



RESPECT ♦ RESPONSIBILITY ♦ INTEGRITY ♦ SERVANT LEADERSHIP ♦ SPORTSMANSHIP

1200 Grand Blvd. ♦ Kansas City, MO ♦ 64106 ♦ (816) 595-8000



Dr. LeRoy Walker *Champions of Character* Award

The NAIA Dr. LeRoy Walker *Champions of Character* Award is one of the most prestigious awards in the NAIA and was created as part of the NAIA's association with Citizenship Through Sports Alliance (CTSA), a group including ten other organizations from the world of sports that seek to promote and recognize sportsmanship. All NAIA student-athletes are eligible for this award based on the outlined criteria.

A. About Dr. LeRoy Walker

Dr. Walker is President *Emeritus* of the United States Olympic Committee and served as president through the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games. Dr. Walker is a graduate of Benedict College (S.C.) and is a former president of the NAIA. In 1995, Dr. Walker was recognized with the Service Master-NAIA Distinguished Graduate of the Year Award.

B. Nomination Procedure

1. Any NAIA active member institution may nominate one student by completing and submitting the enclosed nomination form with the required supporting materials to the **Conference Commissioner for that institution**.

Forms must be signed by the President, Athletics Director and Campus Character Representative or Faculty Athletics Representative and must be **received by the Conference Commissioner no later than February 15**.

2. Required supporting materials must include:
 - a. A letter from the institution's registrar to confirm the nominee's grade point average which must be 3.0 or higher. Transcripts will not be accepted. Please have a verification letter signed by the institution's registrar.
 - b. A listing of the nominee's academic, athletic and/or community recognition as of the nomination date. Please list by area and year, not in a resume format.
 - c. A minimum of three letters of recommendation, including a letter from the nominee's coach and two other representatives of the institution and/or the nominee's home community. We encourage a teammate to write about the impact this person had had on his/her development as a student-athlete.
 - d. An essay written by the nominee based on one of the five core values of the NAIA *Champions of Character* initiative and how sport has influenced that value in his/her life. Not to exceed 300 words in length.

C. Criteria for Selection

1. Nominee must be a representative of an NAIA institution as a student-athlete.
2. Must be at least a junior academic status at the nominating institution at the time of nomination.
3. Must be "outstanding" in:
 - a. academic achievement (3.0 G.P.A or higher)
 - b. campus leadership
 - c. community leadership
 - d. embracing the five core character values of the NAIA *Champions of Character* initiative
 - e. athletic achievement
 - f. future ambition

D. Selection Procedure

1. Nominations are sent to the **Conference Commissioner for receipt no later than February 15**. A committee in each conference reviews the nominations and makes a selection on behalf of the conference.
2. The supporting materials for each conference representative selected are forwarded to the National Office for review by an awards committee to be named by the Character Integration Committee.
3. Each conference representative receives a certificate from the National Office.
4. The Awards Committee announces the national winner no later than April 1 each year.

E. Nature of Award

1. A \$1,000 cash award is given to the general scholarship fund of the recipient's institution, in the recipient's name.
2. Awardees receive a specially engraved plaque as a permanent memento of the honor.
3. Awardees are expected to attend the Annual NAIA National Convention (normally held in the Spring). Transportation will be provided.

Inquiries concerning this award program or the nomination process should be directed to:

NAIA Dr. Leroy Walker *Champions of Character* Award
NAIA National Office, 1200 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO. 64106



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NAIA DR. LEROY WALKER *CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER* AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's Full Name: _____

Institution: _____

Year: _____

Sport (s): _____

Support Materials Enclosed:

_____ Letter from registrar

_____ List of achievements demonstrating sportsmanship, leadership and scholarship

_____ Three letters of recommendation supporting the nominee

_____ Essay by nominee

Signatures:

Nominating Person

Phone Number

President/CEO

Athletics Director

Campus Character Representative
(if same as Athletic Director, please have FAR
sign)

***All materials should be sent to your Conference Commissioner for receipt
no later than February 15.***