic, effective cooler for practices and games—built around affordable, realistic options that athletes will actually eat.

A key portion of the talk will address the growing issue of risky, unnecessary supplements being used by teenagers. We'll discuss what to watch for, common red flags, and how schools and coaches can guide athletes toward safer, smarter choices without making things overly complicated.

This is not a theory-heavy presentation. It's straightforward, evidence-based, and built for the realities of high school sports—limited time, limited budgets, and real life. We'll conclude with dedicated time for Q&A so attendees can ask specific questions and leave with clear next steps they can implement right away. - Breckenridge Ballroom

9:15 AM - 10:30 AM Purpose on the Line: CHSAA Updates & the Defense of Educationally Based Athletics & Activities with Michael Krueger

CHSAA Commissioner Mike Krueger will provide key updates on CHSAA initiatives, strategic priorities, and emerging topics impacting Colorado member schools. In a rapidly evolving landscape for school athletics and activities, this keynote will also focus on the growing need to clearly define and defend Educationally Based Athletics and Activities and the shared responsibility school leaders carry in protecting the purpose, values, and educational mission of our programs. Attendees will leave with timely information, practical perspective, and renewed clarity around why this work matters and how we must continue to protect our purpose. - Breckenridge Ballroom

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM League Door Prizes/ 50-50 - Breckenridge Ballroom

Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors!

Breakfast



Speaker



Break



About the Speakers



Ron Alexander

Ron has had a lengthy career in a variety of roles in education and athletics. He started his career at Fort Morgan High School as a teacher and coach. During his tenure leading the Mustang Volleyball program, his teams won three state titles. Ron went on to be an assistant coach for the University of Northern Colorado Volleyball program, before taking over as the head coach. During his tenure at UNC, his teams went 88-14. Ron then went into athletic administration, leading athletics and activities at both school and district level. He currently serves as the Director for Athletics and Activities at Academy District 20 in Colorado Springs.



Melynda Brown

Melynda Brown is an accomplished Athletic Director and educator with extensive experience in both high school and collegiate sports environments. With a robust background in coaching, teaching, and leadership, she has successfully managed athletic programs, guided student-athletes, and led teams to achieve their full potential. Her roles as a Computer Science and Wellness teacher, along with her current position as Athletic Director at Mullen High School, highlight her commitment to fostering student development both on and off the field. Melynda also leverages her expertise as the Director of Recruiting for Team 180 Sports, helping young athletes navigate their academic and athletic futures when it comes to College Recruitment.



Larry Bull

Looking forward to retiring after 38 years.

Larry Bull is in his 38th year in education, including 36 years with the Cherry Creek School District and two years with Denver Public Schools. He has served as an administrator for 25 of those years and is currently in his 16th year as Director of Athletics and Activities for Cherry Creek Schools. His previous administrative roles include Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, Dean of Students, and Safety Coordinator at Eaglecrest High School, where he also served on the Cherry Creek School District Safe Schools Design Team. Before entering administration, Bull began his career as a Special Education teacher at Eaglecrest High School and Martin Luther King Middle School.

Athletics and coaching have been central to Bull's work supporting student growth and leadership development. He served as Head Boys' Basketball Coach at Eaglecrest High School, where he also worked as an Assistant Football Coach and Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach. His coaching career further includes roles at Smoky Hill, Mullen, and Abraham Lincoln High Schools as a Varsity Assistant and JV Boys' Basketball Coach. His contributions to girls' athletics include serving as Assistant Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach at Eaglecrest and Freshman "B" Girls' Basketball Coach at Overland High School.

He has provided extensive committee leadership at the state level, including serving as Chair of the CHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) and Chair of the CHSAA Ice Hockey Committee. He is also a member of the Lacrosse Committee, as well as CLOC, Ice Hockey, and Hall of Fame Committees, along with numerous CHSAA ad hoc committees.

Beyond his professional work, Bull values family and relationships above all. He and his wife, Jill, have been married for 36 years and are the proud parents of two children, Tatyana and Sergei. He values spending quality time with family and friends and enjoys traveling and playing golf in his free time. A deeply meaningful personal honor for Bull was the opportunity to participate in the 50th Rocky Mountain Honor Flight, accompanying Vietnam Veterans to Washington, D.C., an experience that further strengthened his commitment to service and remembrance.



