

## NEWS RELEASE

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### NSIC Announces 2024 Britton and Kelly Award Recipients

BURNSVILLE, Minn. — The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) announced the University of Minnesota Crookston's **Madeleine Schneider** as the 2024 Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award winner and the University of Minnesota Duluth's **Arik Johnson** as the recipient of the 2024 Dr. William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award. The Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence, in its 40th year, recognizes the NSIC's top male student-athlete and the Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award, in its 39th year, is presented to the NSIC's top female student-athlete.

The Britton Award was created in 1985 in honor of Dr. William Britton, a longtime faculty representative at Bemidji State University who served on the Athletic Board of Control of the Northern Intercollegiate Conference for 25 years. Britton retired from BSU in 1982 and passed away in March of 2019.

The Kelly Award is named in honor of Willis R. Kelly, an associate professor of physical education at the University of Minnesota-Morris. A member of the NSIC Hall of Fame, Kelly also coordinated the Minnesota-Morris Physical Education Department from 1970-87. She became the first director of women's intercollegiate athletics at Minnesota-Morris in 1976 and was later promoted to athletics director for the whole department. Kelly passed away in 1988.

The member institutions of the NSIC nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the Britton and Kelly Awards. The nominees must meet the following criteria: a grade point average of 3.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale); evidence of academic excellence beyond the minimum grade point average (scholarship prizes and other academic recognition), evidence of participation in the life of the institution, and evidence of participation in at least two-thirds of the varsity events of the individual's primary sport. The award is voted on by the NSIC Faculty Athletic Representatives.

The 30 student-athletes nominated for the NSIC's two most prestigious awards will also be recognized as NSIC Male and Female Honor Student-Athletes of the Year at their respective institutions. Schneider and Johnson will be recognized Tuesday, July 9 at the NSIC Hall of Fame Banquet in Bloomington, Minnesota and will each receive a \$3,000 post-graduate scholarship.



#### **Dr. William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence Arik Johnson - University of Minnesota Duluth - Football**

Arik Johnson, a native of Birchwood, Wisconsin, is a graduate student, majoring in criminology and sociology while minoring in history at the University of Minnesota Duluth. The Rice Lake High School graduate holds a 3.98 grade point average while excelling in football for the Bulldogs. Johnson joins Stephen Blackmarr (1998), Jesse Beckermann (1997) & Tom Aney (1988) as the only student-athletes from Minnesota Duluth to earn the NSIC Britton Award.

Johnson has earned a spot on the UMD Dean's List over his eight semesters as well as the UMD Athletic Academic Scholar List. He is a four-time honoree of the D2 ADA Academic Achievement Award and NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence. He earned the NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award and is a two-time College Sports Communicator Academic All-District Team member and CSC Academic All-American.

On campus, Johnson has worked as a teacher's assistant in Introduction to Sociology and Psychopathology & Crime classes during his time at UMD.

On the gridiron, Johnson is a three-time All-NSIC First Team performer on the offensive line, where he made 42 career starts. He was a part of an offense that produced an NSIC best 2,682 rushing yards (6.28 yards per carry) and led the league in scoring at 37.3 point per game in 2023. During his career he was a part of two conference title teams (2018 and 2021) and teams that compiled a combined record of 45-12. Johnson continued his football career in the international league in Sweden in the spring of 2024.

Johnson has completed a 300-hour internship with Two Rivers (Wis.) Police Department in 2022 and has volunteered as a World War II Living Historian for multiple Historical Societies throughout Wisconsin and Illinois. He has also volunteer coached at Two Rivers High School Football Summer Practices; at the Annual Black Woods Blizzard Tour ALS Fundraiser; at the Duluth Special Olympics Rock Party Fundraiser; and has packed backpacks at Second Harvest Food Banks.

"I had the pleasure of working with Arik in several classes," said UMD Assistant Professor of History Dr. Natalie Belsky. "He is a very diligent, hard-working, and committed student. He always came to class ready to engage with the material and participated actively in discussion, making insightful and thought-provoking contributions. In fact, he was one of the students I could rely on to be prepared and help lead the conversation. His assignments demonstrated a nuanced understanding of the readings and an analytical approach to the prompts. He was a pleasure to have in class."

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*The NSIC is a 15-team, 18-sport, NCAA Division II Conference with teams located in Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.*





## NSIC KELLY AWARD WINNER



### Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence

#### Madeleine Schneider - University of Minnesota Crookston - Women's Tennis

Madeleine Schneider, a native of Gärtringen, Germany, is a senior majoring in software engineering, information technology management at the University of Minnesota Crookston. The Andrae-Gymnasium Herrenberg High School graduate holds a 4.00 grade point average while excelling in women's tennis for the Golden Eagles. Schneider is the second student-athlete from UMC to earn the NSIC Kelly Award as she joins Angela Swanson (2001).

