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Fellow Athletic Administrator's;

Leadership Training and Certification are two vehicles that NIAAA has developed for preparing Athletic Administrators to function more efficiently and professionally within the local school and community. The purpose of leadership training is to present best practices in use today that will better prepare the athletic administrator to offer quality programs for student/athletes. Certification offers an opportunity for the athletic administrator to continue a program of professional growth and development.

In the past two decades the expansion of the Leadership Training Institute from one course to now over 35 has greatly impacted the professional growth of the athletic administrators throughout the country. The LTI offerings have been broken down into three major categories (foundation, operations and management, leadership) and address a wide variety of topics, such as budgeting and finance, legal issues, dealing with challenging personalities, managing equipment and facilities, and hosting athletic contests. These four-hour courses are available for NIAAA members at a moderate price (\$100 - \$125), and participants receive a booklet complete with materials related to that topic.

Athletic Administrators are encouraged to participate in the NIAAA Leadership Training Institute either at the local, state or national level. They are further encouraged to remain on the cutting edge of our profession by obtaining their certification as an RAA, RMSAA, CAA, or CMAA.

Athletic Administrators who complete LTI courses will have attained additional knowledge and perspective of the athletic administrator's role. Completion of leadership training courses will enhance the daily operations of the athletic department and improve the program being administered. The athletic administrator who attains professional certification will have demonstrated the completion of a comprehensive plan for self-improvement.

All that being said, opportunities are provided through seasonal online courses, or webinars. You can participate in the course from the convenience of your home or office computer. The rewards and benefits of participation in the LTI are numerous. To access this information go to NIAAA's new site, [www.niaaa](http://www.niaaa) – click on programs – then to certification programs – left to NIAAA programs and you can get the answers to your questions, course offerings, schedule, etc.. Summer offerings at Cal-Mum or Penfield are in the planning stage if we can get enough participants. You could notify me of your interest in a particular course and it could be presented if numbers warrant.

Like all classroom teachers, the athletic administrator is the acknowledged professional "expert" in his or her field. Given the expectations that upper administration, coaches, and parents have for an athletic director's performance, it is important to be versatile enough to manage all the scenarios or problems and to remain connected with today's issues in the field. Enhancing one's knowledge through formal professional growth opportunities and those gained by experience can shape an individual to be a competent, caring athletic director who embodies the spirit of educational athletics. As a chapter, we look forward to more athletic administrators attaining CAA and CMAA certification. Please let me know where I can help you in this process.

Mike