Kevin Clark

Kevin Clark, CAA, has served as the Director of Athletics and Activities for the Thompson School District for the past seven years. Prior to his current role, he served as the Athletic Director at Loveland High School. Before moving into administration, Kevin was a physical education teacher and spent 15 years coaching track and field and cross country. During his coaching career, he led the 2014 Girls Cross Country and 2016 Boys Track & Field teams to Class 4A CHSAA State Championships. Kevin has been a certified track and field and cross-country official for the past 10 years and is currently serving a four-year term on the NFHS Track & Field Rules Committee. Kevin has been married to his wife, Becky, for 22 years, and together they have three daughters.

About the Speakers



Craig Denney

Now in his 34th and final year, Craig Denney has served the community of Glenwood Springs at both the Glenwood Springs Middle School and Glenwood Springs High School. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Craig earned his teaching certification from Western State College after a stint in the ski industry. He then student taught in Glenwood Springs and was hired at the middle school teaching history and coaching football and wrestling. Denney then moved to the high school continuing to teach in the social sciences while becoming the head football coach. After 8 years as head coach, Craig served as an assistant coach for 4 years and then took over as athletic director, a position he has held for 18 years.

Denney has been a member of the Colorado Athletic Directors Association for each of those 18 years and has been a member of the CADA board for the last 13 years. He is a member of the NIAAA and is active in the Western Slope League.

Craig has been married to his wife Ann for 38 years. They have 2 children, Avery and Connor.



Luke DeWolfe

Luke DeWolfe, CAA, Steamboat Springs High School's Athletic, Activities Director and Assistant Principal, began teaching and coaching at Highland High School from 2000-2008. He has been an Athletic Director / Assistant Principal for 17 years at Steamboat Springs High School. Luke has coached Track and Field, Football, and continues to coach Basketball. Luke served 4 years as the Western Slope League President. He has served on the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) Soccer, Football, Lacrosse, Basketball, Committees, and currently chairs the Skiing Committee. Luke served on the CHSAA Legislative Council from 2014-2018, and received the CHSAA Special Recognition Award in 2016. Luke was elected to a four-year term to serve on the CHSAA Board of Directors beginning in 2018. He served as the President of the CHSAA Board of Directors from 2021-2023. In 2024 and 2025 Luke was given the Western Slope League and Colorado 4A Athletic Director of the year award. Luke was elected to the Colorado Athletic Directors Association Board of Directors (CADA) in 2024.



Christopher D. Felton, CMAA

Graduate of Old Dominion University and taught Health and Physical Education and Leadership Skills Developmental Course for 12 years at Bayside High School and Health Sciences Academy in Virginia Beach, VA. While at BHS I served as the Assistant Student Activities Coordinator, Graduation Coordinator, Student Government Adviser, Freshmen/Sophomore and Senior Class Adviser, Yearbook Adviser, Junior Varsity Baseball Coach, Junior Varsity Boys Soccer Coach, Director of the BHS Leadership Workshop, and served on the Virginia Beach Leadership Workshop Staff for 7 years. Served as the Student Activities Coordinator at Independence Middle School for four years and then returned to BHS to serve as the Graduation Coach and Assistant Student Activities Coordinator. A lifetime member of the VIAAA, I served on the board as the Middle School Chair, Public Relations Chair, Scholarship Chair, and was the Director of the New AD's Workshop for five years. I also served as President of the VIAAA and received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2023. I have attended 7 National Conferences, four NIAAA Section II Meetings, taken 34 Leadership Training Courses, and serve on the NIAAA Sports Facilities Advisory Committee. Professional Growth has always been my passion and purpose leading me to obtain my CMAA certification and continuing to share my knowledge and experiences with others through teaching courses and workshops at State and National Conferences. In the Summer of 2025 I earned the role of Athletic and Activities Director at Brush Secondary Campus in Brush, Colorado and began my new adventure and professional journey in Colorado.



