

Friend of U-High: Curtis K. Christenson



Curt Christenson has been an active member of U-High as a faculty associate and administrator for 24 years. He has served as a coach (wrestling, football, and track), a faculty associate (physical education, health education and driver education), as activities/athletic director, and as assistant principal. Christenson retired from the activities/athletic director position in May 2008.

During Christenson's time as head wrestling coach (a position he held for seven years), U-High finished second at the state level in 1992 and was among the elite eight in 1993 and 1995. Throughout his tenure as activities/athletics director, the School won 45 state trophies. He was also project manager for several large upgrade projects at U-High, including the new soccer field and new gym bleachers.

Not comfortable with merely belonging to organizations, Christenson has been very actively involved locally, at the state level, and nationally with several sports and sports' organizations. He is a life member of the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association, served on the board of directors for the Illinois Coaches Association (past chairman for wrestling), served on the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Wrestling Advisory Board, served as national vice-chairman of the National Wrestling Coaches for the National Coaches Association, is a member of the USA Wrestling Association, and has served as vice-chairman of the National High School Wrestling Coaches Association. Christenson has also been the Channel 10 TV announcer for the Inter-City Wrestling Tournament, manager of the IHSA State Dual Wrestling Tournament (and TV announcer for the finals), and manager of the IHSA State Wrestling Tournament at Illinois State University for four years.

Christenson has been the state manager for the IHSA State Golf Tournament at Prairie Vista for 12 years and tournament manager for the Pioneer Golf Tournament fund raiser for 17 years. He belongs to the Greater Peoria Area Football Coaches Association and the Illinois Football Coaches Association. For 22 years, Christenson has been the manager of the Cogdal Relays Track Meet and for 14 years, he has been the manager for the IHSA Basketball Super-Sectional Class A and AA Tournament.

In addition to these sport associations, Christenson belongs to the Illinois Athletic Director's Association where he has also been part of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. He has also been program chair for the Illinois Athletic Director's Association and state chairman of athletic directors for the Illinois Coaches Association. He's been involved with the Illinois Athletic Director's Association Mentoring Program, and has been on the board of directors (and is a life member) of the Central Illinois

Coaches Association. Christenson has had numerous writings published, including articles in Illinois Coach, Illinois Coach Torch, Wrestling Record, and College Guide Handbook for College Athletes.

In addition to being named as a Friend of U-High, Christenson was awarded Illinois Athletic Director's Association's "Outstanding Athletic Director of the Year" for the 1997-1998 school year and was inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame in 2000.

In acknowledgment of his selfless efforts, University High School thanks Curt Christenson and designates him as a Friend of U-High.