

NEWS RELEASE

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NSIC Announces 2020 Britton and Kelly Award Recipients

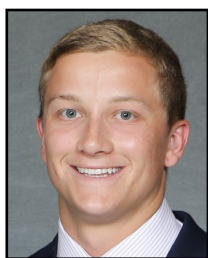
BURNSVILLE, Minn. — The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) announced Minnesota State University, Mankato's Alex Goettl as the 2020 Dr. William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award winner and Minnesota State University, Mankato's Maggie Knier as the 2020 Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award recipient. The Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence, in its 36th year, recognizes the NSIC's top male student-athlete and the Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award, in its 35th 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 32 student-athletes nominated for the NSIC's two most prestigious awards will also be honored as NSIC Male and Female Honor Student-Athletes of the Year at their respective institutions. Goettl and Knier will each receive a \$3,000 post-graduate scholarship.



2020 Dr. William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence Alex Goettl - Minnesota State University, Mankato - Football

Alex Goettl, a native of North Mankato, Minnesota, is a senior majoring in biomedical sciences at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The Mankato West High School graduate holds a 3.90 grade point average while excelling in football for the Mavericks. Goettl is the first student-athlete from Minnesota State to earn the NSIC Britton Award.

Goettl is a 2019 William V. Campbell Trophy Finalist and was recognized as one of the top 12 scholar-athletes in the nation (all levels) for combined academic success, athletic performance and exemplary leadership. He earned an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship and was a multiple time CoSIDA Academic All-District and All-American member. NSIC honors included the Glen Galligan Outstanding Senior Athlete Award, the Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award, the Elite 18 Award, as well as being named to the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence multiple times. At MSU he graduated Summa Cum Laude while earning multiple scholarships, including the MSU Presidential Scholarship, the MSU Alumni Legacy Scholarship and the MSU Biology Department Scholarship, to name a few. He was also honored as the Stein-Fallon Scholar Athlete by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Football Foundation.

On campus, Goettl was a member of the Pre-Physician Assistant Club and was a Chemistry Lab Teaching Assistant.

On the field, the linebacker played in 53 of MSU's 54 games during the last four seasons, including 42 starts. He recorded 205 career tackles, including 20.5 tackles for a loss and 7.5 sacks. He also intercepted five passes and recovered four fumbles. As a junior he led the Maverick defense with 87 tackles. This past season Goettl recorded 48 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss with one sack and two interceptions as he helped the Mavericks to the NCAA Division II National Championship game.

Goettl has been actively involved in the community during his time as a Maverick having assisted with the Kiwanis Holiday Lights setup, Echo Food Shelf volunteer, science fair judge volunteer, Mankato LEEP softball coach, Climb for Kids volunteer, served as a certified nursing assistant at Oak Terrace assisted living and as a member of the Minnesota State Football steering committee.

"Alex will be one of the most decorated student-athletes in the history of Mavericks Football with the addition of this award. Alex is the most kindhearted and mild mannered human that has faced adversity and difficult events in his life. Shining with an outstanding work ethic and passion for life and athletics while making all of the necessary lifestyle sacrifices to maximize his fullest potential. Alex is the most well rounded student-athlete that I have ever coached and his legacy at MSU will be cherished forever," said MSU Head Football Coach Todd Hoffner.

"Alex Goettl is an outstanding student, outstanding athlete and outstanding citizen of our community. He is humble, yet passionate about all that he pursues. He represents the best of the best of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference student-athletes," stated MSU Faculty Athletic Representative Jeff Pribyl.

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The NSIC is a 16-team, 18-sport, NCAA Division II Conference with teams located in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.





2020 Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence Maggie Knier - Minnesota State University, Mankato - Swimming & Diving

Maggie Knier, a native of Big Lake, Minnesota, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a major in marketing and a minor in mass media at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The homeschooled product holds a 4.00 grade point average while excelling in swimming for the Mavericks. Knier joins Kendra Heuttl (2012) as the only student-athletes from Minnesota State to earn the NSIC Kelly Award.

Knier made the Dean's list every semester at MSU while earning the Morgan I. and Marjorie J. Thomas College of Business Endowed Scholarship, the Elmer T. and Nina C. Anderson Endowed Scholarship and was a three-time NSIC Elite 18 Award recipient. She also earned the NSIC Myles Brand Award for Academic Excellence and was a Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship Key recipient, which is presented to the graduating student at an institution with the highest cumulative academic average toward a degree in business administration or economics. She earned CSCAA Scholar All-American honors and CoSIDA Academic All-American Second Team accolades. She also earned NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence honors twice.

On campus, Knier was a member of Delta Sigma Pi (DSP) professional business fraternity. She has served as Senior Vice President, Vice President of Media Communications, Social Chair, Homecoming Chair, and Spring Events Chair. She participated in several community service events a semester through DSP such as Adopt-a-Highway, Echo Food shelf and writing cards to veterans. She volunteered for Kiwanis lights, was a coach for Girls on the Run Mankato and was an intern in the marketing department at MSU, helping to run all of the University's social media accounts.

In the pool, Knier was a member of the 200 freestyle relay team that finished third at the NSIC Championships her senior year. She also took fourth place in the 100 freestyle at the NSIC Championships and was 11th in the 50 freestyle. She also swam on the 200 and 400 medley relay teams that took first place at the UW-Stevens Point Invite. As a junior she claimed All-NSIC honors in the 200 medley relay, 400 medley relay and the 100 freestyle and then went on to compete in both the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle at the NCAA Championships. As a freshman she received All-American honors as a member of the 200 freestyle relay team that finished in third place at the NCAA Championships. Knier is the first swimmer to earn CoSIDA Academic All-American honors at MSU.