Scott Garvis

Garvis holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Drake University & master's degree in sports management, and is certified by the National Interscholastic Athletic Association as a certified master athletic administrator. He has been recognized by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association as an "National Athletic Director of the Year Finalist" and was recognized by the National Interscholastic Administrators Association with the Bruce Whitehead Distinguished Service Award. As a leader in the sports industry Garvis has presented to athletic administrators across the country and his ideas on athletic leadership have been published in numerous professional journals.

About the Speakers



Wendy Hall

Wendy Hall, a 1982 graduate of Steamboat Springs High School, has devoted a career to coaching volleyball at the same high school. After serving as the assistant volleyball coach for two years Hall took over the reins of the program in 1989 and just recently retired after the 2025 season. Hall ranks 2nd all time in CHSAA years at one school and 5th all time wins at the same school. During those 37 seasons the Sailors are 580-302 with eight state tournament appearances. Hall has also served SSHS as an assistant girls' basketball coach for ten years and an assistant track and field coach for eight years.

Coach of the year, Western Slope League 12 times.

CCGS Helen McCall Award, 2015.

CHSCA All State Coach 2000, Speaker at Clinic 2000

CCGS All State Coach 3 times

Head coaching career record 580-302.

State runner-up 1998, 2002

SSHS Players to play collegiate volleyball - 22.

SSHS Players to play international professional volleyball - 3.

SSHS Volleyball 30+ years of Team Academic All-State.

8 former SSHS players have returned to serve as an assistant volleyball coach

CHSCA Hall of Fame Inductee 2025

Matt Heckel

Matt Heckel is a dedicated educator, coach, and administrator whose career reflects a lifelong commitment to student growth in the classroom and through athletics. A graduate of Bear Creek High School, Matt began teaching and coaching in Jefferson Public Schools in the early 1990s, with roles at Alameda High School, Jefferson High School, Arvada Middle School, and Dakota Ridge High School. At Dakota Ridge, he taught English, coached football and women's basketball, and later transitioned into school administration, where he proudly served the Eagle community until his retirement in June 2025. Matt continues to support Athletic Directors and educators as a mentor for CHSAA and as a Licensure Coach for Metro State University. He takes greatest pride in his family—his wife, Lanette, and their children, Dr. Brandi Heckel and Shane Heckel, both Dakota Ridge graduates.

Mike Hughes

Mike is serving in his 30th year in education and his 28th as an athletic director. Mike is finishing his 9th year as an Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at Lakewood High School after having served at Vista Peak Preparatory High School for three years and previously served as the Athletics and Activities Director at Telluride High School and Norwood High School. Mike has served on the CADA Board of Directors for the last 21 years and has been the President and Secretary of CADA in his time on the board. He was a presenter at the 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017 National Athletic Director Conference, served as Vice-Chair of the NIAAA Publications Committee and was an NFHS Citation Award winner. Mike has presented or been an LTI instructor or CAA Proctor at the Colorado State AD Conference over the last 21 years. Mike's ties with CHSAA are also deeply rooted as he has served as the Chairman of the Golf Committee and been a member of the Classification and League Organization Committee, Officials Fees, Basketball and Football committees and state seeding for soccer, basketball, football, and baseball. Mike earned his MA in Educational Leadership from Adams State University and his BA from Wartburg College, where he played college football for the Knights. Mike is married to his beautiful wife, Elisa Marie and has two young boys Leo and Lucas - and lives in Lakewood, Colorado.

About the Speakers



Mike Jacobsma, CAA

Mike is in his 13th year as the Athletic Director at Dawson School in Lafayette. He has served as a CADA board member, the President of the Mile High League and on various CHSAA committees. Mike has received the 2018 CADA's 2A Athletic Director of the Year Award, 2020 Kurby Lyle Service Award, 2021 Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award, and the 2022 Dawson School Outstanding Service Award. Before his time at Dawson, Mike spent 12 years as a college Women's Basketball Coach at the University of Evansville (Indiana), Colorado School of Mines (Colorado), Wayne State College (Nebraska), and Central College (Iowa). In 2011, Mike was inducted into the Colorado School of Mines Hall of Fame for his team's performance during the 2004-2005 season. Mike received his Bachelor of Science (BS) in Elementary Education and Master Degree (MS) in Sports Management from Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska.