Schneider has been named to the Chancellor's List multiple times during her undergraduate education, is a NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic Award recipient and a multiple time member of the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence. She has been an Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society member the last two years and a Mestenhauer Student Award for Excellence in Campus Internationalization honoree in 2023: a system-wide University of Minnesota award that is given to recognize outstanding student contributions to international education.

Schneider earned All-NSIC First Team honors for the second-consecutive season in 2024. She went 12-3 at No. 1 singles, which was the third-best winning percentage in the conference and the best among No. 1 single players. Schneider went 9-5 at No. 2 doubles with Blaike Zander this past season. Schneider is the all-time leading singles player in UMC program history and was the first UMC tennis student-athlete to earn NSIC Player of the Week honors, a feat she accomplished four times in her career.

In the community, Schneider has volunteered at the annual Santa Land which is an event dedicated towards children to have a fun day during the winter holiday. She has also given her time serving meals at Harvest & Cathedral Church with the Multicultural International Club.

"Madeleine excels in all aspects of being a student-athlete. As a student, she has performed at a high level both in and out of the classroom. She has used her academic talent and competitive spirit to help our campus compete at academic contests like the Harvard Global Case Competition. Our tennis program has dramatically increased its profile in no small part due to Madi's excellence on the court and her mentorship to her teammates. While her academic and athletic performance has been outstanding, her contributions to the University and broader community have been just as impressive. She has mentored new students in our freshman seminar courses, been actively involved in campus student governance, and has been recognized by the University of Minnesota System for her efforts to increase multicultural awareness. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor on our campus and thank the NSIC for recognizing her achievements with this award," said UMC Faculty Athletic Representative Dr. Tim Dudley.

### 2023-24 NSIC Women's Honor Student-Athlete Award Winners

Name	University	Yr.	Sport	Hometown	High School
Gracey Brink	Augustana University	Sr.	Softball	Rapid City, S.D.	Stevens
Mary Goodwin	Bemidji State University	Sr.	Track/CC	Eagle River, Alaska	Eagle River
Teagan Starkey	Concordia University, St Paul	Jr.	Volleyball	Lakeville, Minn.	South
Kameron Selvig	University of Mary	Sr.	Volleyball	Jamestown, ND	Jamestown High School
Madeleine Schneider	University of Minnesota Crookston	Sr.	Tennis	Gartringen, Germany	Andrae-Gymnasium Herrenberg
Lauren Rose Dixon	University of Minnesota Duluth	Sr.	Softball	Pulaski, Wis.	Pulaski
Joey Batt	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Sr.	Basketball	New Ulm, Minn.	New Ulm
Arina Bratamidjaja	Minnesota State University Moorhead	Sr.	Swimming	Sentul City, Indonesia	Sekolah Bogor Raya
Gabi Dawyduk	Minot State University	Sr.	Softball	Winnipeg, Manitoba	Saint Mary's
Alex Arndt	Northern State University	Sr.	Softball	Blue Springs, Missouri	Blue Springs
Khot Juac	University of Sioux Falls	Sr.	Track/CC	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Washington
Paige Ahrendt	Southwest Minnesota State University	Sr.	Softball	Pipestone, Minn.	Pipestone Area
Holly Weinberger	St. Cloud State University	Gr.	Softball	Waconia, Minn.	Waconia
Jordan McCormick	Wayne State College	Sr.	Volleyball	Elkhorn, Neb.	Elkhorn South
Lindsay Cunningham	Winona State University	Sr.	Track/CC	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	Wisconsin Dells

### 2023-24 NSIC Men's Honor Student-Athlete Award Winners

Name	University	Yr.	Sport	Hometown	High School
Nick Banowetz	Augustana University	Sr.	Baseball	Robins, Iowa	Xavier
Logan Schoepp	Bemidji State University	Jr.	Men's Golf	Bismark, N.D.	Century
Parker Dahlman	Concordia University, St Paul	Sr.	Football	Blaine, Minn.	Blaine
Gavin Argent	University of Mary	Jr.	Men's Golf	Minot, N.D.	Minot
Brody Sorenson	University of Minnesota Crookston	Sr.	Baseball	Grand Forks, N.D.	Red River
Arik Johnson	University of Minnesota Duluth	Gr.	Football	Birchwood, Wis.	Rice Lake
Alexander F. Berg	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Sr.	Track and Field	Mankato, Minn.	Mankato East
Gunnar Mogen	Minnesota State University Moorhead	Jr.	Wrestling	Velva, N.D.	Velva
Jacob Jensen	Minot State University	Sr.	Cross Country	Belcourt, N.D.	Turtle Mountain Community
Dakota Larson	Northern State University	Sr.	Football	Spring Creek, Nev.	Spring Creek
Noah Puetz	University of Sioux Falls	Sr.	Basketball	Marshall, Minn.	Marshall
Isaac Nett	Southwest Minnesota State University	Sr.	Baseball	Albany, Minn.	Albany
Luke Taylor	St. Cloud State University	Gr.	Basketball	Germantown, Wis.	Germantown
Cody McCullough	Wayne State College	Sr.	Basketball	Ankeny, Iowa	Centennial
Clay Schueffner	Winona State University	Gr.	Football	St. Cloud, Wis.	St. Mary Springs Academy





