

Pioneer Hall of Fame: David D. Gannaway, class of 1971



The University High School Alumni Association honors David D. Gannaway, class of 1971, as a 2013 inductee to the Pioneer Hall of Fame for his achievements and contributions to his profession, the community and nation, and to his alma mater.

Gannaway devoted his long career to serving Illinois students as a teacher, coach, and administrator. He spent the first five years of his education career as a teacher and coach at Metamora High School before returning to University High School in 1981. During his career at University High School, he served as teacher and coach before ascending to the role of assistant principal and activities director in 1985. He was awarded the Al Eckert Teacher Appreciation award at University High School in 1987. He went on to become the activities director at Morton High School in 1994.

Following his time at Morton High School, Gannaway joined the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) where he served as the administrator for boy's football, boys wrestling, boy's baseball and bass fishing. He also served as the director of officials, administered the sport of softball and ran the IHSA's wheelchair basketball tournament as part of the March Madness Experience. Gannaway was one of the driving forces behind the IHSA's bass fishing state tournament and developed the online official education program. He served for eight years on the National Wrestling Rules Committee and was chair for four years. He served for 10 years on the National Football Rule Committee and retired from the IHSA in 2010.

Prior to his term at the IHSA, Gannaway was a key constituent in rebuilding the Bloomington/Normal Holiday Basketball Tournament which has grown to become the largest holiday tournament in the country. He also served as the manager of the IHSA Dual Team Wrestling State Final Tournament from 1990 through 1996. He was recognized by the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association as Administrator of the Year in 1992, the Illinois Athletic Directors Association awarded him Athletic Director of the Year in 1993, and in 1998 he was the recipient of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Illinois State Award of Merit. He has been inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame, the Illinois Athletic Directors Hall of Fame, and the Bloomington/Normal Officials Association Hall of Fame.

Gannaway graduated from Illinois State University in 1975 with his bachelor's degree in Education and later returned to Illinois State University to complete his master's degree in Education in 1989. Gannaway wrestled for Illinois State University and later returned to serve as an assistant wrestling coach.

During his time as a student at University High School, Gannaway was captain and MVP of the wrestling team coached by Hall of Fame coach George Girardi, he played on the undefeated 1970 football team, coached by Hall of Fame coach Frank Chiodo, and was homecoming king.

Gannaway and his wife Nola (Mentzer), class of 1972, reside in Mackinaw and have two married children and five grandchildren.