Jeremy Kerns

Jeremy Kerns is in his 22nd year as a social studies teacher and coach at Byers High School. He is in his 12th year as the school's athletic director. He has been the head high school boys' basketball coach, head middle school boys' basketball coach, middle school football coach, and middle school track coach for all 22 years at Byers. Before coming to Byers, Jeremy was an assistant coach at the University of Northern Colorado for the women's basketball team for three years. Jeremy was honored as the 2021 2A Athletic Director of the Year by CADA. He has also been honored in the classroom and on the court as a coach, being named the 2014 American History Teacher of the Year by the daughters of the American Revolution, the 2015 Boettcher Foundation Teacher Award, and the CHSCA 2A Boys Basketball Coach in 2018. Jeremy has served on a number of CHSAA committees and Councils, including Hall of Fame, Basketball, Coaches Education, Multiplier Task Team, and Legislative Council. He also organizes and leads student trips to Washington, DC, New York City, and various European countries. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Jeremy has been married to his wife, Candra, for 23 years, and together they have three children.

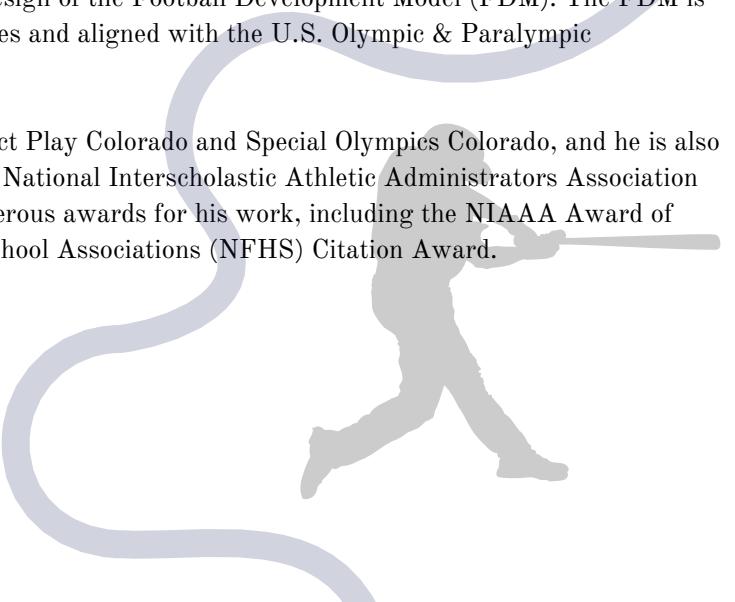


Michael Krueger, Ed.S., CMAA

Michael Krueger, Ed.S., CMAA serves as Commissioner of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA). Named to the role in 2022, Krueger is only the 10th Commissioner in the Association's 105-year history. As Commissioner, Krueger and his team provide administrative leadership and oversight for interscholastic athletics and activities across Colorado's 372-member high schools, serving more than 210,000 participants annually.

Active at both the state and national levels, Krueger's career spans more than 34 years in public education, serving as an administrator, athletic/activities director, counselor, teacher, and coach. Prior to CHSAA, he served as Senior Director of Education for USA Football, a member organization of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, where his team led the evolution and design of the Football Development Model (FDM). The FDM is grounded in long-term athlete development principles and aligned with the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee's American Development Model.

Krueger serves on the Board of Directors for Project Play Colorado and Special Olympics Colorado, and he is also a member of the National Teaching Faculty for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). A Colorado native, he has received numerous awards for his work, including the NIAAA Award of Merit and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Citation Award.



About the Speakers



Cora Lanter

Cora Lanter is an accomplished educational leader, currently serving as the Athletic/Activities Director and Assistant Principal at Severance High School. With a career in education and coaching that began in 2005, Cora has built successful student-centric programs across Wyoming and Colorado, leveraging her strong background as a two-sport collegiate athlete and a multi-sport coach (softball, volleyball, and track & field). Her administrative expertise and impact have been recognized statewide: she was honored as the 2022/2023 New Athletic Director of the Year by the Colorado Athletic Directors Association (CADA). Cora's commitment to leadership extends to state governance; she was elected to the CADA Board of Directors in 2024 and currently serves as the President-Elect. She is also an active member of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) committees, having contributed to the Flag Football and Coach Education committees, and currently serving on the Sportsmanship & Equity and Wrestling committees.



