

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Gene Willis, Director of Marketing. gwillis@drugfreesport.com; 816.285.1423

Drug Free Sport Announces 2017 Athletic Trainer Continuing Education Award Recipients

Awards to honor certified athletic trainers on the front lines of drug abuse and wellness education.

KANSAS CITY, MO. (May 9, 2017) – As sports guide and develop our future leaders, certified athletic trainers play an imperative role in the health and wellness of youth throughout high school, interscholastic, and collegiate competition. In honor of the work that high school and collegiate certified athletic trainers perform to prevent drug abuse, in correcting dietary supplement misinformation, and as safeguards on the front lines of preventing addiction, The National Center for Drug Free Sport® (Drug Free Sport®) established the Drug Free Sport Continuing Education Award. In partnership with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, we are happy to announce the 2017 award winners of \$1,000 grants:

- **Tandi Hawkey**, Senior Athletic Trainer; University of California – Los Angeles (UCLA).
- **Chris Lacsamana**, Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine; Jacksonville State University.
- **Casey Northcraft**, Assistant Athletic Trainer; Creighton University.
- **Mike Van Bruggen**, Head Athletic Trainer/Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Medicine; Carson-Newman University.
- **Joe Whitson**, Associate Athletic Director for Athletic Training Services; Bradley University.

“From a major California metropolis to a rural Alabama college town and points in between, these award winners represent some of the best in their field,” said Chris Guinty, President/CEO of Drug Free Sport. “We are impressed by their commitment to ensuring fair and safe sport. In a highly competitive field of applicants, these five men and women stood out. It’s an absolute pleasure to be a small part of continuing their education and work in sports medicine, along with bettering student-athletes.”

Drug Free Sport is the industry leader in sport drug testing and sport drug education, with its staff, technology, experience, client base, and field collectors being key assets to our success. Since 2013, Drug Free Sport has granted more than \$28,000 in continuing education funds toward certified athletic trainers in high schools, colleges, and universities across the United States.

The judging committee for the awards is comprised of a diverse group of sport drug testing professionals and certified athletic trainers, including a former award recipient.

###

ABOUT DRUG FREE SPORT:

The National Center for Drug Free Sport, Inc. (Drug Free Sport®) is a world-wide leader in the sport drug-testing industry. Drug Free Sport administers comprehensive drug-testing programs, manages national and international collections, develops drug-testing policies, and provides educational services to a wide range of clients in sport, including MLB, NFL, NBA, WNBA, NBA D-League, PGA Tour, LPGA, USGA, CrossFit Games, NCAA, the Big Ten Conference, NAIA, World of Outlaws, and more than 300 colleges, universities, and amateur athletics organizations around the world. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code-compliant testing for performance-enhancing substances and industry-innovating sport drug testing collection and education technologies are part of the comprehensive and confidential total solution Drug Free Sport provides for drug prevention needs. Drug Free Sport boasts a highly educated, experienced and diverse staff that is committed to technical innovation and maintaining the most extensive network of highly-trained certified sport drug-testing collectors in the industry. Drug Free Sport is based in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information, visit drugfreesport.com or find us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).