## PAST NSIC BRITTON/KELLY AWARDS WINNERS

### Annual Britton Award Recipients

2024 - Arik Johnson, Minnesota Duluth  
2023 - Mitch Snitker, Winona State  
2022 - Tyler Riemersma, Augustana  
2021 - Jordan Will, Minot State  
2020 - *Alex Goettl, Minnesota State*  
2019 - Kirby Hora, Augustana  
2018 - Carter McCauley, Winona State  
2017 - *Joe Gomez, Northern State*  
2016 - Matt Horan, Sioux Falls  
2015 - Kowan O'Keefe, Minot State  
2014 - William Brockmueller, Sioux Falls  
2013 - Alex Coulter, Winona State  
2012 - Cody Lensing, Augustana  
2011 - Matt Braithwaite, Augustana  
2010 - *Marcus Greatens, Winona State*  
2009 - *Kirk Ingram, Concordia-St. Paul*  
2008 - Tyler Fischer, Southwest Minnesota State  
2007 - Tyler Fischer, Southwest Minnesota State  
2006 - Dusty Smith, Wayne State  
2005 - Brett Watson, Wayne State  
2004 - *Baron Blanchard, Northern State*  
2003 - Tucker Willard, Northern State  
2002 - Steven Brandt, Minnesota Crookston  
2001 - Mike May, Bemidji State  
2000 - Adam Vossen, MSU Moorhead  
1999 - Bart Johnson, MSU Moorhead  
1998 - *Stephen Blackmarr, Minnesota Duluth*  
1997 - Jesse Beckermann, Minnesota Duluth  
1996 - Lance Luitjens, Northern State  
1995 - Nate Gruber, Winona State  
1994 - Jeff Engbrecht, Winona State  
1993 - Jay Kusler, Northern State  
1992 - Jeff Welder, MSU Moorhead  
1991 - Scott Colbeck, Minnesota-Morris  
1990 - Dwight Hager, Bemidji State  
1989 - *Bruce Saugstad, Southwest State*  
1988 - *Tom Aney, Minnesota Duluth*  
1987 - Dale Harper, Bemidji State  
1986 - Jeff Kretchman, Northern State  
1985 - James Scott Bestul, Winona State

### Annual Kelly Award Recipients

2024 - Madeleine Schneider, Minnesota Crookston  
2023 - Amanda Montplaisir, Minnesota State  
2022 - Jena Berkland, Concordia-St. Paul  
2021 - Kendall Cornick, Augustana  
2020 - *Maggie Knier, Minnesota State*  
2019 - Anna Winter, Upper Iowa  
2018 - Miranda Ristau, Northern State  
2017 - *Sasha Hovind, Northern State*  
2016 - Claire Sames, Southwest Minnesota State  
2015 - Whitney Burmeister, Southwest Minnesota State  
2014 - Rachel Patnoe, Southwest Minnesota State  
2013 - Elizabeth (Ellie) Duffy, Concordia-St. Paul  
2012 - Kendra Heuttl, Minnesota State  
2011 - Rebecca Anderson, Minnesota Duluth  
2010 - *Lauren Brown, Winona State*  
2009 - *Mary Slinger, Concordia-St. Paul*  
2008 - Kallie Tellefsen, Winona State  
2007 - Jessica Trautwein, MSU Moorhead  
2006 - Kathryn Kramer, Winona State  
2005 - Lindsay Hartmann, MSU Moorhead  
2004 - *Kristin Peterson, Northern State*  
2003 - Karen Darveaux, Winona State  
2002 - Christy Kubat, Southwest State  
2001 - Angela Swanson, Minnesota Crookston  
2000 - Abby Stritesky, Bemidji State  
1999 - Janelle Gibbs, Southwest State  
1998 - *Betsy Pachal, Minnesota Duluth*  
1997 - Mollie Odell, Northern State  
1996 - Paige Karno, Southwest State  
1995 - Katy Pivec, Southwest State  
1994 - Amy Tenute, MSU Moorhead  
1993 - Amy Erickson, Minnesota Duluth  
1992 - Kristin Nelson, Minnesota Duluth  
1991 - Jayne Dusich, Bemidji State  
1990 - Mary Kortan, Northern State  
1989 - *Shauna Wendland, Southwest State*  
1988 - *Tara Haiskanen, Minnesota Duluth*  
1987 - Teresa Greenwood, MSU Moorhead  
& Patricia Pioske, Southwest State  
1986 - Lisa Muehlbauer, Minnesota Duluth

*Italicized=Recipients from same institution that year*

