

NEWS RELEASE

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NSIC Announces 2021 Britton and Kelly Award Recipients

BURNSVILLE, Minn. — The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) announced Minot State University's Jordan Will as the 2021 Dr. William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award winner and Augustana University's Kendall Cornick as the 2021 Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award recipient. The Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence, in its 37th year, recognizes the NSIC's top male student-athlete and the Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award, in its 36th 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. Will and Cornick will each receive a \$3,000 post-graduate scholarship.

William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence

Jordan Will - Minot State University - Football / Wrestling



Jordan Will, a native of Minot, North Dakota, is a senior triple majoring in accounting, finance and management at Minot State University. The Bishop Ryan High School graduate holds a 4.00 grade point average while excelling in football & wrestling for the Beavers. Will joins Kowen O'Keefe (2015) as the only student-athletes from Minot State to earn the NSIC Britton Award.

Will has been named to the President's Honor List every semester; was the NSIC Elite 18 Award Winner for football in fall of 2020; awarded the Baldwin and Shirley Martz Scholarship, awarded the E. James McIntyre Scholarship; named the Great Plains Exceptional Scholar; recipient of the North Dakota University System ND Scholars Program award; North Dakota Academic Scholarship recipient; named to the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence multiple times; recipient of the NSIC Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award 2021; and National Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar All-American (2018-2020).

On campus, Will has volunteered at "Dancing for the Special Stars" (a fund-raiser for Special Olympics of North Dakota); participated in Minot State University Campus Clean-Up Day; volunteered to sell concessions at the arena to support MSU Beaver Boosters; and volunteered to help incoming freshman move into the dorms on campus.

On the gridiron, Will started as a true freshman and has played every game since, 33 games in all. He amassed 85 tackles, 16 tackles-for-loss, four sacks, forced two fumbles and recovered one as he earned All-NSIC honorable mention honors in 2018. On the mat, Will was team captain and owns a 43-13 career record. He was the second NCAA national qualifier in Minot State history as he was NCAA Super Region V Champion at 285 pounds in 2019. In 2021 he earned All-NSIC second team honors.

"Jordan has been a great role model and leader for our football team. He has been a starter since he was a true-freshman, has been voted captain since he was a sophomore and is a founding member of our leadership council. Jordan has excelled in the classroom, while pursuing multiple majors, earning the 2020 NSIC Elite 18 award as the top football student-athlete in the Northern Sun. He has accomplished this while being an elite two-sport athlete. Jordan truly epitomizes what it means to be a student-athlete; competing and excelling both in the classroom and on the field," said Minot State Head Football Coach Mike Aldrich.

"Jordan Will has all of the characteristics that we are looking for in a Minot State University wrestler. He is a terrific person, an exceptional student, and a gritty athlete. He has shown consistent leadership skills during his career here and was voted a team captain the last two seasons. Jordan is very deserving of this award, and we are proud of him for this achievement," added Minot State Head Wrestling Coach Evan Forde.

"Jordan is a mountain of a man (heavyweight wrestler and football defensive line) that is as smart and kind as any human you will ever met! He epitomizes what we want from our student-athletes. He looks the part both in and out of the classroom. In addition to the above information, Jordan volunteers at a local elementary school to read to the children, prepares meals for United Way through the Backpack Buddies program and also volunteer football coaches at the high school across the street from the University," stated Minot State Faculty Athletic Representative Dean Frantsvog.

2021 Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence on Next Page

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





2021 Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence

Kendall Cornick - Augustana University - Softball

Kendall Cornick, a native of Mason City, Iowa, is a senior majoring in biology and psychology at Augustana University. The Mason City High School graduate holds a 3.94 grade point average while excelling in softball for the Vikings. Cornick is the first student-athlete from Augustana to earn the NSIC Kelly Award.

Cornick made the Dean's list every semester at Augustana, was a 2020 CoSIDA Academic All-American & 2019 All-District, a NSIC Myles Brand Award winner and member of the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence.

Her research experience includes being a student research assistant in the Cognitive Psychology Lab at Augustana, investigating the effect of technology on creativity. She has presented virtually at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference and the Arthur Olsen Symposium in 2020. Prior to that she participated in the 2019 Pediatric Student Research Program at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri where she was involved in the preliminary work investigating potential drug targets for medulloblastoma. In 2018, she was involved with the NIH funded NF1 Porcine Model Collaborative Research Program through the Biomedical Scholars Summer Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Iowa.

On campus, Cornick took part in Augustana's Kidney Disease Screening and Awareness Program and served as the Director of Community Outreach where she helped reach out to underserved and underinsured populations in the Sioux Falls community to plan free kidney health screenings. She also served as a TA and tutor in the biology department on campus.

On the diamond, Cornick leads the Vikings in batting average, on base percentage, hits, doubles and stolen bases so far this season, with her batting average and stolen bases leading the NSIC. In the shortened 2020 season, she played and started in all 19 games in right field and was third on the team with 23 hits and a .365 average. She was also second on the Vikings with 18 runs scored, contributed three home runs, 14 RBI and two doubles. In 2019 she was part of the NCAA Division II National Championship Team. She earned All-NSIC second team honors that season after she played in 68 games with 65 starts in left field. She led the team with 31 stolen bases in 32 attempts and hit .386 in 189 at-bats, which was third on the team. She scored a team-high 74 runs, which led the NSIC and was second in the nation. She capped off the 2019 season by driving in the go-ahead runs in the NCAA National Championship game vs. Texas A&M Kingsville.

