



SPORTS

INSIDE ATHLETICS

FAN ZONE

MULTIMEDIA

GIVE

RECRUITS



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Schedule & Results | Roster | Statistics - Season | More +



Women's Volleyball | 4/18/2019 1:39:00 PM | Shawn D. Smith, Director of Athletic Communications

Minnesota Crookston Volleyball Student-Athlete Deaira Gresham Represents Golden Eagles at the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in Orlando



ORLANDO, Fla.- University of Minnesota Crookston volleyball player [Deaira Gresham](#) (So., Maplewood, Minn.) was selected to represent Minnesota Crookston and the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) April 11-14 at the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum in Orlando, Fla.

The NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum engages a diverse and dynamic representation of student-athletes, coaches, faculty and administrators. Student-athletes selected to attend the forum return to campus with invaluable leadership skills, the experience of exploring the relationship between personal values, core beliefs and behavioral styles, and a thorough understanding of the NCAA as a whole, along with the different divisional perspectives and the valuable role of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committees (SAAC).

The Leadership Forum, created in 1997, has been a life-changing experience for more than 5,000 student-athletes, many who have grown personally and professionally, gained a new network of peers and friends, as well as felt the rewards and importance of community service.

In 2002, the NCAA began divisional regionally based leadership conferences for Division I, II and III student-athletes, coaches and administrators. Division I, II and III student-athletes, coaches and administrators met regionally to discuss issues and information impacting the student-athlete experience. In the fall of 2010, the NCAA consolidated Leadership Forum participants from Divisions I, II and III into a single forum at one site on the same weekend.

Gresham was bestowed with the opportunity after attending the NSIC SAAC Summit last summer in Winona, Minn., and was then nominated by staff members and coaches at the University of Minnesota Crookston and the NSIC. She was one of 300 student-athletes representing NCAA Division I, Division II, and Division III who were offered the chance to represent their institutions at the 2019 NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum.

"We all came together and shared leadership experiences and learned how to lead others and also ourselves," Gresham said.

Gresham was able to form bonds from student-athletes from around the country who represented the NCAA in a wide array of sports.

"My roommate was a Division I volleyball player at Radford University, so I got to hear the Division I perspective and also compare that to the Division II perspective," Gresham said. "It was such a great environment that allowed us to share our stories. It was also very empowering to be surrounded by 300 leaders. We learned about each individual division. It is nice that you can get the athletic and the academic experience at different levels depending on if you choose to go NCAA Division I, II or III."

By being offered the opportunity to attend the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum, Gresham feels like she has grown as a leader herself and she is ready to share her experiences with student-athletes across all sports at Minnesota Crookston.

"I learned different techniques and I learned a lot about my communication style and how I can be a better teammate," Gresham said. "I'm hoping to get the chance to present the information to the athletic staff and any athletic team that is interested in hearing about it. I did learn the wolfpack type of leadership. The wolfpack leadership style talks about being inclusive no matter if it is the weakest player or your strongest player but including your entire team. That way nobody feels left behind or like a straggler."

Gresham was very appreciative of the opportunity, one that she never imagined that she would be offered the opportunity to have when she first arrived at Minnesota Crookston as a freshman in 2017.

"Coming in I was 18 playing with people who were 23, 24, so I was the young one now," Gresham said. "I didn't expect an experience like this so early in my career. Maybe as a senior I was expecting something like this but I am very grateful to be able to do it as a sophomore. It helps me to take a step in the right direction as a leader."

While the opportunity was focused on growing as leaders, the 300 attendees were offered some chances at having fun, as well, including attending Disney Springs one of the nights.

Through this opportunity, Gresham has also been able to share her experience at Minnesota Crookston and the great opportunities the campus provides.

"It was really nice to talk about the University of Minnesota Crookston and kind of brag about the opportunities it provides," Gresham said.

Gresham surely will not soon forget her experience at the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum as she continues along her final two years at Minnesota Crookston and looks to grow as a leader and help facilitate others to become better leaders.

[Print Friendly Version](#)

PLAYERS MENTIONED ▾

#16 Deaira Gresham

OH / S' 10" / Sophomore

Related Stories

03.21.24
Minnesota Crookston Volleyball Adds Fifth Signee to Class with Addition of Duluth East Standout Karys Johnson

03.19.24
Minnesota Crookston Volleyball Announces 2024 Spring Schedule

12.12.23
Weisensel Named Academic All-District for Volleyball

11.27.23
Minnesota Crookston Volleyball Rounds Out Signing Class with Pair of Setters

11.14.23
Minnesota Crookston Volleyball Adds Two Prep Standouts to 2024 Class

Related Videos

03.11.24
Equestrian Livestream

03.09.24
UMC Equestrian 3/9/24

03.09.24
My Broadcast

03.06.24
Equestrian Home Show

03.06.24
Equestrian Home Show



We use cookies and other technologies.

We, along with our service providers and other third parties use cookies and other analytics, advertising, and tracking technologies on this site. Your information, including personal information and interactions with this site, may be monitored, recorded, or collected through these tools and further used or disclosed by us, our service providers and authorized third parties. To opt-out or learn more, please visit our privacy policy.