

2025 NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD



**THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. SCOTT, United States
Representative 3rd District of Virginia and THE HONORABLE
SUZANNE BONAMICI, United States Representative 1st
District of Oregon**

Honoring elected public officials responsible for advancing public policy that would significantly improve the conduct of intercollegiate athletic programs, enhance the rights of college athletes, or otherwise protect their education, health, and safety.

In recognition of U.S. Representatives Robert C. Scott and Suzanne Bonamici, both ranking members of the 2024 House Committee on Education and the Workforce, for requesting that the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) conduct an audit of the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights' (DOE-OCR) Title IX athletics enforcement activities. The April 2024 GAO report, "[College Athletics: Education Should Improve Its Title IX Enforcement Efforts](#)," the only government audit since the 1975 issuance of the OCR Title IX athletics regulations, found that:

- 93 percent of all intercollegiate athletic programs were not offering athletics opportunities to females proportional to their percentage in the full-time undergraduate student body;
- the overall athletic participation rate for females was 14 percentage points lower than their enrollment during the 2021-2022 academic year;
- at two-thirds of all colleges with athletic programs, the rate of females' athletics participation was at least 10 percent lower than their undergraduate female enrollment; and
- 40 percent of the colleges with these large enrollment differences had not added a new female sport over the last 14 years or had dropped one or more female sports during that period.

2025 MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD



MARY CIAMPA and TIFFANY BULLOCK, Founders of WomenX

Honoring extraordinary individuals who have helped advance the collegiate sports reform movement through persistent actions over time. The individuals, through hard work and persistent effort, have created a significant impact within the world of sports reform and, in doing so, have enhanced the integrity of intercollegiate athletics.

[WomenX](#) is a nonprofit organization empowering woman through education. The mission of WomenX is to reimagine higher education to ensure women have access to women-centered education and community to realize their full potential. Founded on the anniversary of Title IX—legislation that granted women equal opportunities in education and athletics—WomenX is dedicated to making sure that promise continues to be fulfilled.

Through its Fellowship, WomenX has educated over 150 students across 50 college campuses, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to advance gender equity on campus and beyond. WomenX also played a pivotal role in amplifying opportunities for women in sports.

When the Women's Beanpot Championship—one of Boston's biggest college hockey tournaments—was set to be played at TD Garden arena for the first time, WomenX championed the effort to build excitement and drive attendance. The result? A record-breaking 10,633 attendees in its first year and 13,279 in its second, shattering the previous high of 1,700 and marking a new era for collegiate hockey and women's sports in Boston.

Mary Ciampa is a serial entrepreneur—the former CEO and Co-founder of Thinkmap (a visualization software company) and HoLa (a bilingual K-8 charter school). She brings 30 years of marketing experience, having consulted for companies such as Motorola, Sony Music, Razorfish, Berklee College of Music, and the Boston Museum of Science. Her passion for education and equity has driven her lifelong mission to create opportunities for women to learn, lead, and thrive. Tiffany Bullock is a seasoned DEI advocate with over 15 years of experience in corporate law, including roles at SEO (Sponsors for Educational Opportunity), Legal Outreach, Fried Frank LLP, and Paul Weiss LLP. She has spent over a decade consulting for 40+ Vault 100 Law Firms and organizations like Afro Scholars Inc., focusing on talent management, pipeline creation, professional development, and mentorship. Her expertise in fostering inclusive environments and leadership pathways is a cornerstone of WomenX's mission.

2025 Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting in Intercollegiate Athletics

WALKER CARNATHAN, VIVIAN YAO, SEAN McKEOWN
University of Pennsylvania

for

'I don't feel safe': P[No Title]ck and field program accused of sexual harassment, mistreatment - December 9, 2024

The Daily Pennsylvanian

Founded in 1885

'I don't feel safe': Penn track and field program accused of sexual harassment, mistreatment

The Daily Pennsylvanian spoke with 16 sources familiar with Penn track and field and Title IX as part of an investigation into allegations against the program.



Recognizing the print, video, or multimedia work of a graduate or undergraduate college student journalist(s) for exceptional substantive investigative reporting on intercollegiate athletics. The work must address an issue related to the protection of college athletes, financial excess, academic integrity, ethical conduct, racist or sexist practices, treatment of a whistleblower, or similar significant concern.



(L to R) Sean McKeown, Vivian Yao, Walker Carnathan

The judges comments:

"Beyond being an extremely thorough and important investigative story built on all original reporting, this stood out to me for two distinct reasons: First was the way the writers constructed a timeline using a paper trail of meetings and official correspondence, which is very, very hard to do at a private school not subject to open-records requests (and helped them clinically show and name the number of coaches and school officials that were privy to these problems and did nothing to stop them). And second is the way the writers subtly — and very powerfully — illustrated the differing experiences for male and female athletes in the program. I felt that brought the piece to another level."

"This was incredibly well-reported. The authors were able to get people on the record and access critical documents. I'm impressed at the way it was written as well. It was compelling without embellishing the facts. This was so responsibly well-done, I honestly thought I was reading a professional ESPN investigative story."

"Impressive to get sources to go on the record for this sensitive story. The reporting moves the story forward and continues to move it forward as more athletes have reached out to tell their stories. Speaks to the trust these reporters have built."

* * * * *

The Drake Group Education Fund is pleased to recognize the runner-ups for this year's prize: SECOND PLACE: Reporters: Brendan Galvin and Mara Mellits, Boston University for "[Director of BU track and field, cross country steps down following abuse allegations](#)," *The Daily Free Press*, April 26, 2024. THIRD PLACE: Reporter: Vincent DiFonzo, Gettysburg College, for a seven story series (Sept. 18-Oct 17, 2024) on students suspended from the swim team, see [September 22 update](#), *The Gettysburgian*.