



Scholar-BallerTM
Education Sport Entertainment



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NCAS and Scholar-Baller® Announce National Academic Momentum Award Winners:

20 Student-Athletes Recognized for their Academic Improvement

Orlando, FL...October 22, 2010 - The Scholar-Baller® program, in conjunction with the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS), on October 20, 2010, announced the winners of the Academic Momentum Award. Fifty-one nominations were received from 32 different colleges and universities across the country. A male winner (one tie) was chosen from eight of the NCAS' 10 regions and a female winner (three ties) was chosen from eight of the NCAS' 10 regions as well.

The names, schools, majors, sports and NCAS regions of the female Academic Momentum Award winners are: **Jaelyn Grodotzke**, Monmouth University, Business Administration, Soccer, Mid-Atlantic; **Corrine Williams**, Temple University, Anthropology, Gymnastics, Mid-Atlantic; **Taylor Szatkowski**, University of Illinois at Chicago, Sociology, Volleyball, Midwest; **Centhya "Coco" Hart**, St. John's University, Criminal Justice, Basketball, Northeast; **Kirby Wright**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Marketing, Softball, Rocky Mountain; **Jessica Nonn**, Virginia Tech, Undecided, Lacrosse, South Central; **Carla Tietz (tie)**, University of Georgia, Child and Family Development, Volleyball, Southeast; **Tiara Swanagan (tie)**, Florida State University, Social Science, Track and Field, Southeast; **Delisha Wills (tie)**, Southern Methodist University, English, Basketball, Southwest; **Adrianna Franch (tie)**, Oklahoma State University, Graphic Design, Soccer, Southwest; and **Erin Kelly**, Cal State University-Northridge, Recreation, Soccer, Western.

The names, schools, majors, sports and NCAS regions of the male Academic Momentum Award winners are: **Trevon Rainford**, La Salle University, Business Administration, Track and Field,

Mid-Atlantic; **Alex Kube (tie)**, Northern Illinois University, General Studies, Football, Midwest; **Culmer St. Jean (tie)**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Consumer Affairs, Football, Midwest; **Jermaine Henderson**, University of Maine, Child and Family Development, Football, New England; **Greg Logins**, Canisius College, Sports Administration, Basketball, Northeast; **Ricky Lumpkin**, University of Kentucky, Community Communications and Leadership Development, Football, South Central; **Cliff Matthews**, University of South Carolina, Criminal Justice, Football, Southeast; **Girma Mecheso**, Oklahoma State University, Health and Exercise Science, Cross Country; and **Jovon Hayes**, University of Arizona, Interdisciplinary Studies, Football, Western.

Winning nominations included stories of: overcoming learning disabilities to progress academically; becoming the first in their family to graduate with a degree from college or a university; being an international student who had to persevere through hardships both academically and economically; and organizing local community service involvement within their community.

The NCAS is an ever-growing organization of colleges and universities that provides opportunities for current and former student-athletes to continue their pursuit of higher education, while working in the community with children to address social issues. Established in 1985, the overall mission of the NCAS is “to create a better society by focusing on educational attainment and using the power appeal of sport to positively affect social change.”

Established in 1995, the Scholar-Baller® movement evolved in response to concerns that the student-athlete’s athletics role increasingly superseded the student role. In order to address this issue, the founding members of Scholar-Baller® developed a groundbreaking program to bridge the gap between education and sport utilizing student-athletes’ passion for entertainment and athletics. As a result, the Scholar-Baller® program has produced unprecedented outcomes in student retention and academic achievement.

Each honoree will receive a recognition certificate and authentic Scholar-Baller® patch. In addition, the winners of each region will receive a Thinkman® or Thinkwoman™ trophy for their academic performance.

All nominees are individually and collectively a testament to the “student” in “student-athlete.” Their commitment to academics and athletics is truly an inspiration.