LeRoy Lopez

LeRoy Lopez is a veteran athletic director with 19 years of experience in interscholastic athletics, having served in leadership roles at Nederland, Lincoln, Frederick, Evergreen, Arvada, and Fairview. Throughout his career, Lopez has been committed to building strong athletic programs that emphasize academic excellence, sportsmanship, and the overall development of student-athletes. He has provided effective oversight of athletic operations, coached and supported staff, and worked closely with school and district leadership to promote program growth and community engagement. His career reflects a consistent dedication to integrity, collaboration, and student success.



Joey Mahmood

Joey Mahmood has served as Associate Athletic Director at Mullen High School since 2021. Prior to this role, he was Mullen's Director of Sports Medicine and an educator, positions he held beginning in 2011. A Colorado native, Joey brings a deep commitment to student-athlete development, wellness, and educationally based athletics.

Joey and his wife, Michele, are the proud parents of two boys, Dino and Enzo, along with their two "furry boys," Copper and Moose. As a family, they embrace an active lifestyle and enjoy anything athletic. When they slow things down, you can find them reading, baking, making wine, or sharing great food together.



Chad McGehee

Chad McGehee, M.A. M.Ed., is a performance coach, meditation teacher, scientific collaborator and trusted expert working at the intersection of elite performance and rigorous meditation training. At the University of Wisconsin Athletic Department, Chad became the first ever Director of Meditation Training in major college sports. Chad is an honorary research affiliate of the Center for Healthy Minds at UW-Madison and co-founder of Inner Edge Meditation.

Chad's expertise is in meditation training and research in high performance environments. Through his trainings, talks and consulting he supports individuals, teams and organizations. He uses a teaching approach that incorporates findings from cutting edge research along with accessible ways to integrate meditation practices into overall training. He is passionate about the benefits of meditation training for individuals and teams interested in greater performance and well-being.

Chad's work has been featured on ESPN, in the Wall Street Journal, NPR, Business Insider and as a co-author in peer-reviewed scientific journals. His training has been integrated into a range of environments including K-12 education, FBI SWAT Teams, the elite Hostage Rescue Team in Quantico, VA, Fortune 500 companies and elite athletics. He is passionate about bringing rigorous and accessible meditation training to life as strength and conditioning for the mind.

About the Speakers



Mark Puev

Mark Puev is the Athletic Director at Fruita Monument High School. Prior to FMHS, he was in Cheyenne Wyoming for ten years- Three as the Athletic Director at Laramie County Community College, as well as the Athletic Director at Cheyenne South High School for seven years prior to that.

While at LCCC, he oversaw a 35 million dollar complete renovation of all indoor athletic facilities turning LCCC's facilities into one of the top 10 facilities in the nation. He was also on the NJCAA national committee for clay target shooting. Additionally, he was part of Leadership Cheyenne, a dynamic program developed by the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce to cultivate informed, engaged, and inspired community leaders. During his time at Cheyenne South, Puev was involved with numerous city, state, and national organizations, including serving as president of the Southeast Wyoming Administrators Association and the Wyoming Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. When he left South, he was on the membership committee for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as well as serving on the board of directors for the Wyoming High School Activities Association.

Puev was the state coordinator for Wyoming's Leadership Training Institute, where he was responsible for teaching professional development classes for Wyoming Athletic Directors. Additionally, he is a Certified Athletic Administrator with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Puev earned his bachelor's degree in Physical Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and his master's degree in Athletic Administration and Coaching from Concordia University in Irvine, California. Mark is married to his wife of over 27 years, Christy. They have two children, Lexi and Andrew.



Rob Seymour

Rob Seymour serves as the Co-Athletic Director at Fishers High School (IN), the 4th largest school in Indiana. He brings 30+ years in education and 18 years in administration to his leadership in education-based athletics, including 12 years as an Athletic Director. Rob is a two-time past president of the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IaAAA) and was named the 2021 IaAAA Athletic Director of the Year. He currently serves as the IaAAA Professional Development Coordinator and contributes at the national level as a National Athletic Directors Conference (NADC) National Faculty member and Sports Facility Committee member. Rob has presented three NADC workshops and served as a Talking & Trading facilitator twice. Prior to entering administration, he coached the 2007 Boys Cross Country State Champions. Outside of school, Rob is an endurance runner who has completed 15 marathons, including three Boston Marathon finishes.



