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**(Colo.)- RMAC Adds 16th Member In Westminster (Utah)**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 02/10/2014 03:42 PM

(Colorado Springs, CO)- Westminster College, currently a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) institution in Salt Lake City, has formally accepted an invitation from the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) to become the conference's 16th member, pending acceptance into the NCAA membership process. The RMAC Presidents Council voted unanimously to extend the invitation to Westminster while in attendance at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Convention in San Diego in January, and the college's Board of Trustees approved the move early in February, also by a unanimous vote. After NCAA acceptance, The Griffins would enter a three-year membership process, beginning RMAC competition as soon as the 2015-16 academic year.

"The Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference is excited to add Westminster College as its 16th member institution," said RMAC Presidents Council Chairman Dr. Stephen Jordan. "We support Westminster's commitment to NCAA Division II and the RMAC and look forward to welcoming their great history and tradition, along with their recent academic and athletic success."

Founded in 1875, Westminster College offers 38 undergraduate degree programs, in addition to 14 graduate degree programs. The college enrolls approximately 3,108 students; 2,295 undergraduates and 813 graduate students from 49 states and 36 countries. Set in urban Salt Lake City and just minutes from the Rocky Mountains, Westminster College is comprised of 28 buildings on 27 beautifully manicured acres.

The Griffins currently compete in the Frontier Conference of the NAIA, in a total of 14 varsity sports currently sponsored by the RMAC, including men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country and indoor/outdoor track and field, men's and women's golf, women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball. The athletics program is an integral part of campus life serving more than 240 student-athletes annually. It has experienced both regional and national success over the years, with national tournament appearances, conference titles, All-Conference and All-American academic and athletic honors. The Griffins have a rich tradition, storied history and many athletic alumni dating back to 1928.

In addition to varsity sports, Westminster claims more students competing in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games than any other U.S. college/university, thanks to an integrated partnership with the United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA). Due in part to a tuition remission arrangement with the organization, 23 of the student-athletes enrolled in the college will represent the U.S. in events from snowboarding to ski jumping. Since the program started in 2005, more than 100 U.S. Ski and Snowboard Team members have attended Westminster.

"Westminster's Board of Trustees agrees that strategically, NCAA and RMAC membership is an ideal long-term fit for the goals and aspirations we have for the college and our athletic department," said Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, president of Westminster College.

Westminster was formerly a member of the RMAC from 1967 until 1979, when varsity athletics was dropped at the school. During that time, their men's basketball program, then known as the "Parsons", went 101-75 and claimed three conference titles (1968-69, 1972-73, and 1973-74). Since the athletics program was reinstated in

1999 as an NAIA member, the Griffins are 18-7 against RMAC teams in men's basketball and own winning series records against seven of the nine teams on their schedules.

Last month, on January 20, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, S.D., also announced that they have accepted the RMAC Presidents Council invitation to join the league as its 15th member. SDSM&T will be phased into the conference starting in the fall of 2014.

With 16 members, the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference will equal its largest membership since 1969.