Knier also operates her own small business named 2True Headbands and last year she participated in several entrepreneurship competitions. She won MSU's Big Ideas Challenge, qualified as a division finalist and received third in the statewide Minnesota Cup Entrepreneurship competition and was runner-up in Southern MN's Entrepreneurial Bridge competition.

"Maggie has made a tremendous impact to our program throughout her career at Minnesota State. As an athlete, she leaves here as a Conference Champion, National Qualifier, NCAA All-American, and Academic All-American. Maggie has helped our team achieve new levels of success and finishes her career as one of the fastest sprinters in school history. In the classroom Maggie has been an unparalleled student, she has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA majoring in marketing and minoring in mass media. In addition to being an outstanding student, Maggie has been an excellent teammate and member of our University community during the past four years. She'll be the CEO of a fortune 500 company someday. We are extremely proud of Maggie and for everything that she has accomplished," said MSU Head Swimming Coach Nathan Owens.

"Maggie Knier represents the best in terms of academics, athletics and community involvement. She pursues her passion while helping those along the way. She is model of what the Kelly Award is designed to honor," stated MSU Faculty Athletic Representative Jeff Pribyl.





NSIC BRITTON/KELLY AWARDS RELEASE

2019-20 NSIC Men's Honor Student-Athlete Award Winners

Name	University	Yr.	Sport	Hometown	High School
Benjamin Kelvington	Augustana University	Sr.	Wrestling	Jordan, Minn.	Jordan
Derek Thompson	Bemidji State University	Jr.	Basketball	Cold Spring, Minn.	Rocori
Cole Oslin	Concordia University, St. Paul	Sr.	CC/Track & Field	Mora, Minn.	Mora
Leonardo Vecchi	University of Mary	Jr.	Football	Bergamo, Italy	S.B. Capitanio
Trevor Long Jr.	University of Minnesota Crookston	Sr.	Football	Brooklyn Park, Minn.	Champlin Park
Dan Monson	University of Minnesota Duluth	Jr.	Football	Inver Grove Heights, Minn.	Rosemount
Alex Goettl	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Sr.	Football	Mankato, Minn.	Mankato West
Ethan Gerbig	Minnesota State University Moorhead	Jr.	Football	De Pere, Wis.	De Pere
Carson Harcourt	Minot State University	Sr.	Golf	Kipling, Sask.	Kipling
Zachary Mohs	Northern State University	Sr.	Football	Horace, N.D.	West Fargo
Jonathan Cooney	University of Sioux Falls	Sr.	Golf	Pickstown, S.D.	Andes Central
Nick Dufault	Southwest Minnesota State University	Jr.	Basketball	Waseca, Minn.	Waseca Senior
John Solberg	St. Cloud State University	Sr.	Football	Cambridge, Minn.	Cambridge-Isanti
Nicholas Baumler	Upper Iowa University	Sr.	Wrestling	West Union, Iowa	North Fayette Valley
Ethan Knudson	Wayne State College	Sr.	Football	Harlan, Iowa	Harlan
Nick Pridgeon	Winona State University	Gr.	Football	Wauwatosa, Wis.	Wauwatosa East

2019-20 NSIC Women's Honor Student-Athlete Award Winners

Name	University	Yr.	Sport	Hometown	High School
Abby Hora	Augustana University	Sr.	Basketball	Viborg, S.D.	Viborg-Hurley
Tia Neuharth	Bemidji State University	Sr.	Soccer	Prior Lake, Minn.	Prior Lake
Hannah Pavsek	Concordia University, St. Paul	Sr.	Soccer	Eagan, Minn.	Eagan
Breanna Donarski	University of Mary	Sr.	Volleyball	Powell, Wyo.	Powell
Paige Pitlick	University of Minnesota Crookston	Sr.	Softball/Cross Country	Jordan, Minn.	Jordan
Emily (Torve) Balts	University of Minnesota Duluth	Sr.	Volleyball	Loretto, Minn.	Heritage Christian Academy
Margaret Knier	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Sr.	Swimming	Big Lake, Minn.	Homeschooled
Megan Hintz	Minnesota State University Moorhead	Sr.	Basketball	Rochester Minn.	Dover-Eyota
Kaitlyn Hill	Minot State University	Sr.	Golf	Bowman, N.D.	Bowman County
Brianna Kusler	Northern State University	Sr.	Basketball	Aberdeen, S.D.	Aberdeen Central
Jacey Huinker	University of Sioux Falls	Gr	Basketball	Altoona, Iowa	Southeast Polk
Emma Grote	Southwest Minnesota State University	Sr.	Softball	Blair, Neb.	Blair
Madison Brinkman	St. Cloud State University	Jr.	Swimming & Diving	Grey Eagle, Minn.	Melrose
Brinn Grunder	Upper Iowa University	Sr.	Track & Field	Durant, Iowa	Durant
Sophia Ketchmark	Wayne State College	Sr.	Soccer	La Vista, Neb.	Omaha Gross
Alison Nowak	Winona State University	Sr.	Softball	New Berlin, Wis.	Eisenhower

Annual Britton Award Recipients

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

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