Diane Shuck-Gray

Diane has been in education since 1992 (34 years). She became the Assistant Principal/Athletics Director at Air Academy High School (Colorado Springs) in 1999 where she implemented various new programs such as an online registration process for all athletes, a solid coach's handbook, an in-depth parent-athlete handbook as well as an athlete's sportsmanship policy. She moved to Douglas County High School (Castle Rock) in 2015 taking over the Activities Directors role until 2022 when the Athletics Directors role was vacated late in the school year and she agreed to step up and switch from Activities and back into Athletics. As an athletics director, she received the distinction of Certified Athletic Administrator in April of 2002 and completed the Certified Master Athletic Administrator's program in 2006. She served on the CADA Board of Directors from 2001 to 2014, completing a term as President in 2008-09. Diane was named the Colorado Athletics Director's Association - 4A Athletics Director of the Year 2012-13. She received the NFHS - Citation Award in 2012 and the NIAAA - Distinguished Service Award in 2010. She was the NASPE - National Athletic Director of the Year Finalist as well as the Central District Athletic Director of the Year in 2008. Diane was honored as the Colorado Athletics Director's Association - Athletic Director of the Year in 2006-07. She received the Colorado NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2006. Diane is active with a variety of roles at the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) in which she currently serves on the Cross Country committee and chaired the soccer and spirit committees. She continues to be involved in a variety of capacities for the CHSAA in post season event tournaments throughout the year. Diane has a supportive and amazing husband, Rich Gray and two boys, Jared (wife, Sierra) and Tyson (wife, Hannah and three stepsons whom she adores just as much (Ryan, wife Kellie, Christopher, wife Samantha - Mead High School Cheer Coach, and Tommy).

About the Speakers



Bryan Snyder

Bryan Snyder is the Director of Nutrition for the Miami Marlins, where he is responsible for overseeing the growth and development of the team's nutrition department. This includes writing policies and procedures for all areas of nutrition and conducting one-on-one consultations with players at every level of the organization. His comprehensive approach ensures that players receive tailored nutrition plans to enhance their performance, recovery, and overall health.

In addition to his work in professional baseball, Bryan is deeply committed to improving sports nutrition education for young athletes. Through his platform, he partners with schools across the country (currently working with more than 80 schools in Colorado alone) to deliver engaging and practical nutrition education for parents, coaches, and students. His programs focus on teaching the foundations of fueling, hydration, recovery, and performance in ways that are easy to understand and implement, helping to build healthier habits and stronger athletes from the ground up.

Before joining the Marlins, Bryan served as the Assistant Athletics Director for Performance Nutrition at Texas A&M University, where he led the university's performance nutrition staff and served on the Athletic Department's Performance and Wellness Leadership Team. His work focused on advancing athlete well-being through nutrition education, recovery strategies, and policy development.

Prior to Texas A&M, Bryan spent nearly 14 years as the Director of Team Nutrition for the Denver Broncos, where he played a pivotal role in five AFC West titles, two AFC Championships, and a Super Bowl 50 victory. He also contributed to nutrition and performance efforts for the Colorado Avalanche, Denver Nuggets, and Colorado Rockies, Houston Rockets, and is a frequent national speaker on topics such as recovery, sleep optimization, and leadership in sports nutrition.

A native of Simla, Colorado, Bryan earned his degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Northern Colorado, where he also completed his dietetic internship. He is a Board Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics and is passionate about educating athletes of all ages on proper fueling, recovery, and sleep for optimal performance.

Bryan and his wife, Sarah, live in Bryan, Texas, with their seven children: Kooper, Londynn, Annistynn, Emersynn, Beauen, Krewz, and Scotlynn.



