



Women's Volleyball | 7/25/2016 3:15:00 PM | Shawn Smith, Sports Information Director

UMC Volleyball Team Earns AVCA Team Academic Award



LEXINGTON, Ky. – The University of Minnesota Crookston volleyball team was one of 119 NCAA Division II teams to receive the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Team Academic Award for the 2015-16 season.

The award, which was initiated in the 1992-93 academic year, honors collegiate and high school volleyball teams that displayed excellence in the classroom during the school year by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.0 scale.

"The AVCA Team Academic Award is something that we have been striving toward since our first season at UMC," said Head Coach [Lee Anderson](#). "Achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or better is very challenging and we are so proud of our team for all of the hard work that they have done this past academic year (and in their previous years at UMC). We have been very close to reaching this goal in the past couple of years and it's very gratifying to finally reach this goal."

The AVCA Team Academic Award is the single largest award offered by quantity of schools, players and coaches honored. Since the 2000-2001 season, the number of recipients have increased every single year but two, while amassing a 475 team increase over the span of the last decade. Since the award's inception in 1993, the amount of award winners has increased from 62 to its current number of 762.

"Congratulations to the coaches and institutions that won the 2016 AVCA Team Academic Award," said AVCA Executive Director Kathy DeBoer. "It is no accident that a volleyball coaches association recognizes academic excellence as a team, rather than an individual, achievement. Players influence each other, both in execution on the court and discipline in the classroom."

The AVCA announced that 762 team in total earned the AVCA Team Academic Award, breaking the previous year's total of 757 to set an all-time high. Prior to 2015-2016, only 26 teams had attained the pinnacle of volleyball success in both earning the AVCA Team Academic Award and winning their respective collegiate national championship in the same academic year. This year, the AVCA is proud to recognize three programs that excelled in the classroom and on the court: Wheeling Jesuit University (NCAA Division II), California Lutheran University (NCAA Division III) and Columbia College (NAIA).

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