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**MIDVALE, Utah (November 15, 2017)** – Two prominent Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) administrators have been nationally recognized for their respective excellence in working with Utah high school students.

Everett Kelepolo, the principal of Springville High School, and Jamie Sheetz, athletic director at Park City High School, have been recognized by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) for their success in leading activities and guiding students in Utah high schools.

Kelepolo will receive the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award for his long-running association with high school activities in the Nebo School District. Prior to taking over as Springville High School principal, Kelepolo was the coordinator of athletics in the Nebo School District. That position served five high schools and seven junior high schools. Kelepolo was instrumental in creating the Nebo School District Captains Academy. The academy, which consists of captains and leaders from each of the Nebo School District's 12 secondary schools, features speakers presenting ways in which schools can conduct leadership and sportsmanship traits.

Kelepolo's notable accomplishments for the school district include implementing a stipend payment for athletic administrators who earn CAA and CMAA certification from the NIAAA.

In 2011, Kelepolo completed his doctoral dissertation through the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on "The Relationship Between Participation in Extracurricular Activities and Utah's Proficiency Assessments of Students in a Suburban School District." Kelepolo has presented his dissertation on multiple occasions to address the value of athletics in aiding academic performance.

In his fourth year of athletic administration, Sheetz has taken an active role in the extracurricular activities of Park City High School students. Sheetz is the athletics subcommittee chair of the Park City School District (PCSD) Master Planning Steering Committee, a current member of the PCSD Design Team and Calendar committees, and a former member of the PCSD Start Times Committee.

Sheetz is equally involved with the Utah Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (UIAAA). He helped develop the UIAAA second Strategic Plan in 2014, and has served as the association's website manager since 2015 and as the assistant coordinator for Leadership Training Institute (LTI) and Certification since 2016. In addition, he just finished a term as UIAAA president and currently serves on the UIAAA LTC Faculty, teaching several courses each year. In 2016, he was Utah's NIAAA State Award of Merit recipient.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to individuals from within the NIAAA membership in recognition of their length of service, special accomplishments and contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. NFHS Citations are presented annually to outstanding athletic directors in recognition of contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. State associations nominate athletic directors for NFHS Citations, and the NFHS Board of Directors approves recipients. Nominations are submitted by state athletic directors associations, screened by the NIAAA Awards Committee and selected by the NIAAA Board of Directors.

Both Kelepolo and Sheetz will receive their awards during the NIAAA's upcoming conference in Scottsdale, Ariz. Rich Barton, the athletic director of Richfield High School, currently serves as the NIAAA president.