Brynn Thomas

Brynn Thomas is a dedicated educational leader with more than two decades of experience serving the Cherry Creek School District. As an Administrator and Assistant Athletic Director at Cherry Creek High School, she plays a pivotal role in supporting one of Colorado's most comprehensive and accomplished schools and athletic programs. In her current role, Brynn manages annual coach clearance and hiring processes, ensures CHSAA compliance, and supports nearly 200 coaches in fostering positive and competitive experiences for student-athletes. She also leads custodial and facilities/maintenance supervision, schedules all athletic practices and extracurricular activities for the school, collaborates on the coordination of feeder programming, and maintains strong partnerships with students, families, and community stakeholders. Additionally, Brynn supports private-school transition processes; coordinates shadows and tours for prospective students; and plans major school and community events.

Prior to her current position, Brynn spent six years as a Dean of Students at Cherry Creek High School, where she led schoolwide initiatives related to safety, discipline, attendance, and student support. Managing a caseload of more than 600 families, she worked closely with multidisciplinary teams to promote academic, behavioral, and emotional success. She also contributed to professional staff development through teacher evaluation, instructional coaching, and conflict mediation.

Brynn began her career in the classroom as a physical education teacher before expanding into leadership roles at Campus Middle School. During her tenure, she was named Teacher of the Year (2013–2014), helped rewrite district curriculum to align with state standards, and supported districtwide wellness initiatives.

She holds a Master of Arts in Education with Principal Licensure from the University of Phoenix, a K–12 Physical Education Teaching License from Metropolitan State University of Denver, and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Northern Colorado. Brynn is an active member of the Colorado Athletic Director's Association and currently serves as the Centennial League Czar for Spirit and Girls Flag Football. She currently serves on the CHSAA Committees for Swim & Dive and Girls Flag Football.

A proud Cherry Creek High School graduate, Brynn and her husband, Kevin have been married since 2007 and are the parents of two sons, Reeve and Dax, both current students at Cherry Creek High School. Reeve, a junior, and Dax, a freshman, are active in football and lacrosse, continuing the family's strong ties to the Bruin community.

About the Speakers

Marty Tonjes



Marty's career in education has spanned for nearly 30 years, with 14 of those years serving as an Assistant Principal/Athletic Director. He's served on a number of CHSAA committees, is part of the CHSAA Legislative Council, and is currently on the CADA Board of Directors. Marty has created a great community for the student athletes, coaches, and parents at Horizon High School. He works hard to incorporate numerous coaching and learning opportunities for all coaches and supports their professional growth. Not only does he love working with coaches, he also values all that high school athletics brings to student athletes and school communities.

Chad Walker



Chad Walker is the Athletic Director at Weld RE-5J, where he oversees all aspects of the district's athletic programs. With over 10 years of experience in interscholastic athletics, Chad has led initiatives in program development, coach mentorship, and student-athlete wellness. He holds a Master's degree in Education Leadership, Master's degree in Sports Management and is certified by the NIAAA. Chad is passionate about creating opportunities for student-athletes to succeed both on and off the field.

Jason Wilkins



Mr. Wilkins is a proven leader with expertise in athletic program development and budget management at Cherry Creek High School. Spearheaded initiatives enhancing athlete performance and community partnerships. Proven track record in scheduling coordination and team leadership, fostering inclusive environments. Championed sportsmanship and safety. Led the Athletic Department to the MaxPreps number one ranking in the United States in the 24-25 school year. Proud alum of the University of Iowa!

Lindsay Yost



Lindsay Yost, CAA, has amassed over 19 years of experience in teaching, leadership, and coaching. She currently serves as the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Skyline High School in Longmont, Colorado. In her multifaceted role, Yost champions instructional quality, shapes student culture, guides staff development, and steers athletic programs in compliance with district, league, state, and national regulations. Her collaboration with students, staff, coaches, and parents is integral to her position. Yost's commitment to a holistic education, which emphasizes both academic and athletic achievement, is evident through her active leadership roles. These include her involvement in the Colorado Athletic Directors Association Board of Directors, her work with the Colorado High School Activities Association Committee work, the development and support of the Skyline High School Student Activity Ambassador group, and her efforts in mentorship initiatives and staff training and assessment.

