



October 26, 2016

Steve Helmich named IHSAA Foundation President

IHSAA Commissioner Bobby Cox announced today that Steve Helmich, former president of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, has been named the first president of the new IHSAA Foundation.

In his role as chief administrator, Helmich will oversee the day-to-day operations of the Foundation including the development and fundraising efforts to support its programs and the distribution of scholarships and grants. He will begin his duties on November 14.

Helmich joins the Association following a 16-year career as president of Cathedral High School where he oversaw one of the largest Catholic, private, independent high schools in the Midwest. Included in his many responsibilities was serving as chief fundraiser for the institution where his efforts resulted in nearly \$3 million annually for the Cathedral Fund and oversight of four highly-successful capital campaigns during his tenure. He is currently affiliated with three boards of directors – the Center for Leadership Development, One America Fund and the Damar Foundation – and previously the Indiana Non-Public Education Association.

Prior to Cathedral, Helmich served as president of the Community Education Coalition in Columbus, Indiana as well as president/CEO of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce. He also worked as president/CEO of the Richmond-Wayne County Chamber of Commerce and Executive Director of the Richmond Family YMCA.

"The IHSAA Foundation is very fortunate to obtain the expertise and excellence of Steve Helmich," said Cox. "The combination of all his professional experiences provides a robust portfolio by which our Foundation will grow and prosper. I greatly look forward to working with Steve as we collectively labor to build a dynamic organization benefiting IHSAA member schools and Hoosier student athletes."

A graduate of Indiana University, Helmich earned Big Ten All-Academic honors in football as he obtained a B.S. degree in education and a M.S. degree in secondary education and went on to spend 12 years as a classroom teacher and athletic coach at Noblesville, West Lafayette, Richmond and Columbus North high schools.

"I am honored for this great opportunity to lead the IHSAA Foundation," said Helmich. "Indiana high school athletics helped shape my life from my formative years through my adult life and I look forward to building this Foundation which will have a profound impact on the lives of the young men and women who will participate in high school athletics in our state."

The IHSAA Foundation was created and formed by the Executive Committee in June 2015 to operate exclusively for the charitable benefits of IHSAA member schools and their student-athletes. As funding becomes available, the IHSAA Foundation will award college scholarships to student-athletes in their pursuit of post-secondary education. It also will support IHSAA member schools through a grant program designed to help fund special projects.

The Foundation is overseen by a Board of Directors which include: J. Terry Clapacs, Vice President Emeritus of Indiana University; Dr. Phil N. Eskew, Jr., retired Director of Physician and Patient Relations at St. Vincent Hospital and current professor at the IU School of Medicine; James T. Morris, Vice President of Pacers Sports & Entertainment; Blake Ress, Commissioner Emeritus of the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.; Patrick Shoulders, partner in the Evansville law firm of Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel Shoulders, LLP; Milton O. Thompson, Attorney, Indianapolis law firm of Bleeke Dillon Crandall; and Jennifer K. Wilfong, Vice President and Executive Coach at Merrill Lynch; and Bobby Cox, IHSAA Commissioner. Eskew serves as chairman of the group.



About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its member high schools - public, institutional, parochial and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 21 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and one co-ed (unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.

2016-17/11