The Big Ten Conference
Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award
Presented by
The Indianapolis Big Ten Community Partnership

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award?
A: The Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award is an annual scholarship recognizing one male and one female Big Ten senior for exceptional achievement in academics, athletics, and civic service. The Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award is merit-based and is a one-time, non-renewable award.

Q: Who is Wayne Duke?
A: The Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award is named for the former Big Ten Conference commissioner who served from 1971-89. While leading the Big Ten, Duke spent much of his time working to improve academic standards and graduation rates for students competing in intercollegiate athletics. He retired after eighteen (18) years of service to the Big Ten on June 30, 1989.

Q: What is the Indianapolis Big Ten Community Partnership?
A: The Indianapolis Big Ten Community Partnership is comprised of Indiana Sports Corp, Pacers Sports & Entertainment, Visit Indy, the State of Indiana, the City of Indianapolis, and the Indianapolis Colts. The Indianapolis-based Partnership was initially formed in 2008 to host the Big Ten Basketball Tournaments in Indianapolis, Ind., and celebrate the Big Ten's leadership in integrating athletics into the academic mission of its member institutions. The Partnership manages all Big Ten championship/tournament events in Indianapolis.

Q: Who provides the funding for this Award?
A: The Wayne Duke Scholarship Fund (the Fund) was initially founded by the Indianapolis Big Ten Community Partnership to complement the Big Ten Basketball Tournaments in Indianapolis, Ind. The Fund is a permanent endowment comprised of contributions from various Indianapolis-based companies and individuals. The award continues in conjunction with the Big Ten Conference championship/tournament events hosted in Indianapolis.

Q. What Big Ten Championship/Tournament Events have been hosted in Indianapolis? And what events are scheduled moving forward?
A. The Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament has been held in Indianapolis in 1995-2000, 2002-2012, 2014, and 2016-2022. The Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament has been in Indianapolis in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008-2012, 2014, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The inaugural Big Ten Football Championship Game was held at Lucas Oil Stadium in 2011, and the game will be played in Indianapolis through 2024.

Q: What is the value of the Award?
A: The Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award is a merit-based scholarship and features a one-time, non-renewable financial award. For 2024, each Postgraduate Award is $10,000.

Q: How many awards will be granted each year?

A: An independent committee will select one male and one female nominee to receive the award each year. All Big Ten institutions (implementing a selection process at the institution's discretion) can nominate one male and one female, and the award recipients may or may not be from the same Big Ten institution.

Q: Who is eligible?

A: Each Big Ten institution may nominate one male and one female student who has consistently demonstrated exceptional achievement in academics, athletics, and civic service throughout their collegiate career. Specifically, a nominee must:

1. Honorably represent a Big Ten Conference institution, exhibiting excellence in academics, athletics, and civic service while displaying strong character and leadership skills.
2. Be an undergraduate who is competing in:
    a. His/her last season of athletic eligibility, and,
    b. A varsity sport sponsored by his/her Big Ten Conference institution.
3. Plan to enroll in graduate or professional school within eighteen (18) months of graduation.

Q: What is the nomination process?

A: Nominations must be submitted by the institution's Athletic Director. Nomination forms may be accessed online at www.indianasportscorp.org/events/wayne-duke-postgraduate-award. Complete nomination packets must be uploaded via the online application link. Nominations should be uploaded upon completion of the Fall 2023 term, but no later than February 4, 2024.

Q: What materials must be provided to nominate a student?

A: Nomination materials must include:

- A nomination form signed by the institution's Athletic Director and Faculty Representative
- A letter of recommendation from the nominee's Head Coach (providing detailed examples of demonstrated athletic ability, character, leadership, teamwork, work ethic, etc.)
    - Thorough examples highlighting athletic achievements on the field and off the field are recommended.
- A letter of recommendation from an academic faculty member familiar with the nominee's academic performance (providing detailed examples of academic achievement and effort, extracurricular activities, leadership, accomplishments, etc.)
    - Thorough examples highlighting academic achievements through coursework and extracurricular activities are recommended.
- An application form prepared and signed by the nominee
- An official copy of the nominee's transcript
- A copy of the nominee's resume
- A headshot and, if possible, a sport-specific action shot of the student for publicity purposes

Q: Where should the nomination materials be sent?

A: Nomination packets should be uploaded via the online application link. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Wright at mwright@indianasportscorp.org.

Q: What is the deadline for nominating a student-athlete?

A: Nominations should be mailed upon completion of the Fall 2023 term, but no later than February 4, 2024.

Q: Who selects the award recipients?

A: Each institution's athletic director will nominate up to one male and one female from that institution. The Selection Committee will review the nominations from each institution and select the recipients from these nominees. The Selection Committee is comprised of seven members who are independent of the Big Ten Conference and each institution.

Q: When will the award winners be announced?

A: The Indianapolis Big Ten Community Partnership will present the awards to the recipients on Saturday, December 7, 2024, during the Big Ten Football Championship Game in Indianapolis. The recipients will be notified privately no later than February 9, 2024.

Q: When will the Awards be paid?

A: Awards will be funded directly to the recipient's postgraduate institution upon verification of enrollment within eighteen (18) months of graduation.

Q: What happens if an award recipient fails to enroll within 18 months?

A: As part of the nomination process, all nominees sign a statement of intent to pursue a postgraduate education within eighteen (18) months of graduation. An award recipient who does not register within this time forfeits the award.

Q: Who are the past winners of the Award?

A: Past Award recipients include:

2023: Diana Brown, Illinois, Volleyball; Thomas Penola, Purdue, Wrestling
2022: Gianna Glatz, Rutgers, Field Hockey; Blake Hayes, Illinois, Football
2021: Lea Mitchell, Michigan State, Women's Gymnastics; Kiernan Mullins, Rutgers, Men's Lacrosse
2020: Scott Piper, Michigan State, Swimming & Diving; Sade Olatoye, Ohio State, Track & Field
2019: Anthony "Anton" Stephenson, Nebraska, Gymnastics; Olivia Rosendahl, Northwestern, Diving
2018: Chris Weber, Nebraska, Football; Emily Mills, Rutgers, Golf
2017: Geno Morelli, Penn State, Wrestling; Lindsay Agnew, Ohio State, Soccer
2016: Cody Rush, Nebraska, Track and Field; Lindsay Mable, Minnesota, Gymnastics
2015: Peter Sode, Rutgers, Lacrosse; Jessica Plant, Minnesota, Swimming & Diving
2014: Spencer Long, Nebraska, Football; Emily Wong, Nebraska, Women's Gymnastics
2013: Sean Fisher, Nebraska, Football; Katelyn White, Nebraska, Cross Country/Track & Field
2012: Miguel Pineda, Penn State, Gymnastics; Margaux Farrell, Indiana, Swimming
2011: Mike Torchia, Minnesota, Cross Country & Track; Allison Smith, Purdue, Diving
2010: Mark Ison, Northwestern, Football; Chelsea Davis, Ohio State; Diving
2009: Drew Ratner, Northwestern, Soccer; Lauren Mioton, Purdue, Basketball
2008: Kevin Trulock, Indiana, Football; Molly Crispell, Penn State, Swimming

Q: Who can provide additional information about the Award?

A: Questions about the Wayne Duke Postgraduate Award can be directed to Christian Dempster at Indiana Sports Corp (ISC) at (317) 237-5038 or cdempster@indianasportscorp.org.