Additionally, Lindsay serves as the NIAAA Colorado State Professional Development Coordinator, focusing on coordinating professional development opportunities for athletic administrators across Colorado. She is also a member of the NIAAA New Course Author Development Team, collaborating with athletic administrators from across the country to develop the new LTC course "Preparing the College Bound Student Athlete." This role allows her to further influence the landscape of athletic administration through educational development and collaborative innovation.

Sandy Zimmerman



Sandy is an award-winning teacher, coach, athlete, and inspirational speaker whose story reminds us that no dream is out of reach. For 23 years, Sandy taught and coached young people while raising three children of her own. She is best known to millions as a 10-time competitor on NBC's hit show American Ninja Warrior, where she made history by becoming the first mom ever to finish the course and hit the buzzer. Sandy is a three-time FINA World Champion, a three-time UNAA World Champion, and a World Cup Champion — and she's taken her message of strength and perseverance to audiences on The Kelly Clarkson Show, CNN, E! News, The Huffington Post, and Women's Health. In 2022, Sandy was inducted into the National Physical Education Teacher Hall of Fame. She's also a TEDx speaker, a national judo champion, and a former Gonzaga University basketball player who still coaches today with the Spokane Warriors. Through her book Get Out of the Car and her motivational talks around the country, Sandy inspires people of all ages to break through excuses and push past obstacles to achieve what once seemed impossible.

Beaver Run Resort



Hotel Address: 620 Village Road Breckenridge, CO 80424

Phone Number: 1-800-525-2253

Booking Link: <https://reservations.travelclick.com/97052?groupID=4938580>

**Your hotel accommodations should be reserved directly with the Beaver Run Resort
before Monday, March 23, 2026**

Check-in time is 4 PM

Check-out time is 11 AM

**If you would like to phone your reservations, you may call 1-800-525-2253 and be sure to indicate
that you are a part of the **CADA 2026** group.**

The room rates for the conference are as follows:

Hotel Rooms - \$141.00

One Bedroom Suite - \$172.00

Four Bedroom Suite - \$449.00

Studio - \$153.00

One Bedroom Suite Bldg. 4 - \$194.00

Alpenglow Suite - \$525.00

Colorado Suite - \$166.00

Two Bedroom Suite - \$255.00

Imperial Suite - \$525.00

Summit Suite - \$170.00

Three Bedroom Suite - \$359.00



Registration Form

Name			
Company/School			
Address			
City/State/Zip			
Phone Number	Cell Phone		
Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/> First Time Attendee		

Conference Pricing

Registration includes conference gift, breakfast, lunch, and breaks

Member	Before April 15, 2026	After April 15, 2026
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Athletics Director	\$260	\$360
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Athletics Director	\$130	\$230
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Lunch Tickets	\$45	\$65
Non-Member	Before April 15, 2026	After April 15, 2026
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Athletics Director	\$360	\$460
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired Athletics Director	\$180	\$230
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Lunch Tickets	\$55	\$75

Leadership Training Class

Must be registered for conference to attend leadership training classes

Class Name	Before April 15, 2026		After April 15, 2026	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Training 504 (CAA) April 25th 1 - 5pm	\$130	\$200	\$175	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Training 601 April 25th 1 - 5pm	\$130	\$200	\$175	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Training 705 April 25th 1 - 5pm	\$130	\$200	\$175	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Training 506 (CAA) April 26th 8 - 12pm	\$130	\$200	\$175	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Training 719 April 26th 8 - 12pm	\$130	\$200	\$175	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Training 615 April 26th 8 - 12pm	\$130	\$200	\$175	\$250

National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Dues

Yes, I would like to join NIAAA for \$100

NIAAA # to Attend LTC Class's: _____

Payment Information

Conference Total	\$
Leadership Training Total	\$
NIAAA Total	\$
Grand Total Due Today	\$

I understand that full payment must be received by April 15, 2026. No refunds will be issued after April 15, 2026.

Check enclosed with contract
 Make checks payable to CADA

Mail to: Colorado Athletic Directors Association
4190 Kestrel Drive
Broomfield, CO 80023

Check # _____

Visa Mastercard

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date _____

CVC Code _____

Signature _____

Exact Billing Address for Credit Card _____