In the community, Cornick volunteers with the National Alliance on Mental Illness as an Ending the Silence presenter, sharing with students, teachers, and parents an interactive, informative presentation concerning mental health challenges. She also volunteered as a Pediatric Companion at the Sanford Children's Hospital, assisting the nurses and Child Life Specialists with their care of the pediatric patients and preparation for special events. She also worked with surgical services at Avera McKennan Hospital and at Sanford Health, supporting the workflow of both hospital's surgery departments.

"Kendall Cornick is the quintessential NCAA student-athlete at any level. She embodies all the positive qualities that collegiate sports represents. She is a fierce competitor, a relentless worker, a humble and caring teammate, a team leader, and an incredibly talented athlete and softball player. In the classroom, she is bar none, one of the best student-athletes I have had the privilege to coach in my 23 years. Her thirst for knowledge and her love of learning are an incredible example to others. Her character though is what separates her from others. She is authentic and genuine in her dealings with people and the compassion she shows others will serve her well as she heads to medical school next year. I, along with my assistant coaches and her teammates couldn't be more proud. She's the best of the best," said Augustana Head Softball Coach Gretta Melsted.

"Kendall is an exemplary student-athlete. Not only does she excel academically, she was a top contributor on the Augustana softball team that won the 2019 NCAA DII national championship. Following her exceptional career at Augie, she will begin medical school at the University of Iowa. We could not be prouder of the fine scholar-athlete she is today and we look forward to watching her make an impact as a physician in the coming years," stated Augustana Faculty Athletic Representative Dr. Marcia Entwistle.





NSIC BRITTON/KELLY AWARDS RELEASE

2020-21 NSIC Women's Honor Student-Athlete Award Winners

Name	University	Yr.	Sport	Hometown	High School
Kendall Cornick	Augustana University	Sr.	Softball	Mason City, Iowa	Mason City
Brooklyn Bachmann	Bemidji State University	Sr.	Basketball	Minooka, Illinois	Minooka Community
Jena Berkland	Concordia University, St Paul	Jr.	Soccer	Woodstock, Illinois	Prairie Ridge
Madisyn Waltman	University of Mary	Jr.	Soccer	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Roosevelt
Sydney Kruisselbrink	University of Minnesota Crookston	Sr.	Volleyball	Rochester, Minn.	Rochester Century
Natalie Cahill	University of Minnesota Duluth	Sr.	Tennis	Pine City, Minn.	Pine City
Rachel Shumski	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Gr.	Basketball	Granada, Minn.	Granada Huntley East Chain
Rachel Schumacher	Minnesota State University Moorhead	Sr.	Track & Field	Bismarck, N.D.	Bismarck
Sofia Lewis	Minot State University	Sr.	Soccer	Minot, N.D.	Minot
Sarah Schafer	Northern State University	Sr.	CC/Track & Field	Flasher, N.D.	Flasher
Krista Goerger	University of Sioux Falls	Sr.	Volleyball	Mankato, Minn.	Mankato West
Emma Grote	Southwest Minnesota State University	Sr.	Softball	Blair, Nebraska	Blair
Tori Wortz	St. Cloud State University	Sr.	Basketball	Hutchinson, Minn.	Hutchinson
Katie Crogan	Upper Iowa University	Jr.	Softball	Watertown, Wis.	Watertown
Jaci Brahmer	Wayne State College	Gr.	Volleyball	Pierce, Neb.	Pierce
Alison Nowak	Winona State University	Gr.	Softball	New Berlin, Wis.	Eisenhower

2020-21 NSIC Men's Honor Student-Athlete Award Winners

Name	University	Yr.	Sport	Hometown	High School
Tyler Riemersma	Augustana University	Sr.	Basketball	Bloomington, Minn.	Jefferson
Derek Thompson	Bemidji State University	Sr.	Basketball	Cold Spring, Minn.	ROCORI
Jarod Wandersee	Concordia University, St Paul	Jr.	Baseball	Minnetonka, Minn.	Minnetonka
Thomas Rumpza	University of Mary	Sr.	Track and Field	St. Paul, Minn.	Trinity at River Ridge
Anthony Kampa	University of Minnesota Crookston	Sr.	Cross Country	St. Cloud, Minn.	Cathedral
Henry George	University of Minnesota Duluth	Sr.	Baseball	Woodbury, Minn.	New Life Academy
Dilibe (JD) Ekowa	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Sr.	Football	Plainfield, Ill.	Plainfield North
Logan Spooner	Minnesota State University Moorhead	Sr.	CC/Track & Field	Mosinee, Wis.	D.C. Everest
Jordan Will	Minot State University	Sr.	Football / Wrestling	Minot, N.D.	Bishop Ryan
Kelson Brewer	Northern State University	Sr.	Track & Field	Stanwood, Wash.	Lakewood
J.J. Cooney	University of Sioux Falls	Gr.	Golf	Pickstown, S.D.	Andes Central
Trey Sachs	Southwest Minnesota State University	Sr.	Football	Elkhorn, Neb.	Elkhorn
Jake Schustrich	St. Cloud State University	Sr.	Baseball	Nipomo, Calif.	Arroyo Grande
Grant Dieken	Upper Iowa University	Sr.	CC/Track & Field	Clear Lake, Iowa	Clear Lake HS
Aaron Ras	Wayne State College	Sr.	Baseball	Bancroft, Neb.	Bancroft-Rosalie
Carter Duxbury	Winona State University	Gr.	Football	Chatfield, Minn.	Chatfield





PAST NSIC BRITTON/KELLY AWARDS WINNERS

Annual Britton Award Recipients

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

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

